

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

**September 1943**

**TRIPOLI**

1st – 3rd illegible.

4th Sept. 1000 hrs. Embarked BN. on L.C.I's in Tripoli harbour .

5th Sept. 0700 hrs. Left Tripoli for Sicily.

7th Sept. 1600 hrs. Off Sicily (northwest coast) and left again 1800 hrs.

8th Sept. Received news of Italian surrender.  
0445 hrs. Attacked by small German bombing force intermittently using flares. No damage to any of our L.C.I's.

9th Sept. 0445 hrs. landed as reserve Bn. on beaches South of Salerno Italy. No immediate opposition. 2 mines encountered near beach. BN. formed up and moved to capture MONTECORVINO aerodrome. Little shelling no other opposition met with at first, A Coy. captured airfield buildings and road through. A/A part of enemy dealt with (assisted by 1 Sherman from Scots Greys) and about 15 Boche captured. A Coy moved to area of road and railway bridges North of aerodrome astride BATTIPAGLIA - Salerno rd followed by B Coy. moving astride the road immediately behind drome. Coy attacked by Bosch tanks on remainder of BN. across airdrome from right. Certain casualties caused and BN. immobilised ---- for B and A Coy who remained as shown above. Officers killed Maj. JR Walker, Lt. RJ Heaton & Lt. THG Harris, wounded Maj. Dallas, Lt. Scaife, Lt. JAB Sayer & Lt Davis, this officer was out sick . Capt. Lavender assumed, command of A Coy.. BN. A/k guns accounted for two German scout cars, tracked A.F.V's also one mark three special tank.  
Position was to everyone rather obscure and most uncomfortable A & B Coy withdrawn to form strong concentration on straight? road Tac HQ by airdrome.

**MONTECORVINO AERODROME.**

10th Sept. 0500 hrs. A & B Coy return to original areas astride SALERNO BATTIPAGLIA Road. 0820 hrs. Spitfire landed on drome and was shot up by machine gun fire from enemy position on far side of drome. Pilot reach D Coy. by drone buildings safely.  
0845 hrs. POW reports no resistance on airdrome. Carrier patrol sent right of airdrome with no result. Second Spitfire landed on drome not fired on by enemy. 2 special R.E's arrived to prepared dome for RAF and were killed by 88 millimetre.  
13 40 hrs. Brigadier visits Tac HQ.  
1350 hrs. smoke sent down by Arty to draw enemy fire and no result. 3rd Spitfire then landed OK.  
1400 2/7<sup>th</sup> Queen's reported FAIANO clear. Bn. ready to move to straddle mane SALERNO BATTIPAGLIA Road.  
Intermittent enemy shelling of hangers.  
Bn. concentrated astride and above main road with A & C Coys approximately one mile towards BATTIPAGLIA as strong point in case of counterattack by tanks and infantry.  
Great activity in tobacco factory area on front of 201 Bde.

11th Sept. 1000 hrs. Bn. warned to move to hill 210 B and C Coy forward with A and C ? near main road.  
1200 hrs. carrier patrol sent to 210 - fired at by enemy S.A.A.  
They proceeded on foot and reported no opposition on top of hill.  
1500 hrs. B & D Coys report good all-round observation from pt 210. Slight enemy shelling of 210.

11/12 Sept. B & D move to forward slopes of 210

Pt. 210.

12th Sept. Slight shelling during the day of 210  
1200 hrs. B Coy fired on enemy patrol; from forward slope.  
1800 hrs. Smoke shells dropped by enemy on 210 followed by fairly heavy H.E. Mortar fire.  
1900 hrs. Enemy attack on 210 from D Coys front, strength 100 approx. with large proportion of automatic weapons. Attack beaten off. Some casualties caused in D Coy. Heavy German casualties. Maj. SW Peet slightly wounded in leg.  
Slight Mortar casualties in B Coy.  
2100 hrs. A Coy rushed up and take over B Coy positions and defences re-established completely.

13th Sept. 1030 hrs. Brigadier, CO & IO to 210 and decision made to move whole Bn. to that area.  
Capt. Ridings --- in command of B Coy Bn. moved up.  
1230 hrs. D Coy called for D.F. as tracked vehicles seen on feature "SUGAR LOAF" to this left front.  
1900 hrs. Tac HQ established at 790284. B Coy. area 7028 by cover of night C Coy. in low ground mobile role.

13/14th Sept. Night patrol to Rd MONTECORVINO - tobacco factory, (German main supply route) no enemy encountered, mines laid across road.

14th Sept. 1045 hrs. Heavy bombing by allied Air Force of BATTIPAGLIA area and shells on 210.

15th Sept. 0900 hrs. Enemy fighter crashed in FAIANO area.  
0845 hrs. Patrol to Recce bridge - Wadi crossing 815277 and 816276 patrol returned with four POW's reported no bridges over Wadi just tracks.  
Slight enemy mortar fire on 210.

15th 16th Sept. Night. Patrol to Rd junction on Bosch supply Rd encountered one anti-tank gun with five enemy. position --- ----?.

16th Sept. 0600 hrs. Slight shelling around 210.  
0930 hrs. D Coy. report one Coy. support? marching towards tobacco factory.  
1300 hrs. 100 enemy infantry marching down road towards tobacco factory shelled heavily by our Arty.  
1440 hrs. 2/5th carrier patrol to house 795260 to investigate "KNAVE". Brought into operation, (i.e. one troop tanks to push with C Coy to Rd to investigate) tanks unable to cross first Wadi so returned.  
1550 hrs. Cheshire M.G'S shoot at Boche returning back up road.  
1750 hrs. C Coy. and tanks returned report small pockets of Bosch retreating in disorderly manner.  
2000 hrs. slight enemy shelling of 210.

17th Sept. 0900 hrs. Shells on main H.Q. by aerodrome. Captain Ziegler, adjt. Invalided also RSM Graham and signal Sgt. Carry, Capt. NE Hooper becomes adjt.

M.G. fire by enemy from first Wadi against our reliefs ----? Back on track to main HQ heavy Arty. concentration on Wadi at night by Div. guns followed by C Coy. as fighting patrol which found Boche positions evacuated.

- 18th Sept. 1015 hrs. A Coy. patrol returns from enemy machine gun posts in Wadi completely civilian report.  
1020 hrs. Carrier patrol sent to contact 201 Bde. advancing up main rd. from TOBACCO FACTORY. B Coy. to move to Sugarloaf with 2 Mortar dets. No opposition, 2/7th Queen's taking Trello but met some resistance and were held up.  
Carrier patrol contact Scots Guards at 813261. A Coy. standing by to move through B Coy behind enemy.  
1750 hrs. 2/7th report TORELLO more strongly held than supposed.  
1930 hrs. A Coy. moved up level with C Coy to the left of SUGARLOAF. C Coy. take C Coy. take A Coys old positions.
- 19th Sept. 0830 hrs. SUGARLOAF positions heavily mortared by enemy and at 0900 2/7th Queen's to TORELLO but not got clear of enemy.  
1100 hrs. Warning Order, 1/6th Queen's (of 131 Bde. 7th Armd. Div. take over from us.  
1700 hrs. Bn. command moving to conc. Area 763277.  
1830 hrs. Warning Order, B Coy take over from OX & Bucks Bn. (167 Bde.).
- 20th Sept. 0700 hrs. Recce of new area. Main & Tac HQ. 729286, C Coy area 7130, D Coy 7230. B Coy 7330 & A Coy by Main HQ. Difficulty of finding C Coy. Very large climb.  
2200 hrs. 23 US Paratroopers passed back by D Coy to Div. HQ.  
C Coy Patrol report no enemy on MONTE STELLA 717326.
- 20/21st Sept. Night. 2/7th contact B Coy.
- 21st Sept. 1000 hrs. 2/5th Queen's recce positions for take over. Carrier Patrol to FILLETA.  
1400 hrs. Bde. O Group. Bn. moved to rest area off. 1600 hrs.
- 22nd Sept. 0900 hrs. Bn. in concentration & rest area 734278.
- 22/23rd Sept. am/pm Quick sorties of German fighters firing cannon shells at random along coastal area either side of SALERNO.
- 23rd Sept. 0700 hrs. 2 casualties from plane cannon shell fire.  
1100 hrs. Bn. moved to FILLETA – concentrated.  
1800 hrs. Bn concentrate on 689339 near OGLIARA.  
Boche counter battery shelling area 6368.
- 24th Sept. 0900 hrs. Bn. were to move -- LE CAPELLA to take over reserve Coys 2/7th Queen's.  
1130 hrs. B & C Coys moved to take over B Coy at 663334, C at 660340.  
1500 hrs. Smoke reported right of B Coy.  
1515 hrs. Shells behind C Coy.  
1530 Hrs. Shelling in front of Tac area (long range).  
1635 hrs. 6 2/7th ammo trucks fired by shelling of street in OGLIARA blocking road to Coys. B Coy contacts 201 Bde. & 2/7th Queen's.  
Bde. O Group.

Area 683339.

- 24/25th Sept. Night. Enemy M.G. fire on 2/5th Queen's as they mount STELLA feature.

25th Sept. 0700 hrs. Mortaring by Boche left of C Coy. C Coy relieved by 2/7th Queen's D Coy.  
 1100 hrs. A Coy under command 2/5th Queen's moved to mount feature behind STELLA and attack STELLA from flank as 2/5th attacked frontally.  
 1300 hrs. D Coy moved to take over some of 2/5th Queen's positions on STELLA 692348.  
 1530 hrs. 3 F.W's attempted to bomb R.E's bridge opp. 695344 and failed.  
 1730 hrs. A Coy attack feature 694355 after heavy Arty support.  
 1735 hrs. D marched to area 690350. To support 2/5th attack on STELLA.  
 Night. 2/5th Queen's 2 Coys on STELLA and A Coy in a fight with D in ???.

26th Sept. 1000 hrs. B & C to rest for push forward 27<sup>th</sup> A Coy area.  
 0915 hrs. D Coy down from STELLA followed by A Coy on 27<sup>th</sup>.

27th Sept. 1200 hrs. Bde. O Group.  
 1215 hrs. C Coy Fighting Patrol to B Echelon to hunt gorilla band?.  
 1900 hrs. Bn. O Group – Expecting move and consta????/

28th Sept. Awaiting warning order to move at an hours' notice.

29th Sept. 0715 hrs. 11th Hussars reported in SARNO – our Objective.  
 1215 hrs. Bn. Moved from SAN ANGELO – start of long advance, constant demolitions caused slow progress.  
 1610 hrs. Recce Corps (56 Div.) bumped enemy in SARNO & C Coy moved to high ground (?MASSA) on right. Bn. then concentrated FRAINA 5343.  
 1850 hrs. Tac HQ at 548426.

30th Sept. 0530 hrs. Bde. O Group.  
 0850 hrs. C Coy sends Pln. through SARNO to assist in clearing demolitions. B Coy join B Squadron Recce in place of C Coy.  
 0945 hrs. SARNO under enemy shell fire at extreme range.  
 1135 hrs. Bn. move to EPISCOPIO 5147 find body 508478.  
 D Coy go through to meet CO. rest of column move through SARNO – unpleasant congestion.  
 1413 hrs. Shelling restarts.  
 1010 hrs. B Coy find 2 unoccupied O.P's off. 498485.  
 1040 hrs. Heavy shelling again.  
 1630 hrs. C Coy help Sappers fill craters  
 1735 hrs. Heavy shelling area Tac. Casualties by road – 1 A Coy killed – 2 wounded. A Coy moved on through SARNO near D Coy for night. Mortars shelling on D Coy area and main area.

Lt. COLONEL J.B.H Kealy  
 Commanding,  
 2/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

30<sup>th</sup> September 1943,