

2/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary August 1944

August 1944.

1 – 5th Aug. Normal Training continues with occasional after duty passes to ROME.

- 6th Aug. Revelle 0430 hrs. and Bn. moves off by Rd at 0600 for the new area. Instructions are that our concentration must be kept a secret from the enemy at all costs and the I Sergeant has gone forward with the advance party to make sure that camouflage and track discipline go as they should do from the beginning.
Route 3 to TERNI and FOLIGNO Then route 75 to the concentration area which is at 807954 (reference sheet 123 111, 1/50,000 ASSIS) We arrive at about 1600 after a delay of some 1½ hrs. spent on getting up a steep hill on route 3 just north of NARNI.
- 7th Aug. 'O' Gp. Period of intensive training 8th to 20th August including strenuous physical work and firing everyday two, night schemes per week and two Officers and Sgts' days consisting of TEWT'S and problems in connection with river crossings patrols and street fighting.
Bn. HQ is on a wooded strip beside the river and since we arrived yesterday a mess has been built by The Pioneers out of tarpaulin and tree trunks with an open side facing out across the river to hills beyond.
- 11th Aug. Area near ASSISI.
Visit Div. and hear advanced news that the Div. is to move east early next week date of our move not yet known.
- 13th -15th. Body moves by night in a long dusty convoy over tortuous roads. I Canadian column is also trying to get through but thanks to the D.A.P.M. we get L vehicles on the road in front of them. Arrive at the new area a mile South of POLLENZA about 0400 hrs. It is already light by the time people are settled in and the day's work goes on as normal.
The plan is still that 56 Div. Follows up a breakthrough of the gothic line as an exploiting force.
- 18th 22nd. Four days intensive training. Two officers and sergeants TEWT'S and another for company commanders. We meet for the first time the officers and NCO's of B squadron 51st RTR with whom we are to work in action. After a demonstration of tank and infantry cooperation they spend an evening with us in the Bn. area where we have company messes running with lavish meals as local produce is very plentiful and there's only a few to provide for.
- 23rd Aug. A sudden change of plan. 169 Bde. is to move at once to the area SASSOFERATO prepared to support either the Indian or the 46 Div. or to follow up a breakthrough by them if no support is needed. Presumably the remainder of the Div. will follow later.
- 24th Aug. Another dusty move over minor rds. with many diversions finishing up in the new area between 2300 hrs. when the first part of the convoy arrives and 0500 the next morning when the last vehicles that had got separated or held up on route coming.
A ridge of hill dimly visible to the N. said to be occupied by the enemy but things seem very quiet and we think that he has probably pulled back.
- 25-26th Aug. Two busy days getting everything in apple pie order ready for action – testing weapons, fitting up map boards, storing tape and so on.

Good news from the Indian Div. who have reached MOUNT PAGANUCCIO 9950 and have taken the Eastern spur of the CESANA ridge beyond FOSSOMBRONE and over the METURO RIVER. This eliminates the first plan for the Bde. which was either to take the CESANN feature or occupy the enemy on it while the 4th Indian swept round to the left to URBINO.

At 'O' Gp. the C.O. runs through the main plan which is for the Poles, Canadian 46 Div. and Indian Div. in that order from the coast to URBINO to assault the GOTHIC LINE simultaneously, any breakthrough being exploited by the 1st Armoured Div. 56 Div. and possibly one other Inf. Div.

27th Aug. 167 Bde. passes on way to concentration areas round PERGOLA in no man's land when we arrived but now well behind the line.
Opposition at the moment is very slight and the advance is being held up mainly by large scale demolitions. Warning order that the Bde. moves to a concentration area round URBINO shortly. The bridge over the MITURO river at FOSSOMBRONE will not be ready until the 29th and in the afternoon Mr Harding of "B" Coy takes a patrol of four to recce a crossing place on the river West of the town. He meets the Brig. halfway who tells him the job has been done by R.E.'s and the patrol returns without reaching the river.
Roads are several inches deep in white dust and even a 10 minute trip to Bde. means returning flower dusted and filthy.

28th Aug. No move today. 4th Indian now just N.E. of URBINO and 46 Div. Well beyond ISOLA DI FANO.
2100 hrs. no move for two days.
2115 hrs. move at 0600 hrs. tomorrow morning advance party at 0400 hrs.

29th Aug. 0500 hrs. 'O' Gp. We move this morning to the present F.D.L's of the 4th Indian Div. E. of URBINO take over from them tomorrow night and possibly but not certainly assault the GOTHIC LINE at MONTE CALVO on September 1st.
1100 hrs. arrive in a temporary staging area W. of FOSSOMBRONE.
From here recce parties go forward to pick out the route further on.
Some doubt whether we move again today or not but at 1700 hrs. the order to move comes through and by 1730 we are on the road.
A terrible route over a ford that puts out of action all but one of the motorcycles and up a cart track onto the CESANA RIDGE but after recovering one of our own vehicles which had fallen over the edge we make the Crest of the CESANA feature and stage here for the night.

30th Aug. On the move again at 0600 hrs. to area 9368 N.W. of URBINO.
We establish a visitors O.P. with a magnificent view right over the GOTHIC LINE and all day long a crowd of people watch the Indian Div. assaulting MOUNT DELLA CROCE which was to have been the forward edge of our objective. They used tanks and three waves of dive bomber support on MONTE CALVO which a pitiful MG position in the church tower sputters ack ack at our planes until the village is so covered in smoke that they can no longer see and al Kitty Hawks dive in at rooftop level to drop their bombs unopposed.
Owing to the Indian success at MONT DELLA CROCE our plan is changed but we are still at one hr's notice to move.

31st Aug. Bn. at two hrs. notice to move, we may go through the Indians or switch to behind the Canadian Div. which is rumoured to be well inside the GOTHIC LINE already. 46 Div. burst the forward edge of the line yesterday by capturing SAN GIORCIO and are pushing into the hills beyond today.
Bde. 'O' Gp. is al Recceing routes across the FOLIGNO ROVER prior to going through the Indian division when orders are received that we take over from 139 Bde. in 46 Div. forthwith. Their forward troops were last reported to be at about 9373 in the hills north of SAN GIORCIO.

1630 hrs. Bde. to push forward through an access West of MONDAINO and SALUDECO Enter reach MOUNT MAGGIORE 9077 with all speed.

2/6th Queen's will attack and capture MOUNT CAPPELLA 9174 at first light tomorrow or as soon as the attack can be put in.

1730 hrs. the Bn. moves out on foot to concentration area just South of the FOGLIA RIVER opposite SAN GIORGIO. Ready for the attack.

Lt. Col. AJ Renshaw, DSO, MC.

Comdg.

2/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Officer List 5th August 1944.

Lt.-Col.	A. J. Renshaw	Queen's R.R.			
Major	F. P. St. M. Sheil	S.W.B.			
Major	P. M. A. Taylor	Queen's R.R.			
Major	A. D. G. Dallas	" "			
Major	C. King	" "			
Major	R.M. Campbell MC	Black Watch			
Capt.	H. F. Hales	Queen's R.R.			
Capt.	A.W. Lavender	" "			
Capt.	G.E. West	" "			
Capt.	T. G. Blumson	" "			
Capt.	G; P. Stevens	R.W.K.			
Capt.	W.M. Frost	" "			
Capt.	J. W. Evans	R.W.K.			
Capt.	W. A. Mills	Queen's R.R.			
Capt.	G. B. Curtis	" "			
Capt.	R. K. Purdon (S. Africa)	U.D.F.			
Capt.	G. E. Smith	Queen's R.R.			
Lieut.	H. L. Bailey	Queen's R.R.			
Lieut.	N.H. Eldridge	R. Warwicks			
Lieut.	J.F.V. Edwards	Queen's R.R.			
Lieut.	M. Metcalf	" "			
Lieut.	I. P. Macgregor	R.A.C.	Lieut.	W. R. Tomkins	(S. Africa)
Lieut.	I.T.J. Boyes	Queen's R.R.	Lieut.	S. N. Penlington	R.A.C.
Lieut.	J.W. Common	" "	Lieut.	J. G. B. Sayer	Queen's R.R.
Lieut.	R.N. Thompson	" "	Lieut.	J. S. Lea-Wilson	R.A.C.
Lieut.	A.J. Tremethick	" "	Lieut.	W. F. Nethercott	Devon's
Lieut.	V.H. Lambert	?	Lieut.	B. Carney	D.L.I.
Lieut.	A.C. Lowe	" "	Lieut.	C.W. Wright	Queen's R.R.
Lieut.	A.R. Maynard	" "	Lieut.	H.A. Tyrrell	" "
Lieut.	L.W. Harding	" "			
Lieut.	T.P. O'Connell	" "	Lieut.	W. Roadnight (Q.M.)	Queen's
R.R.					
Lieut.	H.W. Vipond	" "			
Capt. A. R. Elsom,		R.A.M.C			

Rev. G. B. Fairhurst

R.A.Ch.D.