

**Appendix 6: Narrative of movements of 9 Platoon, "A" Company, 2nd Bn. E.S.R. commanded by 2/Lt. J.D. Carter 184763 from 19.30 hrs 13th December 1941 to 12.00 hrs 16th December 1941, when it rejoined the remnants of the battalion.**

13 Dec

1930 hrs. Message from my Company Commander that the platoon was to withdraw immediately 22 MS on the Alor Star/Sungei Patani Road by a compass bearing previously arranged, as the enemy had broken across the river - Company Headquarters had already withdrawn when I passed their position.

2015 hrs. Crossed the road leading to Kuala Kedah and approached the main Alor Star/Sungei Patani Road when intensive mortar and M.G. fire started, and assumed that the enemy were continuing their advance down the road. Decided to continue parallel with the road, but the men were so terribly exhausted and their morale so low that we could make very little headway in the deep padi so, after consultation with the map, decided to turn back onto the Kuala Kedah road and withdraw along the pipeline which I hoped would afford us better progress. My intention was to rejoin the battalion by outflanking their own forward forces, as in the dark I feared that we may be mistaken for Japanese before we could make our identity known.

2130 hrs Reached the pipeline which was badly waterlogged in places, but we were able to proceed more steadily and, after about 5 miles, whilst being held up at a plank bridge, which only allowed one man to cross at a time, was met by Lt. Humphries, with 7 Platoon, which had been following up behind.

14 Dec

1000 hrs. After marching throughout the night, arrived at Sima Limau with all weapons except the 2 inch mortar; where we were welcomed and fed by the inhabitants, and I ordered the men to attend to their feet and rest, whilst I carried out a recce. I learned from the native police that enemy tanks had been seen proceeding to Gurun and, as the men were so exhausted, I decided to wait until nightfall, and then proceed by boat down the coast, and if possible to Sungei Patani. Arranged with local headmen for three boats and crews to be supplied, which he would only agree to on payment of \$30, which I handed to him.

2200 hrs. After much delay caused by crews at first refusing to man the boats, we set off down the coast, but crews would not pass Yen.

15th Dec

0700 hrs. Disembarked at Yen, collected some food and made a recce. in the village where a patrol of Leicesters informed enemy had broken through at Gurun.

1000 hrs. Commandeered a lorry and travelled south to where track running parallel with coast from Yen finished, and then marched over West side of Kedah Peak to Bedong Tanjong Daiwa road. About 2 miles down the track from Yen I met 2/Lt. Patterson with his platoon, and he could give me no information about my unit, but advised that two Leicester trucks were detailed to wait for

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him up to nightfall, South of the Patani River, opposite Tan Jong Dawai, and gave me permission to use them if he did not arrive by night.

1700 hrs. Reached Tan Jong Dawai and crossed to South side of river. Rested for two hours, then continued marching southwards.

1030 hrs. Came upon one Leicester truck which was on point of returning to its base, as it has now been dark about an hour. All my platoon of 25 men and weapons crowded onto it, and were taken back to sleeping quarters at about 12 MS on the Butterworth Road.

16th Dec

There was a continuous stream of traffic withdrawing along the road, so joined in with this and, at a halt, I reported to Brigadier Garrett, learned from him the rendezvous of the remnants of the Battalion, borrowed map and commandeered civilian bus.