



The 11th (Prince Albert's Owns) Hussars

The following are the War Diaries
For The 11th Hussars, (Prince Albert's Own)
September 1939 To March 1946,

These have been sourced from the following site <http://www.warlinks.com>

April 1939	CO: 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
3/9/39	MATRUH Regt less C Sqn in bivouac. C Sqn, less one Tp were at SIDI BARRANI, one Tp at SOLLUM (2Lt Crankshaw)
4/9/39	Lt Turnbull returned to Regt from appointment as ALO.
7/9/39	C Sqn returned to Regt. 1 Tp A Sqn (Lt Friend) proceeded to SIDI BARRANI.
17/9/39	1 Tp B Sqn (Lt Loch) relieved 1Tp A Sqn at SIDI BARRANI.
1/10/39	1 Tp A Sqn (Sgt Petch DCM)relieved 1 Tp B Sqn at SIDI BARRANI.
5/10/39	1Tp A Sqn returned to Regt from SIDI BARRANI.
21/10/39	Major JM Blakiston, Lt Hon CWH Allenby, Lt JSA Humphries and 2Lt Lord Crichton Stuart joined the Regt.
9/11/39	HM The King graciously consented to become Patron of the Regiment's Old Comrades Association.
16/11/39	2Lts Trayner, Spickemell and Dier, RTR were attached to the Regt.
17/11/39	2Lt PDSLauder rejoined the Regt from sick leave in the UK.
2/12/39	Regt proceeded by road to MAADI SCamp. All ORs comprising 'details' at Helmieh rejoined.
21/12/39	Lt P Arkwright rejoined the Regt after terminating his appointment as ADC to the Governor of Bombay.
28/12/39	Lt DPJ Lloyd returned to Regt from appointment as IO at HQ LAB. He was succeeded by Lt Humphries.



1940	CO: 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
11/1/40	Capt AG Miller and Capt RFHP Stuart-French were promoted Major. Lt C de B de Lise was promoted Captain. 2Lt CA Halliday and 2Lt PR Jensen were gazetted to the Regt.
14/1/40	2Lt JW Poston RTR was attached to the Regt. GOC 7th Armd Div issued a Special Order of which the following is an extract. "The Divisional Commander congratulates the 11th Hussars on their high standard on continuous reconnaissance by day and night".
13/3/40	Major Start-French proceeded to New Zealand as Assistant Military Secretary
	<i>Transcriber's Note: The following entries for 1940 are not on the standard War Diary forms and there is a manuscript note at the top stating – Replacements, (Originals lost on SS Empress of Britain.)]</i>
7/4/40	MAADI SSMs Writer, Ward and Bousfield and Sgt Petch DCM proceeded to UK to be granted Emergency Commissions.
8/4/40	SQMS Brown and Sgts Dyson and McMahon were promoted honorary SSM. Sgt Kitchen was promoted Honorary SQMS. 2Lts Jensen and Halliday joined the Regt. A draft of 74 ORs (Northampton and Gloucestershire Yeomanry) were posted to this Regt.
12/4/40	Authority was received from War Office for the Regt to be organised on the Establishment of a Light Armoured Regiment (Wheeled) wef 16/2/40.
13/4/40	A Mobilisation Parade was held and GOC 7th Armd Div inspected the Regt.
30/4/40	A draft of Rhodesians comprising Lt Pitman, one WO and 54 ORs joined the Regt.
	Sqn training was carried out during this month. The Yeomanry draft carried out intensive Bren gun and Boyes A/Tk rifle training. On 12th April the Regt proceeded to Black Hill, 15 miles West of MENA for field firing and Sqn training. Immediately on arrival orders were received for the Regt to return to MAADI at dawn the following day, and were placed at 36 hours notice. The reason being tension with Italy and the anticipation of the Regt having to move with the 2nd Rifle Brigade and 1st Btn KRRC to SIDI BARRANI and MERSA MATRUH to cover the concentration of the 7th Armd Div.
1/5/40	MAADI Orders received to mobilise and proceed to MERSA MATRUH at 0500 hrs on 2nd May under command of SUPPORT GROUP composed of:- M & C Bty RHA • 11th Hussars 1st KRRC • 2nd RB • Section RASC and RAOC • Support Group under command Brigadier Gott. Role – To act as covering force to



	concentration of remainder of 7th Armd Div.
2/5/40	The Regt less Major Leetham, Lt TI Pitman MC, 2Lt PDS Lauder (hospital) RQMS Gunnill and a reop party of 125 ORs, left MAADI and proceeded by road to EL DABA, a distance of 200 miles where it arrived at 1600 hrs and bivouacked for the night. – Appendix G.
3/5/40	The march was continued with A Sqn under Capt AVC Robarts acting as advance guard to the Force, and a point 20 miles West of MERSA MATRUH was reached at 0900 hrs. A Sqn less one troop proceeded to a point 4 miles West of WADI HALAZIN, to cover constructions of position taken up by 2nd RB. One troop under 2Lt CJ Spickernell proceeded to BIR KENAYI to form a standing patrol. A Sqn returned from WADI HALAZIN and rejoined the Regt in the bivouac area leaving 1 Tp under 2Lt JW Poston as a standing patrol 4 miles West of WADI HALAZIN with order to avoid any provocative action.
4/5/40	C Sqn under Capt P Payne Gallwey proceeded to SIDI BARRANI. Role – protection of supply dump which was in the process of construction. Orders received for the remainder of the Regt to proceed to SIDI BARRANI at 0500 hrs on 5th May 1940. Role – prevent interference with the dump at SIDI BARRANI.
5/5/40	Regt proceeded to SIDI BARRANI arriving at 0730.
6/5/40	C Sqn carried out protective recce holding the track line – BUQ-BUQ – BIR SO FARI – QUR EL BED. Length of line 40 miles. One Tp B Sqn carried out patrol towards SOLLUM. RHQ, A & B Sqn bivouacked widely dispersed North and South of the village.
7/5/40	C Sqn concentrated at SIDI BARRANI. B Sqn under Major Miller formed a protective screen about 10 miles from SIDI BARRANI.
8/5/40	Regt less B Sqn moved back to a point 6 miles SW of MERSA MATRUH. Some tentage was drawn and a camp erected.
9/5/40	B Sqn concentrated at SIDI BARRANI. Appendix H
17/5/40	A Sqn relieved B Sqn at SIDI BARRANI.
23/5/40	2Lt Lord P Crichton Stuart proceeded on leave to the UK.
30/5/40	Major JM Blakiston Houston returned from leave in the UK.
31/5/40	Information was received that SSMs Ward, Writer, Bousfield and Sgt Petch DCM had been granted Emergency Commissions wef 13/4/40.
Appendix G The Regt returned to MAADI at 1530 hrs 1st May after 2 days long exercises. The remainder of the day and the whole night was spent in preparing to move. On 2nd May the Regt moved out at 0500 hrs leaving behind untrained Yeomanry and some Rhodesians, with officers and NCOs as instructors, all of whom went to RAC Base Depot for training. 21 Rhodesians proceeded with the Regt as DRs and drivers of Ford Pick-ups. On 3rd May the Regt arrived at its destination, having completely mobilised and marched 330 miles in 41 hours.	



Breakdowns on the whole were light, especially on the second day. Complete wireless silence was enforced during the march which rendered road control difficult especially as there were so few DRs available.

Appendix H

May 14th 1940. The role of the Sqn at SIDI BARRANI was:-

- a. Protection of the dump (rations and petrol) at SIDI BARRANI.
- b. Escorting of RASC supply columns in the construction of a dump (rations, water and petrol) at BIR DIGNAISH.

June 1940	CO: Lt Col JFB Combe
Jun 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
2/6/40	MERSA MATRUHC Sqn relieved A Sqn at SIDI BARRANI.
4/6/40	One Tp C Sqn proceeded to SOLLUM. Role – to observe frontier and report any enemy movement Eastward.
6/6/40	One Tp C Sqn to BIR DIGNAISH. Role – local protection of the dump there.
7/6/40	1515 – Regt received orders to proceed to SIDI BARRANI. Arrived there at 2330 hrs and bivouacked for the night.
8/6/40	Information had been received that considerable numbers of Italian troops were concentrating at BARDIA. It was considered possible that the Italians might:- a. Advance towards SIDI BARRANI. b. Endeavour to capture the dumps at BIR DIGNAISH and SIDI BARRANI. The role of the 11th Hussars was:- a. To prevent Coy 1st Bn KRRC at BIR DIGNAISH from being surprised and cover their withdrawal if necessary. b. To delay any Italian advance on BIR DIGNAISH from FORT MADDALENA. c. To delay any Italian advance on BUQ-BUQ from SOLLUM. Tasks a) and b) were allotted to B Sqn, task c) to C Sqn. C Sqn (less troop at SOLLUM) went to a point 10 miles West of BUQ-BUQ on the SOLLUM – SIDI BARRANI road, placing Troops on the Summer and Winter tracks. B Sqn went to BIR DIGNAISH and formed a protective screen 25 miles long to the West of the dump.
11/6/40	0001 – Italy declared war on the Allies. 0900 – A Sqn and RHQ proceeded to DAREL HAMRA, and the Regt (less C Sqn) came under orders of 4th Armd Bde (Brigadier Caunter). C Sqn came under orders of Support Group (Brigadier Gott). 1800 – RHQ moved NW to DAREL BRUG. A & B Sqn carried out patrols on the Frontier and West of the Frontier during the night. At 1630 hrs at DAREL HAMRA, the situation was explained and the following orders were given to the two Sqn Leaders, Major JM Blakiston Houston A Sqn and Major AG Miller B Sqn. The object was to dominate the frontier between CAPUZZO and MADDALENA. It was considered inadvisable to cut the wire North of the track junction about 3 miles South of BIR WAIR as it was not the



intention to attract the AMSHAT Garrison's attention. B Sqn, less two Troops which were left in close observation at BIR DIGNAISH, were given inclusive SDI OMAR northwards, A Sqn exclusive SDI OMAR to inclusive MADDALENA. The places suggested for penetration were as follows:-

- one to the North of SDI OMAR,
- one between SDI OMAR and SHEFERZEN,
- one further South,
- one just North of MADDALENA.

The patrols were to cut telephone wires, put ambushes on the roads and obtain all possible information of FORT MADDALENA and SDI OMAR. The troops could remain till after first light to obtain better information. All Troops were to operate entirely independently.

The Troops arrived at the frontier as the light was failing. Wireless was restricted to a minimum and no reports were received until morning. A Sqn penetrated in all three places without opposition. The Southern Troop under TSM Clarke fired at a lorry going North, bullets from the Bren gun were seen to strike and flash, but it was obviously armoured. Two machine guns from MADDALENA fired on this Troop during the night without effect. The Troops withdrew to observation during the morning, this side of the frontier.

The Troop under 2Lt JW Poston further North, had an enemy aeroplane repeatedly circle over it, it came lower, was fired on, and immediately flew away.

The wire presented no obstacle and was easily cut and dragged away with a tow rope, the posts were either knocked down or towed away, in which case the concrete base was removed. The B Sqn northern Troop penetrated and saw vehicle lights but had no opportunity for action. The southern Troop under TSM Howarth penetrated just North of SDI OMAR and remained in observation until about 0600 hrs when he reced the 2 SDI OMAR posts. He was fired on by desultory rifle fire, from trenches on the northern flank of SDI OMAR and later retired through the wire.

B Sqn HQ under Major AG Miller with two cars only, had remained to guard the gap for the southern Troop's retirement. At about 0200 hrs, a truck with lights containing 4 men, passed Sqn HQ moving South but got by. At 0800 hrs Sqn HQ moved North a mile to recce a derelict Post. While doing so, two trucks and two lorries were seen proceeding South about a mile to the West, Sqn HQ advanced immediately. The enemy then halted and dismounted. Some lay down and fired. The two trucks were empty except for the drivers. One of the lorries with 3 or 4 men in it made off and got away. The remainder after having fired a few shots and having been persuaded by their officers, lay down their arms. It is estimated that 3 of the enemy were killed. Two officers and 68 ORs, 5 of whom were wounded, were taken prisoner, together with 9 Breda automatics, 60 or 70 rifles (1918 Brescia), carbines and much ammunition also 3 haversacks full of very modern light hand grenades loaded with HE and thin outer cases. The Sqn then retired East of the wire to rest.

Later a Troop under Sgt Bowyer, returned to the northern gap where it found recently removed earth and immediately realised that the ground had been mined. He fired at the mines (10) with no result, he then extended the gap in the wire, to allow a troop which was following, to penetrate. He then removed the 10 mines, laid them in a pile, poured petrol on them, laid a trail of petrol which he set alight with a very light and then withdrew immediately. The crater caused by the explosion was very large and believed large enough to contain an Armoured car. During this operation, which had spread over a long period, an enemy plane made two dive bombing and machine gunning attacks with no effect. During the second attack, a Bren gun was brought to bear on the plane by the Troop Ldr whilst his other car was being attacked. The plane flew away after a slight wobbling in the air and appeared to make a forced landing at CAPUZZO, about 4 miles away, no further attacks were made.

Upon receiving instructions to operate North of CAPUZZO, one Troop under 2Lt Halliday, were given orders to pass through the northern gap, skirt West of CAPUZZO and endeavour to observe the CAPUZZO – BARDIA road. As he arrived on the SIDI AZEIZ road, his steering tube broke. A lorry had been approaching from SIDI AZEIZ. It halted 200 yards away and was fired on and captured. It was decided to return, and whilst fixing the steering of the MARC, towing arrangements were made. An AC was sent forward for East flank protection. This car saw 2 field guns clearly, about 1,500 yds range due North of CAPUZZO. He was surprised they did not fire and to ensure the Troop getting away, he took no action. The captured lorry was a 10 ton Lancia, diesel engine. The Troop, with the Lancia being driven by one of the AC personnel and the MARC (broken steering) on tow, returned without further incident and was replaced by another Troop which got astride the CAPUZZO – BARDIA road. Nothing came along this road so the troop withdrew, having been given orders to be back in camp before dark. All possible telephone wires were cut throughout.



12/6/40	C Sqn (JATA) had orders to get on to the BARDIA – TOBRUK road probably via SIDI AZEIZ, then West for 10 miles and North by track. They crossed the frontier at Pt. 204 at 1930 hrs, proceeded on a bearing 357°. After 4 miles crossed a good track running NE to SW. After 8 miles the going became hummocky. After 16 miles, at 2200 hrs, very lights went up in front and behind, and at the same time what appeared to be SIDI AZEIZ was seen to the NW. enemy very light signal was red followed by white, white light broke into 3 stars. Enemy blew alarm on the trumpet which might denote Italian troops and not native. One troop was sent forward to investigate, they opened fire and the enemy replied with strong light automatic fire. The Sqn then went into action. Enemy appeared to be dug-in and impression was given that the position consisted of a strongly entrenched Infantry post. Enemy then opened heavy artillery fire from north and West. Guns were behind infantry about ½ mile away. Appeared to be 15 guns sited in groups of three, fired HE high to start with but soon got the range. Sqn retired zigzagging all cars getting away safely. Action took about one hour and enemy gunfire very heavy. Sqn reached frontier at about 0300 hrs.
13/6/40	Operations Against SIDI OMAR by A Sqn. On the evening of the 12th the Sqn concentrated near SIDI OMAR and Troop Ldrs carried out personal recce with the Sqn Commander. At 0800 hrs 13th June, 1Tp (2Lt JW Poston), 2Tp (2Lt CJ Spickernell) and 3Tp (Lt Friend) formed up to approach the Fort. 2 & 3Tp went through the gap in the wire which had previously been cut. 1Tp remained on the South side. The Western fort was attacked first and found to be unoccupied. Fort showed signs of recent occupation. They were then set on fire and destroyed. Lt Friend was in command the Troop carrying out the operation. The Sqn then withdrew 2 ½ miles East leaving 5Tp (TSM Woodward) in observation.
14/6/40	C, B & RHQ took part in an attack on SIDI AZEIZ Appendix MA Sqn attacked and captures FORT MADDALENA. Appendix N
15/6/40	C Sqn proceeded to a point of observation 40 miles West of MADDALENA One Troop B Sqn (2Lt Halliday) escorted Brigadier Gott on a recce of SIDI AZEIZ. Remainder of B Sqn patrolled the frontier.
16/6/40	A Sqn in same position of observation. NTR. C Sqn on the TOBRUK – BARDIA road had a highly successful day capturing some 90 prisoners including a General and his staff. One troop of B Sqn (2Lt Gape), while on patrol on the frontier, located a mixed Italian force SW of GIRBA. Remainder of B Sqn surrounded the force and pinned it to the ground. 1100 – A force consisting of 11th Hussars (less 2 Sqs), one Sqn 7th Hussars (Lt DG Seymour Evans) consisting of Cruiser and light tanks and one troop A/Tk guns RHA, all under Lt Col Combe, attacked and destroyed enemy force. Appendix O
17/6/40	A Sqn still in same position of observation. NTR. C Sqn returned and rejoined RHQ and B Sqn who were resting in area QUARET ABU FAYRES.
18/6/40	A Sqn operating in area West of MADDALENA discovered enemy force holding position at GABR SALAH. These forces were kept under observation and attacked when possible. The Sqn was continually attacked by both fighter and bomber aircraft throughout the day. These aircraft appeared to co-operate very closely with the ground troops. One troop B Sqn (TSM Howarth) escorted a detachment of RE's to the wire and to FORT CAPUZZO to carry out further demolitions. RHQ, C & B Sqs moved their positions about 2 miles to the NW. One troop of B Sqn (TSM Howarth) escorted a detachment of RE's to the wire and FORT CAPUZZO to complete demolitions.
19/6/40	A Sqn still operating in area West of MADDALENA. There was a very bad sandstorm all day. A Sqn was still in observation of the enemy force. Owing to the heat the cars boiled and they became very short of water. C, B and RHQ resting in same position. Patrol by B Sqn (2Lt Dier) to SIDI AZEIZ



	At 1800 hrs patrol reached SIDI AZEIZ from the SW. A bomber was seen stationary on the aerodrome and thinking that the place must still be held, the patrol worked further West. Four concrete gun emplacements with corrugated roofs covered with earth were seen. These showed signs of rapid evacuation, since a number of SA rounds were left lying about. Patrol then moved North until it arrived on the edge of the aerodrome. Another aeroplane, a fighter, which had previously been hidden by the bomber, was seen. The fighter took off but took no hostile action. The patrol moved back to a position SE of the fort and then moved towards the fort. Traces of A/Tk mines having been removed were seen. The patrol got within 100 yards of the fort without being fired upon, so then dashed into the walls and discovered that the fort was empty. 2Lt Dier and a NCO went inside. The walls were 7 to 8 feet high and about 18 inches thick. There was nothing there except about a dozen empty water bottles. The fort showed no signs of being hit by bombs but there were two burnt out lorries close by. The patrol turned its attention to the aeroplane and after shooting at it from 700 yards, they went right up to it and set it on fire. The plane was completely burnt. There was also a fake aeroplane on the landing ground.
20/6/40	B Sqn moved to BIR SHEFERZEN. Role – to operate West towards GABR SALAH and EL GUBI. A Sqn moved back to FORT MADDALENA to rest, leaving one troop in area SE of EL GUBI. C Sqn moved to a position 40 miles SW of MADDALENA. Role – to operate towards GIARRABUB and TARFANI. RHQ moved to a position 17 miles SW of FORT MADDALENA. Appendix R
21/6/40	The CO received a personal letter from the Divisional Commander congratulating the Regt on its excellent work during the last few days. Appendix S 2Tp B Sqn (TSM Howarth) was ordered to carry out a recce of EL GUBI. They first reported 7 lorries but were afterwards forced to retire owing to enemy arty fire. Enemy forces then reported to consist of 100 lorries. Arty fire was coming from East, South and West of EL GUBI and the troop had to retire SE. The enemy were bombed and machine gunned by our planes and one ammo lorry was set on fire. At 0945 hrs, the troop was in observation South of EL GUBI. At 1110 hrs, a message was received that the MARC was wrecked. The crew were safe and the other car had dispersed. At 1120 hrs, 3Tp (2Lt Halliday) was sent to EL GUBI to help. At 1145 hrs, a message was received from 2Tp saying that they were being attacked by land forces, that they could not move and required help. This was the last message received from the Troop. At 1340 hrs, 3Tp arrived at EL GUBI but could find no trace of 2Tp. C Sqn on recce towards GIARRABUB found a small fort on the wire 20 miles North of GIARRABUB occupied by the enemy. A Sqn still resting at FORT MADDALENA. RHQ in same position.
22/6/40	TSM Howarth's Troop still missing. B Sqn sent a patrol to SIDI AZEIZ. During the night 1Tp C Sqn (Sgt Lamb) and the section of KPR were attacked by the enemy from the fort. One enemy native soldier who carried spare parts for an automatic gun was killed. The enemy retired in direction of GIARRABUB. During the morning 2 scout cars and 2Lt Trayner's Troop were despatched to cut-off enemy movements South and help capture of the fort. However, when the attack was made the fort was found to be empty. During the afternoon 2Lt Trayner's Troop went to the Fork Tracks South of the fort. They were sniped at from the low sand-hills and 8 enemy native soldiers were killed. During the day TSM Mattison's Troop went 40 miles SW of his old position to locate south-western track into GIARRABUB. No success. Remainder C Sqn watching Northern and Western approaches to GIARRABUB. Sqn HQ bombed. A Sqn left FORT MADDALENA. Role – observe enemy movement South and East from EL GUBI. Two Troops (2Lt Poston and TSM Clarke) sent forward. Reported enemy movement North and West.
23/6/40	One Troop B Sqn in observation SIDI AZEIZ. No news of TSM Howarth's Troop. C Sqn moved their HQ 3 miles South of GARET EL GELEB. Sgt Whitehouse's Troop and a section of KPR patrolled South down the wire track. After going 10 miles, they met an MG post held by the enemy. An attack was made but the enemy got away under cover of dead ground. They left a lot of ammo and clothing behind. From this post, the fort at GIARRABUB could be clearly seen 4 or 5 miles to the South. To the East of it there appeared to be a landing ground. The tomb of the ??? was also clearly visible.



	There also appeared to be one other MG post round the outside of the oasis. They remained in observation all night and patrolled down to the landing ground. No enemy movement seen. A Sqn (2Lt Poston's Tp) reported EL GUBI to be a three sided camp. The Tp was fired on the previous night by SA and also came under the rays of searchlights. The RAF reported enemy movement from EL GUBI in the direction of FORT MADDALENA. A Sqn were given the subsidiary task of watching the enemy. TSM Woodward's Troop was sent to BIR GIBUT. Sqn HQ moved 20 miles NE. TSM Clarke's reported the located enemy position South of EL GUBI was quiet except for enemy air activity. RAF information appeared false. RHQ moved back to a position 3 miles West of FORT MADDALENA.
24/6/40	C Sqn. A detachment of A/Tk gunners arrived to assist. The Sqn Ldr (Major P Payne Gallway) and Capt Mackey of the A/Tk gunners went forward towards GIARRABUB to make a recce. When they were halfway there, the guns were ordered to return to MADDALENA. This order came from Bde. The Sqn Ldr went on to GIARRABUB and met 2Lt Trayner's troop which was in observation there. On the way Sqn HQ was machine gunned from the air. 2Lt Trayner's Tp was also bombed and machine gunned. Sgt Lamb's Tp relieved the Tp in observation. Sqn HQ moved their position 10 miles South. 2Tp (Sgt Mines) was ordered to withdraw to Sqn HQ but owing to breakdown did not get back until 2 days later. Owing to the intense heat the Sqn HQ was moved back to their original position. At about 1430 hrs they were heavily bombed, about 50 being dropped. One AC was slightly damaged. A Sqn. 3Tp (Lt Friend) in observation East of EL GUBI, found Cpl Emery, Cpl Price, LCpl Blackmore and Tpr Spencer & Tpr Driver of B Sqn and one RRAC in area TAIEB EL ESSEM. These men belonged to TSM Howarth's Tp which had been missing since June 21st. Cpl Emery and LCpl Blackmore were wounded. EL GUBI area reported quiet. RHQ – 5 aircraft dive bombed FORT MADDALENA at 0830 hrs, many of the bombs did not explode.
25/6/40	Very hot wind. Hottest day yet experienced. C Sqn. Colonel Gairdener (2i/c 4th Armd Bde) and the Sqn Ldr made a recce of GIARRABUB in order to make plans for a later attack. Sqn HQ were bombed at 1820 hrs. A Sqn. Owing to intense heat and shortage of water, the Sqn withdrew to near FORT MADDALENA leaving TSM Woodward in observation of EL GUBI. The Sqn moved in the evening to BIR SHEFERZEN. TSM Clarke's Tp went forward to a position on the EL GUBI – GIARRABUB road.
26/6/40	C Sqn. Two troops in observation GIARRABUB. NTR. A Sqn. Sqn left at 0530 hrs for TAIEB EL ESSEM. TSM Clarke reported 280 lorries stationary at EL GUBI. There was a very bad sandstorm blowing and during an air attack on Sqn HQ an enemy bomber flying very low was heavily engaged with SA and was believed to have been hit. EL GUBI area reported quiet. TSM Clarke found a MARC which had belonged to TSM Howarth's Tp, completely burnt out 10 miles SSE of EL GUBI.
27/6/40	C Sqn. Sqn HQ bombed twice during the day. Same two troops in observation of GIARRABUB. Lights were seen on the track in front of the fort during the previous night. It was thought that either the enemy were mining the track or they were drawing water from the nearby well. They were too far away to be engaged. A Sqn. Sqn HQ bombed. Lts Poston and Spickemell's troops in observation of EL GUBI. NTR. Information received from a captured Italian pilot revealed that TSM Howarth and 3 crew members were prisoners and had been flown directly to Marshal BALBO. They were safe and unhurt. The only man now missing from that troop is Tpr Jones' 70.



28/6/40	C Sqn. The two troop in observation were relieved by Sgt Lamb and Sgt Sander's troops. Sgt Lamb in forward observation was sniped from the East. Sgt Sander was sent through the wire to investigate. The sniping ceased but no-one was seen. Probably a few men with rifles from the fort who escaped down the escarpment. One troop (Sgt Mines) was sent MELFA. Touch was gained with the FDA and certain information received about an Italian MG post near AIH MELFA. Sqn HQ were bombed 5 times during the day. The final attack about 1800 hrs made by 4 planes and about 50 heavy bombs were dropped. No damage caused. A Sqn. Two troops in observation EL GUBI, 2Lt Poston and 2Lt Spickemell. The former was bombed otherwise NTR. Sqn HQ moved 16 miles SW. Sqn B Echelon bombed, no casualties.
29/6/40	C Sqn. Sgt Lamb's Tp was sniped at during the night and had to withdraw slightly. In the morning they patrolled down the track towards the fort and discovered a large landmine. This was removed and rendered harmless. The Tp was sniped during this operation. Sgt Mines Tp was sent to MELFA to gain further information and to recce the SE approach to GIARRABUB. 2Lt Trayner's Tp and 2 scout cars were sent to locate the GIARRABUB – TARFAWU track. However, owing to enemy activity in the North, the Sqn were ordered to withdraw to FORTMADDALENA. This was carried out at 1730 hrs. A Sqn Patrols in observation at EL GUBI. B Echelon again bombed. Tpr Muscatelli whom was 2nd driver of a lorry which was towing a broken down RRAC, was wounded. RHQ FORTMADDALENA was bombed by four aircraft at 1800 hrs, no damage.
30/6/40	C Sqn FORTMADDALENA one Tp patrolled the wire to SIDI OMAR. A Sqn South of EL GUBI reported enemy movement to the South and SW. Tpr Muscatelli wounded the previous day by a bomb died at 0400 hrs. B Sqn under orders of 4th Armd Bde in contact with enemy force in the North. RHQ in same position. Hot wind all day. From June 20th to 29th, the Regt was operating on a front 120 miles long, ie. From SIDI AZEIZ in the North to GIARRABUB in the South. This made supplies and communications very difficult. RHQ were near FORTMADDALENA. The B2 and B2/A Echelons had to go back to BIR HABATA to replenish. This entailed a journey of 50 miles each way. Added to this. C Sqn HQ were 60 miles away from RHQ. Their forward troops were a further 20 miles in front of their HQ. This meant they were 130 miles away from the replenishing point. The other Sqns were in the same situation, A Sqn being near TIEB EL ESSEM 60 miles away from RHQ with Troops near EL GUBI and B Sqn being at SHEFERZEN 30 miles away from RHQ with Troops at SIDI AZEIZ. In order to maintain these Sqns, the echelons were often travelling throughout the night. Supplies were not the only difficulty. Owing to the great distance speech on the wireless was impossible and even Key was very bad at times. The weather during this period was very hot and there were frequent sandstorms. It was usually impossible to operate between 1000 and 1600 hrs. If RRAC [Rolls Royce Armd Car] were used during the heat of the day they boiled and used large quantities of water. Water was very short and it was only by supplementing the ration by sending to SIWA, SOLLUM and SOFAFI for extra water that enough was obtained.
Jun 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) Appendix M
14/6/40	REPORT ON OPERATIONS AT SIDI AZEIZ Combe force crossed the frontier at 0700 hrs and proceeded NW to SIDI AZEIZ. At 0800 hrs C Sqn acting as advance guard came under heavy shellfire on reaching a point 3 to 4 miles South of SIDI AZEIZ. Estimated number of enemy guns; 9 to 15, appeared to be situated in the proximity of SIDI AZEIZ. C Sqn proceeded round to the West and B Sqn proceeded to the East. One Sqn 7th Hussars and Force HQ



	followed eastern Sqn. Both Sqns TIVI were drawing arty fire during this flank movement. Enemy Infantry position was located on the ridge astride road running SE from SIDI AZEIZ. 1 Sqn 7th Hussars put in an attack on this position. The enemy (native troops approx 50) fled. The 7th Hussars Sqn pursued but on reaching summit of ridge encountered a minefield. Three light tanks were blown up. Casualties were one OR killed, two ORs wounded. The tanks were subsequently stripped and burnt. The Sqn TIVI proceeding round to the West was fired on by automatic MGs from B. BU TABEL. Owing to the flat nature of the ground and mirage, it was impossible to locate gun position. An attempt was made by 1 troop 4th RHA to shell SIDI AZEIZ from a point about 12,000 yards to the South but owing to lack of observation this was not successful. The spotting was carried out by TIVI. The two Sqns TIVI proceeded to the NE and NW of SIDI AZEIZ and one troop took up a position B. EL HAQHEIFA. Although still drawing arty fire it was still impossible to locate the gun position. At approx 1500 hrs a large enemy bomber was seen to land at SIDI AZEIZ. At approx 1630 hrs, Combe Force withdrew, less one Sqn and one troop TIVI. Sqn TIVI proceeded to Pt. 41 and sent patrol to Pt. 132 on BARDIA – TOBRUK road. No enemy movement was seen. Sqn withdrew and on passing SIDI AZEIZ, the Fort was seen to be in flames and a white flag was hoisted from the area of the Fort. The Sqn advanced and when within about ¼ mile, it encountered very heavy arty fire and then withdrew. Previous to this, 1 Tp TIVI at B. EL HAQHEIFA had observed a lorry enter SIDI AZEIZ by the BARDIA road, and return a short time after. This troop then withdrew SW on observing 24 enemy light tanks approaching him. Six of these tanks pursued him which he engaged capturing one of them. The Tp Ldr burnt the tank and took the crew of two, prisoners. Meanwhile the Sqn withdrawing East encountered 9 enemy light tanks which pursued them. These were beaten off on reaching the frontier. Previous to the above, 1 troop TIVI proceeded to Pt. 177 East of SIDI AZEIZ. They approached BARDIA defences and saw Infantry dug in positions. Considerable enemy movement at B. SALEH EL GASSUM. The going NW and North of SIDI AZEIZ is hummocky and very slow.
Jun 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) Appendix N
12/6/40	OPERATIONS AGAINST FORT MADDALENA BY A Sqn. 4Tp (TSM Clarke) supported by 5Tp (TSM Woodward) cut the wire in several places to the East of FORT MADDALENA.
13/6/40	4Tp remained in observation and when carrying out a recce within 500 yards of the Fort, was fired on by 12 MGs. Shortly afterwards the Tp was attacked by six enemy bombers and nine fighters. They chased the Tp for some way but caused no casualties. The planes attacked the Egyptian frontier post at SHEGGA. One lorry was destroyed and two occupants wounded. 4Tp was withdrawn and relieved by 3Tp (Lt Friend). During the night 3Tp circled the fort and threw grenades – captured Italian ones – into the out buildings. Enemy replied with MG fire.
14/6/40	The remainder of the Sqn marched 50 miles to an assembly position 6 miles East of the fort, arriving just before 0900 hrs. an RAF bombardment had been ordered from 0900 to 0920 hrs. at 0905 hrs a bombing attack was heard in the direction of the fort, but turned out to be 6 enemy planes bombing SHEGGA. The RAF arrived at 0917 hrs, dropped a few bombs (which all missed) and left at 0927 hrs. At about 1020 hrs 2Tp (2Lt Spickernell) and 5Tp (TSM Woodward) under command 2Lt Spickernell, assembled at SHEGGA opposite to the cut in the wire. 1Tp (2Lt Poston) and 3Tp (Lt Friend) concentrated in area North of Pt. 177. Both parties advanced simultaneously and the white flag was hoisted in the fort. 18 POWs were taken (5 Italians). The wireless was destroyed. Some MGs were taken away. The Sqn withdrew 4 miles. 5Tp (TSM Woodward) returned at 1400 hrs to collect a wounded native and the rest of the MGs. While



	they and the transport were in the fort collecting water, 3 of our own bombers appeared and bombed the fort. This time they hit it but the Tp scattered and luckily no damage or casualties were caused to our own troops.
Jun 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) Appendix O
16/6/40	REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF 16th JUNE 1940 Situation on the morning of 16th:- A Sqn 80 miles to SW and 40 miles West of the frontier watching the GIARRABUB road. C Sqn (less one troop at SOLLUM under Divisional orders) were operating on the TOBRUK road and other roads East to BARDIA. B Sqn resting in bivouac area QUARET ABU FAYRES, less two troops under 2Lt WVH Gape and 2Lt Dier, on wire patrol SOLLUM – SIDI OMAR. 1 troop ordered to CAPUZZO to collect Mussolini statue between 0800 and 1000 hrs. Owing to the late arrival of the rations on the evening of 14/15th, it had not been possible to deliver them to C Sqn and consequently they would have to be sent under escort this morning to Sqn HQ, which was a few miles South of TOBRUK road. I considered that B Sqn could rest as well 5 miles North of the frontier as 10 miles South, and orders were given to this effect. At 0730 hrs B Sqn were within a mile or two of the frontier when 2Lt Gape saw a force estimated at 12 light tanks and 30 MET, moving North at 502367, and received orders from Major AG Miller to try and cut them off. Information was then received that 300 Infantry had been seen at 503366 protected by 17 light tanks and 40 MET moving West from that point, and that a second Troop under 2Lt Dier was also in action. This information was passed to Bde with a request for some A/Tk guns, but owing to wireless silence it was not acknowledged and orders were sent to Major Miller to call in all his patrols from the wire and FORT CAPUZZO. 2Lt Gape, although he only had 2 cars, advanced from SE on the column which had 6 light tanks in front and rear, and travelling much faster past the rear guard more or less unobserved, immediately attacked the lorries which halted and dismounted the men. Heavy casualties were inflicted and the tanks attacked. Two were knocked out but he had to retire as they were too numerous for him. Although one car had a slow puncture, he got away and halted. All the tanks came after him and he was not in a good position, as they were trying to surround him, when 1 Tp under 2Lt Dier arrived and knocked out one light tank and 2Lt Gape got 2 light tanks. The tanks then withdrew. A LO from Bde arrived saying that our wireless message had not been received, that also no action had been taken. He was sent back to explain the situation. Information had been received that 7th Hussars Cruiser Sqn and one troop of RHA were on their way up. Owing to B Sqn's shortage of cars, 2 from HQ had already been sent, and at 0900 hrs, I decided to go up and see Major Miller. At this moment Colonel Gardener arrived with a message that he would take up protection of the bivouac area and that the remainder of the Bde would be made available if necessary. C Sqn were ordered to send their patrol at Pt. 211, South to help piquet enemy from the North. On meeting Major Miller at GIRBA, we went forward to make a recce together with the comd of the RHA, who had also arrived. B Sqn had entirely piquetted the enemy and were to keep their patrols well wide and not attack the enemy. The enemy lorries could be clearly seen in the mirage at 503368. Upon returning to conc point at GIRBA, the cruiser Sqn had arrived, strength 4 light tanks and 8 Cruisers, 2 other Cruisers having broken down. The following plan was explained to all commanders:-



In the absence of cover, the 7th Hussars would attack direct. One troop RHA would move forward, to the right of 7th Hussars, and halt short of the position to engage if possible enemy tanks or lorries breaking to the East towards BARDIA which I considered the most likely direction. The 11th Hussars, as the tanks drew level with them, were to draw wide to the right and left and cut off any retirement. The 7th Hussars advanced about 2 miles, were halted in a dip and all tank commanders shown the objective.

At about 1100 hrs the attack commenced, all Commanders having approved of the plan. One enemy gun soon opened fire at an accurate range, shortly followed by another gun firing at the approaching troop of the RHA, which moved wider to their right and were never under accurate fire again. The 11th Hussars were ordered to press forward on both flanks but not to close in across the Cruisers line of fire. The 7th Hussars were opposed by 7 light tanks which were immediately put out of action and upon approaching the position, went line ahead to the left and encircled the position to the right. By this time 4 guns, one at each corner, were in action. The guns were not silenced until the 7th Hussars had encircled the position 2 or 3 times and ammo lorries were on fire and the crews which had fought very bravely were killed or wounded. The 11th Hussars pursued and destroyed 7 lorries, some ammo and captured about 100 prisoners and 6 lorries. The 4 guns and 1 light tank were towed back to the rendezvous and despatched home together with 7 officers and 94 ORs. The Colonel commanding the force was killed in retirement by the 11th Hussars. It is estimated that 50 had been killed in the action. There were no casualties to our own troops.

This action owed its success to :-

- i. The excellent information and prompt action by 2Lt Gape's Troop.
- ii. The successful piquetting by B Sqn 11th Hussars.
- iii. The prompt assembly of suitable reinforcements.
- iv. Helped by the fact that all tank commanders had seen the objective. The 7th Hussars attack was excellently carried out and most ably led by Lt Seymour Evans.
- v. The successful pursuit by B Sqn 11th Hussars.

NOTES. The following points were noted in operations.

- i. The great asset of the "signal of the day" which must of a necessity be strictly adhered to.
- ii. The value of personal recce by commanders and tank commanders, especially when there is a bad mirage.
- iii. The tendency, probably due to mirage, of opening at too long a range.
- iv. The value of mobile troops on the flanks.
- v. Immobility of the Italian guns to traverse.
- vi. Owing to the fact that the No. 11 sets of the 7th Hussars could not link to our No. 9 sets, and that the RHA had no wireless at all, the spare sets in this HQ had to be loaned for the second time (SIDI AZEIZ 14th June), a MRAC has had to go in with a tank attack against artillery. The W/T communication in a mixed force is essential.

By dawn 16th June, C Sqn had one Tp (TSM Scrivener) on the TOBRUK road, at the road junction 15 miles NW of SIDI AZEIZ. This troop destroyed telegraph poles, which made a block at this point, and remained in position there. 2Lt Lauder's troop moved to a position covering the road about 1 ½ miles East of the track.

Sqn HQ remained in position of observation at the top of the escarpment. One troop for protection was left at the top of this first escarpment, 3 miles South to give warning of any movement from SIDI AZEIZ. The other troop still further South at Pt. 211 on the SIDI AZEIZ – EL ADEM road. One troop detailed at SOLLUM under Divisional orders.

At 0210 hrs a column of 30 MET approached from BARDIA and some men carrying rifles could be seen in them. This convoy was signalled by 2Lt Lauder's troop, which allowed it to pass and then both troops attacked it. Several casualties were inflicted, about 35 surrendered, but 12 to 15 ran away to the North and covered from fire by the lorries, could not be pursued owing to the nature of the ground. The lorries were made immobile. The leading one was an open one with very heavy machine gun of about .5" calibre which was unfortunately damaged. Later 2 staff cars, one containing a General of Engineers (Gen LASTRUCCI) and a captain, approached from TOBRUK and managed to turn around



	and try to get away. One AC of TSM Scrivener's Tp chased him down the road, killed the Captain and the two cars halted. The lorry containing 17 native troops from BARDIA was captured 15 minutes later. About 15 minutes after this, some signallers from BARDIA, in vehicles, came to repair the telephone wire and were killed or captured. At 1410 hrs a staff car containing 3 officers was captured. At 1510 hrs an army truck from BARDIA with 5 Italian women in it was also captured. Empty army lorries from BARDIA and TOBRUK were also captured. At 1715 hrs a single plane made a very accurate on Sqn HQ Armd cars, diving steeply out of the sun at right angles to the car. He hit the car in 7 places, 4 shots made no impression, 1 punctured a tyre, 1 went through the bedding and sand mat on the back of the car and one split the armoured plate of the turret making a crack about 1 ½ inches long and 1/16 inches wide in the centre. A total of 3 staff cars, 34 MET and 5 civilian cars were captured and all except 2 lorries, 1 staff car and 1 truck were destroyed. The casualties were 1 officer and 20 ORs killed, 1 General, 9 officers, 78 ORs (incl 17 natives) taken prisoner. Own casualties nil. No other traffic except 1 MET at 2100 hrs, which was allowed to go as crew were busy repairing a broken down RRAC in close proximity of the road. One Tp was left in observation on North escarpment. One small fort or blockhouse is reported at Pt. 132 South of main road 3 miles East of track junction; small party of Infantry were seen there at 1600 hrs. There is also a small OP about 200 yds West of the fort. Prisoners were evacuated under escort in Italian lorries captured at the battle of GIRBA in the morning and were despatched with C Sqn rations. C Sqn, having repaired the broken down car, spare parts being sent during the night from RHQ, returned at dawn leaving one Tp in observation at SIDI AZEIZ. The main TOBRUK road is a first class tarmac road. The other road as marked is non-existent. The track running North and South is well defined and good; passes through a defile on the escarpment. The EL ADEM – SIDI AZEIZ road (TRIGH ENVER BRI) is a well defined metalled, but not tarmac, desert road. After a successful engagement as above, the Sqn was severely handicapped by so many prisoners and it is difficult to know what they would have done had it been necessary for them to disperse or carry on with a task unfinished which necessitated a forward movement.
June 1940	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) Appendix S
21/6/40	Copy of letter received by the CO from Major General Creagh Commanding 7th Armd Div. <i>Dear John,</i> <i>Well done, I came to tell you and the Regiment that, the other day, but you were engaged to a better purpose. I came up again today but do not know exactly where you are as you are en route to the vicinity of MADDALENA. You and your chap have put up a cracking good show. Just what I expected of the old Eleventh. Tommy Pitman and the old files will be jolly pleased with you. I will try and let them know by cable. Good luck to you all and many thanks.</i> <i>Dick Creagh.</i>
Jun 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) Appendix R
20/6/40	C sqn moved to FORT MADDALENA at 0500 hrs. Sqn HQ then moved to SALTPAN. Three Troops were sent out to observe. 1 Tp in the GARA area (Sgt Lamb) reported enemy occupying fort at GARET EL GELEB. All troops remained in observation. RHQ moved 17 miles SW of FORT MADDALENA leaving the majority of transport and LAD in the area of the fort.
21/6/40	2Tp C Sqn (TSM Mattison MM) patrolled 20 miles South of his position. No enemy seen and going found to be very bad. 1 Tp (Sgt Lamb) remained in observation of enemy in fort at GARET EL GELEB. In the early hours of the following morning, 3Tp patrolled SE as far as the GIARRABUB escarpment, no enemy seen and going found to be very bad. Wireless communication was very difficult owing to atmospheric conditions. In the evening 3Tp (2Lt Trayner) joined 2Tp.



June 1940	Activities of B Sqn from June 22 to June 30.
Jun 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) Activities of B Sqn from June 22 to June 30.
22/6/40	Patrols sent out along the frontier towards fort CAPUZZO and to SIDI AZEIZ 3Tp (2Lt Halliday) caught one enemy trying to repair a light tank which had been put out of action on June 16th at GIRBA. He was shot when attempting to escape.
23/6/40	Same patrols carried out. 4Tp (2Lt Gape) was bombed near SIDI OMAR. No casualties.
24/6/40	NTR
25/6/40	Same patrols. 5Tp captured an enemy motor cyclist.
26/6/40	5Tp (2Lt Dier) in observation at FORT CAPUZZO saw 2 enemy fighters land. One took off, but the other was attacked and destroyed and the pilot captured. He gave information about TSM Howarth and his crew.
27/6/40	1Tp (Sgt Bowyer) destroyed some enemy stores.
28/6/40	3Tp on recce on the CAPUZZO – BARDIA road reported 10 lorries and 30 men working on the landing ground at CAPUZZO. 4Tp reported 20 lorries and 300 men at FORT CAPUZZO. The men were working on gun emplacements.
29/6/40	Three patrols were sent out in the SIDI AZEIZ – CAPUZZO area. 4Tp (2Lt Gape) reported 14 lorries and parties of men working on gun emplacements on the CAPUZZO – GUSTO HOUSE road. 5Tp (2Lt Halliday) reported considerable activity at SIDI AZEIZ and parties of men working on the landing ground. Sqn HQ moved to beacon 38 by the wire force. Sqn of 7th Hussars were sent up to assist. Sqn HQ and the 7th Hussars were heavily bombed and machine gunned by fighter planes. No casualties. The whole of 7th Hussars were then ordered to attack FORT CAPUZZO, the enemy had 4 batteries of field guns and some A/Tk guns and the 7th Hussars were forced to withdraw. One Sqn of the 6th RTR were sent up and a fresh attack was ordered for 2100 hrs. this also failed. The CO of the 7th Hussars was wounded.
30/6/40	Patrols were again sent out and the enemy was found to be still in occupation of SIDI AZEIZ and FORT CAPUZZO. The situation is unchanged.

BATTLE OF GIRBA – 18th JUNE 1940

A few days ago I made a thorough search of the ground on which this battle took place. Many lorries etc have been evacuated but amongst the burnt out ones was a large diesel containing arms. I estimated that there were 50 rifles, 8 or 9 light Breda automatics and 1 heavy MG. These I actually counted, but there might easily have been more amongst the debris.

One small Fiat 4 seater car was destroyed by MG and Bren fire. In this car was a full colonel's coat and operation orders in the pocket, since handed to 4th Armd Bde.

Most of the light tanks had two men in them or lying beside them, the lorries had two and in some cases many more men in them. There was a large number of dead, about 50 including 2 officers, round the position where the guns and lorries were. The Infantry were attacked in the morning by Lt Gape's Troop at close range, where they had just dismounted from the lorries and were standing in close formation.

Those killed by B Sqn 11th Hussars in pursuit, both brought back and left out, together with those enumerated above, must, in my opinion, have amounted to at least 80 to 100. The number of wounded and captured are of course unaltered.

I then counted all the light tanks and am now able to state that there were definitely 17 destroyed and the number



in my original report was wrong. After the action I had no time to check numbers and details of reports but Major Miller was himself uncertain and I did not wish the report to be exaggerated. The numbers are made up as follows:- 5 were destroyed in the morning by 2Lt Gape and 2Lt Dier's Troops before the main action took place. 4 of these tanks I personally saw on the ground before and after the main action and one other I know was towed from there. These tanks were about 3 miles from the main action and no other unit except B Sqn 11th Hussars were in that area. At the main gun position there are 2 tanks that never left the close proximity of the 4 guns and ammunition lorries and were undoubtedly destroyed by the 7th Hussar tank action as were 7 others that I personally saw advance from the gun position to meet the 7th Hussars advance. Thus 9 in all were duly accounted for by the 7th Hussars Sqn. There are also 3 more light tanks that I found about 2 – 2½ miles further off in the line of the enemy's retirement. None of these show any marks from 2 pounder fire but do bear many light automatic and Boyes rifle fire marks and were undoubtedly destroyed by B Sqn 11th Hussars in pursuit, which accounts for them not being reported, as the Sqn did not halt but pursued lorries for a considerable distance. These 3 were reported to me by Major Miller, but as I have stated, he was a little uncertain so I discounted his report. The 7th Hussars never went into this area at all so could not possibly have destroyed them.

The correct facts are:-

11 Hussars	5 2 light tanks destroyed by Lt Gape's Troop (see report recommending Lt Gape for MC) 2 light tanks destroyed by Lt Gape's Troop 1 light tank destroyed by Lt Dier's Troop
11 Hussars	3 Destroyed by B Sqn 11 Hussars in pursuit
7 Hussars	9 7 destroyed by 7 H during their advance and attack main position. 2 destroyed by 7 H and never left main position.
Total	17 All these were in 3 distinct and separate lots about 3 miles apart.

In addition the 7th Hussars silenced and destroyed 4 field guns (14 pounders) and about 6 lorries of ammunition. The number of lorries destroyed and captured also the number of prisoners are the same as originally reported and I am extremely doubtful, from all accounts, if more than 2 or 3 lorries got away and that the number of lorries in Lt Gape's original wireless report when on patrol, was exaggerated.

About a week ago it was stated in the Egyptian Mail and Gazette that Lt Seymour Evans, 7th Hussars had been awarded the MC, for, though outnumbered, he had destroyed 12 light tanks and 4 guns. I was in sole charge of the battle of GIRBA and saw every detail, especially of the 7th Hussar tank action which I followed at a very short distance and therefore knew they destroyed the 9 tanks and 4 field guns enumerated above; but could not possibly have accounted for the other 3 as they were never in that area throughout the entire engagement.

I did see B Sqn 11th Hussars go, upon my orders, into the area where these 3 tanks were destroyed and were still lying derelict last week (they have since been evacuated).

I personally recommended Lt Seymour Evans for the MC and as Commander wrote the report of the action for Brigadier JAL Caunter Commander 4th Armd Bde. Thus it surprised me to see the above statement in the papers. No doubt the newspapers have made a mistake and I am not writing about Lt Seymour Evans very excellent award but for the sake of future records I am requesting that the above facts, especially the increased number of light tanks destroyed in the battle, should be officially recorded.

July 1940

CO: Lt Col JFB Combe

[All individual Squadron reports have been incorporated into the main body to aid readability]

Jul 40

11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)

1/7/40

A Sqn were in observation of an enemy force which had moved out of El Gubi the previous day. During the relief of the troop in observation, contact was somehow lost. This caused some consternation at RHQ and Bde and orders were given to gain contact as soon as possible. A Sqn sent out Troops South and East of El Gubi with this object but no contact was gained. C Sqn were ordered to send out a patrol to the Salt Pans in case the enemy were moving South. Sgt Mines and his Tp were sent out but could see no sign and returned to Maddalena the following day.



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The Dingo Register, Daimler Fighting Vehicles Project – Part D3e
Cavalry Of The Line - 11th Hussars War Diary

	It is thought that the enemy turned round and went back to B Gubi and this was borne out by later events. B Sqn patrols in the Capuzzo – Sidi AZEIZ area had nothing of interest to report. RHQ were machine gunned by one large bomber at 0800 hrs. the gun was poking out of the bottom of the plane and fired straight down. Major Leetham came up from Cairo to see the CO and stayed to lunch. Returning to Rear Div and later back to Cairo.
2/7/40	C Sqn. The troop at the SALT PANS returned (Sgt Mines). Lt Tl Pitman MC arrived. A Sqn. In observation of EL GUBI. No trace of the lost enemy column. It is presumed to have returned to EL GUBI. 2Lt JW Poston evacuated sick. B Sqn. Patrols observing the enemy in SIDI AZEIZ and CAPUZZO. NTR. Lt Hon GHC Loch went back to Cairo in charge of the leave party.
3/7/40	In the evening C Sqn went up to relieve B Sqn in the North. A Sqn in observation EL GUBI. RHQ in same position. The CO went to visit B Sqn and Bde HQ.
4/7/40	C Sqn. Took over B Sqn's role. 3Tp (2Lt Reid Scott) was sent to BIR BEDR area. 5Tp (Sgt Galpin) was sent to Pt. 208 West of CAPUZZO. 2Tp (Sgt Mines) in observation SIDI OMAR area. A Sqn. In observation at EL GUBI. 2Tp (2Lt Spickernell) went to FORT MADDALENA assisted by a troop of A/Tk guns. B Sqn. Moved back to BUQ-BUQ to rest and reorganise. RHQ. Moved up to BIR SHEFERZEN. Some War Correspondents arrived and were taken to see FORT CAPUZZO. They were sent up to visit A Sqn in the evening.
5/7/40	C Sqn. 2Lt Reid Scott's Tp carried out a patrol at dawn and was shelled from GARMUSET EL HUADEG. Remained in observation of SIDI AZEIZ to 1100 hrs. Sgt Galpin's Tp carried out patrol to SIDI AZEIZ – CAPUZZO road at dawn. No incidents and gained touch with 7th Hussars. Sgt Sander's Tp carried out patrol West from SIDI OMAR at 0600 hrs. no incidents. Sgt Galpin's Tp withdrawn to BIR HAQFIT at 1100 hrs as 7th Hussars appeared to be in that area. At 1700 hrs Sgt Mines Tp sent to relieve 2Lt Reid Scott Tp. The latter went to HAQFET EL CHARRUBA and later further North to BIR BEDR and GARMUSET EL HUADEG. Sgt Whitehouse's car was hit and rendered immobile. Crew evacuated and picked up by 2Lt Reid Scott who was under heavy shell fire at the time. Enemy lorries containing A/Tk guns and Infantry appeared from SIDI AZEIZ. Engaged by our patrol the retaliated with A/Tk fire and arty fire. Patrol tried to get round to the NE and East but fire was too heavy. 20 enemy Infantry approached the damaged RRAC using dead ground, examined it and left after 5 minutes. Lorries went back to SIDI AZEIZ but A/Tk guns remained. It was not possible to recover the RRAC owing to the risk of losing more valuable cars. Sgt Mines remained in observation all night. 2Lt Reid Scott returned with remaining 2 cars, one of which had A/Tk fire through the radiator door at 2010 hrs. Sgt Lamb carried out a patrol to MADDALENA at 1700 hrs and Sgt Sanders West of SIDI OMAR at 1800 hrs. NTR. A Sqn. In observation at EL GUBI. 2Lt HO Henderson arrived. B Sqn. At BUQ-BUQ. RHQ. At BIR SHEFERZEN.
6/7/40	C Sqn. Sgt Mines Tp took up position of observation of SIDI AZEIZ, very little movement seen. Sgt Galpin patrolled North from HAQFET EL CHARRUBA and took up position of observation at BIR BEDR. Enemy movement in that area all day at gun emplacements at BIR ABU TABEL and 1 mile East of SIDI AZEIZ. 1800 hrs Sgt Galpin relieved by Sgt Lamb who saw 4 enemy medium tanks which opened fire with 2pdr guns. 1700 hrs Sgt Sanders relieved Sgt Mines. A Sqn reported no movement at EL GUBI. Very



	hot day and the CO reported sick.
7/7/40	C Sqn. Sgt Sanders patrolled at dawn North and NW of SIDI AZEIZ. Lorries seen on SIDI AZEIZ – BARDIA road. Sgt Lamb patrolled North and NE of SIDI AZEIZ. Useful information gained. 2Lt Reid Scott's Tp was shelled by our own troops West of CAPUZZO. Sgt Mines relieved Sgt Sanders at 1900 hrs and remained in observation during the night in area GARMUSET EL HUADEG. Sgt Lamb recalled at dusk A Sqn reported no movement at EL GUBI. CO Still sick.
8/7/40	C Sqn At dawn in a thick mist, Sgt Mines managed to get close to the RRAC knocked out on the 6th and salvaged some of the kit off it. When the mist lifted it was seen that the gun position 300 yards to the East of the car was occupied. Later Sgt Mines carried out a patrol to the North and kept the TRIGH CAPUZZO and SIDI AZEIZ – GABR SALAH roads under observation. Sgt Galpin patrolled to BIR BEDR area at dawn, and remained in observation. Joined by a patrol of the 7th Hussars who approached to within 1700 yards of BIR BEDR. No fire drawn. At about 1700 hrs, Sgt Mines reported 6 lorries and 2 other vehicles turn towards him and he withdrew West followed by the enemy. He turned SW and his MARC steering broke. He tried to fix the steering as best he could at the same time taking everything of value off the car in case he had to leave it. The steering was temp fixed but by that time the enemy were 1 mile behind him. Sgt Mines moved off but the enemy tried to cut him off by moving South of him. After going 1 mile, Sgt Mines moved East and his steering broke again near BIR EL MARAA. The enemy were then ¾ of a mile away. Meanwhile Sgt Galpin who was at Pt 206 NE of HAQ FET EL CHARRUBA had been ordered to move to BIR EL MARAA to help. Sgt Sanders was ordered to take up Sgt Galpin's old position. Sgt Galpin arrived at BIR EL MARAA and saw 2 enemy lorries and 2 tanks and moved towards them, getting between Sgt Mines and the enemy. The enemy halted, turned away and went back quickly. Sgt Galpin escorted Sgt Mines and broken down car to HAQ FET EL CHARRUBA and then Sgt Mines returned to Sqn HQ. Sgt Sanders was relieved by Sgt Galpin who withdrew at dusk to Sqn HQ. Sgt Sanders went to BIR EL MARAA area to observe SIDI AZEIZ. 2Lt Reid Scott patrolled to a position SW of SIDI OMAR at 1900 hrs. A Sqn In observation EL GUBI with a troop at FORT MADDALENA. B Sqn Returned from BUQ-BUQ and spent the night at DAREL HAMRA with Rear HQ. RHQ Still at BIR SHEFERZEN. CO still sick. Capt Justice the MO went on leave and Capt Livingstone took his place. Major Miller arrived in the evening and stayed at RHQ.
9/7/40	C Sqn Same position with patrols in SIDI AZEIZ and SIDI OMAR areas. 5Tp (Sgt Galpin) was sent down to FORT MADDALENA to take over the patrol there from A Sqn. A Sqn Handed over the patrol to B Sqn at EL GUBI and returned to RHQ on the way to BUQ-BUQ. B Sqn Took over at EL GUBI. Capt C de B de Lisle was in command. RHQ At BIR SHEFERZEN. CO evacuated sick and Major AG Miller took command.
10/7/40	C Sqn 2Lt Reid Scott carried out patrol at dawn. NTR Sgt Lamb relieved Sgt Sanders in the BIR EL MARAA area. 2Lt Reid Scott took up position at Pt. 198, 7 miles SW of SIDI OMAR. At 1100 hrs Sgt Lamb patrolled to the NW of SIDI AZEIZ and reported it as held. Withdrew South to NIZWETHEDARIA area and later investigated BIR BUTABEL. At about 1600 hrs Cpl Prossor's car hit a land mine and was then shelled. The car, a RRAC was abandoned and the crew taken off by Sgt Lamb. The Tp withdrew and kept the car under observation. 6 enemy lorries and a breakdown arrived. Sgt Lamb tried to stop their advance with fire, but failed, as they opened up A/Tk fire on him. Sgt Sanders was sent up with an 8cwt Bug to collect the crew, one of whom was wounded. A patrol of the 7th Hussars appeared and by this time the enemy had towed the RRAC away. Sgt Lamb remained in observation of BIR EL MARAA during the night. 2Lt Reid Scott was relieved by Sgt Mines at 1900 hrs.



	A Sqn Continued journey to BUQ-BUQ to rest. B Sqn In observation at EL GUBI. No movements. Lt Hon GHC Loch returned from leave. RHQ Same position. War Correspondents arrived and went down to FORT MADDALENA.
11/7/40	C Sqn Sgt Mines carried out a patrol to the West on the report of the EL GUBI force moving out. Sgt Lamb remained in observation and saw the RRAC, put out of action the day before, being towed away by the enemy along the SIDI AZEIZ – BARDIA road. A little movement was seen in SIDI AZEIZ during the day. Sgt Lamb's Tp was shelled at 1900 hrs and forced to withdraw. A Sqn Resting at BUQ-BUQ. 2Lt Spickernell went on leave. B Sqn At 0825 hrs 1Tp (Sgt Lucy) reported 20 vehicles moving towards him along the TRIGH EL ABD track. He was 5 miles West of TAIEB EL ESSEM at the time. His wireless would not work and as he only had 2 cars he decided to go to Sqn HQ with this news. Sqn HQ was 4 miles SE of TAIEB EL ESSEM. 4Tp (Sgt Hoyland) was immediately ordered to gain contact. Sqn HQ moved to 1 mile South of HAQFET EL BEDR. 5Tp was ordered to BIR DUADER to gain contact should the enemy go South. 3Tp (2Lt Halliday) was ordered to the "H" of TRIGH EL ABD as there was a possibility of the enemy having got past the Sqn along the track, during the period Sgt Lucy was reporting and out of contact with the enemy. The Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN, which had escorted B Echelon back to RHQ, was ordered to proceed West along the track. At 1135 hrs 5Tp reported 6 lorries stationary at what he thought was BIR DLEUA. 4Tp was sent to join him and reported when he got there that he was 11 miles West of TAIEB EL ESSEM. This proved to be their correct position. 3Tp relieved 4Tp at 1245 hrs and 4Tp went to the South of EL GUBI to take up normal position of observation. At 1250 hrs 5Tp, in observation of enemy lorries, reported intermittent rifle fire, not directed at them. At 1651 hrs the two troops in observation of the enemy had an engagement with the enemy and reported they were fired on from moving lorries by arty. The guns were of 1.5 calibre and had a range of about 2,500 yards. The Troops had to withdraw but later the enemy withdrew towards EL GUBI. The Troops were then ordered to break contact and take up their normal positions. It is thought that the enemy force consisted of about 10 to 15 lorries and that it never actually reached TAIEB EL ESSEM, but turned around in their tracks before they got there. The Commander's reports of the day's events showed that Sgt Hoyland and his Troop did very well during the day. It was unfortunate that Sgt Lucy could not get in touch by wireless and had to break contact in order to report. The column was then lost for some time and this carried a certain amount of uncertainty as to their position at RHQ. RHQ Same position. Major WI Leetham arrived to take over command. Major Miller went back to B Sqn. 2Lt Gape was evacuated sick. 2Lt Dier went on leave.
12/7/40	C Sqn. 2Lt Reid Scott relieved Sgt Lamb at 0500 hrs. slight movement seen in SIDI AZEIZ at 0530 hrs. Sgt Mines patrolled West at 0600 hrs. nothing seen. No further movement seen all day except mechanical digger seen at Pt. 211 on GABR SALAH road. B Sqn Reported no movement at EL GUBI. RHQ. Major Leetham accompanied by Lt Grant Thorold visited B Sqn in the afternoon. The following awards were announced:- 2Lt Gape -MC 2Lt Halliday -MC Sgt Bowyer -MM Sgt Taber -MM
13/7/40	C Sqn In the evening Air reported large numbers of lorries leaving SIDI AZEIZ during the afternoon. At 1810 hrs 2Lt Reid Scott was able to see SIDI AZEIZ clearly and only saw 4 men in the vicinity of the Fort, and 12 men on the CAPUZZO road. SIDI AZEIZ itself appeared to be practically deserted.



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Cavalry Of The Line - 11th Hussars War Diary

	B Sqn Reported no movement at EL GUBL.
14/7/40	C Sqn in same position of observation. Sqn HQ moved to BIR SORTURI. A Sqn left BUQ-BUQ. B Sqn in observation of EL GUBL RHQ no change.
15/7/40	C Sqn handed over to A Sqn and left for BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn 1Tp (Sgt Hutchinson) was at FORTMADDALENA. 5Tp (Sgt Smith) in observation of SIDI AZEIZ from the West. 4Tp (TSM Clarke) SW of SIDI OMAR remained in reserve with Sqn HQ. At 0800 hrs Sgt Smith was shelled from SIDI AZEIZ, again at 2015hrs. certain amount of enemy movement in that area during the day. B Sqn in observation of EL GUBL. RHQ at BIR SHEFERZEN.
16/7/40	C Sqn resting at BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn Two Troops (2Lt Henderson and Sgt Smith) watching SIDI AZEIZ TSM Woodward's Tp went out at night to try and find the AZEIZ – BARDIA pipeline. Could not find it. B Sqn 1Tp (Sgt Bowyer) in observation South of EL GUBL. 5Tp (Sgt Hoyland) patrolled 3 miles NW and SW of TAIEB EL ESSEM. No incidents. Sqn HQ was at a point 5 miles South of Kilo 27 which is 4 miles East of TAIEB EL ESSEM. RHQ. No change.
17/7/40	C Sqn resting at BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn TSM Woodward returned at 0430 hrs, nil report. TSM Clarke and 2Lt Spickernell's Troops in observation of SIDI AZEIZ Sgt Smith and RE party left on road mining mission at 1930 hrs. owing to heavy A/Tk and MG fire the objective was not reached. Fire appeared to come from SIDI AZEIZ and also SIDI AZEIZ – BARDIA road. The Tp was recalled at 2224 hrs. B Sqn. 5Tp (Sgt Hoyland) in observation of GUBL – GIARRABUB road. 2Tp (2Lt Halliday MC) patrolled 3 miles NW and SW of TAIEB EL ESSEM. 1Tp (Sgt Bowyer MM) carried out recce to EL GUBL and drew fire. RHQ. No change.
18/7/40	A Sqn HQ moved to a position just West of Beacon 43. Two patrols observing SIDI AZEIZ TSM Woodward reported suspected minelaying 3 miles West of Pt 212, it turned out to be a camel. B Sqn 4Tp (Lt Loch) and 3Tp (2Lt Halliday MC) watching GUBL, South and West, NTR.
19/7/40	A Sqn An air fight between a Lysander and an enemy bomber was witnessed by some of the Sqn, at 1830 hrs in the vicinity of SIDI OMAR. B Sqn 4Tp (Lt Loch) and 1Tp (Sgt Bowyer MM) in observation South and East of EL GUBL. Capt de Lisle carried out recce to BIR SCIUFSUIF and CHLETA, NTR.
20/7/40	C Sqn left BUQ-BUQ and spent the night near DAR EL HAMRA. A Sqn.



	Patrol watching SIDI AZEIZ Enemy lorries reported in SIDI AZEIZ area. 1Tp (Sgt Hutchinson) left on recce of area North of EL GUBI over which C Sqn were to carry out a raid in the future. Increased enemy air activity. B Sqn 1Tp (Sgt Bowyer MM) and 5Tp (Sgt Hoyland) watching EL GUBI from South and East, NTR. Sqn HQ moved to a point 5 miles due North of Kilo 27 on the TRIGH EL ABD.
21/7/40	C Sqn arrived in reserve with RHQ. A Sqn NTR from SIDI AZEIZ patrols. One enemy bomber engaged at 1045 hrs by SA fire from Sqn HQ. 2Lt Spickemell in observation West of SIDI OMAR. He reported in the evening 1 MARC and 1 RRAC going across his front at high speed. As none of our own troops were known to be in the area, this caused a certain amount of consternation as it was thought they might be some of our own vehicles which had been captured being used by the enemy. However they turned out to be some War Correspondents who had been visiting the scene of the GIRBA battle. B Sqn 5Tp (Sgt Hoyland) and 3Tp (2Lt Halliday) in observation EL GUBI from South and East. No incidents.
22/7/40	C Sqn Left RHQ position at 1200 hrs and moved to NIZWET TALEB area where the Sqn refilled and had a meal. At 1830 hrs Lt Pitman MC with Sgt Mines, Sgt Lamb, Sgt Kynes and Cpl Nash, left to carry out a raid on the BARDIA – TOBRUK road. They got to the TRIGH CAPUZZO where the BARDIA track joins it, but it took 4 hours to reach the road from there owing to the terrible going. They reached a point 42 Kilos from Tobruk at midnight. Sgt Galpin's Tp blocked and mined the GAMBUT track. Sgt Whitehouse's Tp patrolled the TRIGH CAPUZZO. Sqn HQ and Sgt Sander's Tp moved to a point 3½ miles MW of track junction GAMBUT – TRIGH CAPUZZO. Lt Pitman and party encountered no enemy on their position but destroyed a mile of telegraph poles. They were on the road from midnight to 0400 hrs. Whole Sqn were withdrawn South of the TRIGH CAPUZZO by 0810 hrs 23rd July and arrived back at BIR SHEFERZEN by 1200 hrs. considerable damage to cars owing to the bad state of the going North of the TRIGH CAPUZZO. A Sqn Sqn role was taken over by 7th Hussars. Sqn moved out at 1530 to take over B Sqn role. Arrived 1 mile NW of TAIEB EL ESSEM at 2020 hrs and camped for the night. B Sqn Orders were given to lay ambushes on the EL GUBI – EL ADEM and EL GUBI – BIR HACHEM roads. 3Tp and 4Tp (2Lt Halliday and Lt Loch) went to a point 10 miles North of EL GUBI on the EL ADEM track. No enemy were seen all night and they retired at 0700 hrs. 1Tp and 5Tp (Sgt Bowyer and 2Lt Dier) went to a point 12 miles West of EL GUBI on the BIR HACHEM track. No enemy seen and at about 0800 hrs they retired to the WADI ES GERABU about 10 miles SSW of EL GUBI where tracks of vehicles had previously been seen. The Sqn concentrated at BIR SHEFERZEN at 1330. It then went on to BUQ-BUQ staying the night at BIR HABATA. RHQ Left at 1730 hrs to a position on the Sidi Azeiz – Gabr Salah track. Rear HQ at Dar el Hamra were heavily bombed and machine gunned by 9 planes at 1730 hrs, very lucky to have no casualties.
23/7/40	C Sqn arrived at Bir Sheferzen at 1200 hrs. A Sqn 3Tp (2Lt Henderson) and 1Tp (Sgt Henderson) in observation of EL GUBI from South and East. Two enemy bombers seen by Sqn HQ at 0850 and 0900 hrs. they were engaged by SA fire and hits being claimed by Major Blakiston Houston by his own gun. 15 enemy fighters passed over at 1745 hrs. this was reported to RHQ and Bde. Our own fighters went up but failed to gain contact. B Sqn came back to Bir Sheferzen at 1330 hrs and left for BUQ-BUQ staying the night at Bir Habata. RHQ returned to Bir Sheferzen.
24/7/40	C Sqn. Sqn moved out at 0630 hrs to take over the SIDI AZEIZ patrol duties from 7th Hussars. Sgt Whitehouse's



	Tp proceeded to watch SW exits from SIDI AZEIZ. Took up position of observation in the area NIZWET EL GEDARIA. Sgt Galpin's Tp went to Pt. 206 4 from SIDI AZEIZ to watch the TRIGH CAPUZZO. Sqn HQ and two Troops 2 miles West of Beacon 40 on a bearing of 331°. Troops remained in the area for remainder of the day. Withdrew to BIR EL MARAA for the night. A Sqn 2Lt Spickernell and TSM Clarke's Troops in observation of EL GUBI. Major Blakiston Houston and Lt Turnbull made a recce towards EL GUBI and got within 3½ miles of objective, visibility poor, NTR. Sqn HQ moved to a position 5 miles East of TAIEB EL ESSEM. 18 fighters passed over 2Lt Spickernell at 1735 hrs. reported to RHQ and Bde. Our own fighters went up and gained contact over SOLLUM and shot down 4 enemy machines with the loss of one to themselves. B Sqn continued their journey to BUQ-BUQ. Capt Wainman went on leave.
25/7/40	C Sqn two troops in observation of Sdi Azeiz. One in observation West of Sdi Omar. Remainder of Sqn moved out to gain info of movement on the Bardia – Tobruk road. A Sqn patrols watching El Gubi. B Sqn at BUQ-BUQ. RHQ at Bir Sheferzen.
26/7/40	C Sqn Sgt Galpin and Cpl Peacock reported that they heard tanks moving East and NE of their positions during the night, but nothing seen. At 0900 hrs, Sgt Galpin was fired on by a patrol of the 8th Hussars. He made contact with the patrol Commander who apologised and said he thought Galpin's AC was an enemy staff car. Cpl Prosser carried out a patrol to the West and SW of SIDI AZEIZ at 0600 - Lt Pitman, LCpl Dayman and Sgt Mines proceeded to a point South of TRIGH CAPUZZO at HAQFET ESC SCIOMAR. Lt Pitman MC and LCpl Dayman were taken on Sgt Mines's MARC to HAQFET ESC SCIOMAR on the TRIGH CAPUZZO where they dismounted and proceeded on foot North for 3 miles to remain in observation of the TOBRUK – BARDIA road. The time was between 0430 and 0500 hrs. Sgt Mines then returned to his Tp and his orders were to recce further West along the escarpment in the middle of the day when it was thought that enemy aircraft would not be up. 1245 - Mines reported he was in difficulties as he was being attacked by 9 fighters. His position was just South of the WADI ESC SCIOMAR. He was ordered to move South but replied that his MARC was out of action. At 1314 hrs he reported that the aircraft had gone but he could see vehicles approaching from the West. (1317 hrs Cpl Peacock's Tp withdrawn from SIDI AZEIZ to Sqn HQ). 1323 - Sgt Mines reported that the aircraft had returned but the vehicles had disappeared to the West. He could not see what they were. 3Tp, Sgt Whitehouse, was ordered at 1250 hrs to reinforce Sgt Mines. He left Sqn HQ at 1304 and Mines was informed. At 1327 hrs Sgt Mines's Tp reported that Sgt Mines was over at the other car attending to the wounded and that Tpr Nightingale was hit in the back, Tpr Gay in the leg and Cpl Grayston in the arm. 1346 - Sgt Mines himself reported that 2 and possibly 3 of his cars were out of action and that he was trying to get the MAC going and at 1347 hrs it was reported that 2 RRAC were on fire caused by incendiary bombs. At 1348 hrs Mines was told to evacuate his car and make off South and Sgt Whitehouse would pick him up and his car if and when he arrived. 1417 - Sgt Whitehouse arrived in the area BIR HALEISIN and reported 1 enemy fighter overhead which circled twice and flew away. 1453 - Sgt Mines MAC reported as still immobile. 1503 - Sgts Mines and Whitehouse informed that air assistance had been asked for. 1515 - Sgt Mines reported he was going to try and move his car. 1516 - Sgt Whitehouse's MAC broke a King pin. 1522 - Sgt Whitehouse reported 2 enemy tanks advancing from the North. 1523 - Mines reported his MAC moving. 1527 - 2 enemy aircraft over Whitehouse and Mines reported enemy aircraft dropping incendiary bombs. 1532 - Mines reported bombs falling all round and asked if he could evacuate the car and destroyed the wireless set. 1533 - Sgt Whitehouse reported he was heavily attacked by fighters and LCpl Parker (the fitter in the 3-ton fitters lorry) was hit in the head. 1534 - Whitehouse reported being attacked by heavy tanks. 1535 - Mines was asked about his rendezvous with Lt Pitman and replied that he had one that night at the place where he dropped him but if he was not there, then at the same time (between 2300



	and 0200) and place the next night. 1545 – Whitehouse reported LCpl Brown wounded in the shoulder. 1604 – Whitehouse reported one MAC and one RRAC out of action and one RRAC (2Lt Jenson) missing. 1606 – Fitters lorry reported abandoned and Lcpl Parker and Tpr Staples (driver) on RRAC of Sgt Whitehouse. 1607 – No reply from Sgt Mines. 1611 – Whitehouse said that he had seen Mines MAC coming towards them but aircraft had then attacked and they could only see smoke now. 1612 – Operator on Mines MAC said they were being attacked by aircraft again and asked Sqn HQ to call as little as possible as he thought the aircraft would hear them. 1620 – Sqn HQ moved to BIR HALE SIN with Cpl Peacock's Tp. 1627 – Whitehouse was asked if he could see tanks. He replied he could see two vehicles one of which might be the fitters lorry. 1628 – Whitehouse reported one RRAC mobile but push rod on the MAC badly bent. 1629 – LCpl Martin the operator on Sgt Whitehouse's car had got on to the RRAC and gone to try and investigate the two vehicles on the horizon. 1649 – LCpl Martin reported position where Mines had been heavily bombed. 1722 – LCpl Martin reported MAC moving slowly along and being heavily bombed. The push rod broke soon afterwards. 1730 – Bombers reported gone but no movement seen from RRAC. 1745 – Tpr Buckett came over from the RRAC and reported Sgt Whitehouse was killed. At this point enemy aircraft appeared to have ceased operations. The two Troops in action had been almost continually bombed and machine gunned for 5 hours. 9 fighter were in the air at one time. When Sgt Whitehouse went in the RRAC to investigate some vehicles on the horizon, the car was heavily bombed and rendered immobile. Whitehouse and Buckett got underneath the car. Whitehouse was hit in the stomach and died at once. Buckett tried to get back to the other car but was machine gunned as was forced to crawl ¼ of a mile on his stomach. He got back and reported Sgt Whitehouse's death. The other car of the Tp (2Lt Jenson) was last seen at about 1645 hrs when it went up to Sgt Mines's MAC, take some men off it and disappear moving West with about 10 men on the car. Some other vehicles, presumably enemy, were seen with him. The fitters lorry which had been sent up with Sgt Whitehouse was also thought to have been taken away by the enemy, at 1805 hrs 4Tp (Cpl Peacock) was sent up to collect survivors from Sgt Whitehouse's Tp, the RRAC and kit off the MAC. Sgt Whitehouse's body was also brought back. Cpl Peacock's Tp was sent out later to keep the rendezvous with Lt Pitman. They reached the objective at 0100 hrs and remained until 0400 hrs. no sign of Lt Pitman or any of Sgt Mines Tp. A Sqn Sqn in the same position with 2 patrols watching EL GUBI. The MO was on a visit to the Sqn but he was required by C Sqn and he left with TSM Clarke's Tp as escort at 1830 hrs. they went to Pt. 197 on the SIDI AZEIZ - GABR SALAH track and the wounded were evacuated back to the MO there. B Sqn at BUQ-BUQ. RHQ moved to a position on the Sdi Azeiz – Gabr Salah track.
27/7/40	C Sqn 3Tp MAC was recovered at dawn by the LAD and 4Tp. At 0910 hrs 1Tp and 4Tp (Cpls Prosser and Peacock) were sent on a recce for possible survivors from 2Tp. Air protection had been arranged and was to be sent up immediately enemy planes appeared. At 1020 hrs enemy aircraft appeared and assistance was asked for from Bde. Apparently it took them an hour to get the message through to Div. In the meantime, both Troops were being heavily attacked from the air. At about 1230 hrs our own fighters passed over RHQ and C Sqn were told to try and withdraw. 1Tp had two punctures due to bomb splinters at the time, but it succeeded in getting away. 4Tp found the two burnt out RRAC but could see no sign of anything else. They were first attacked by one fighter and halted. They were not attacked again although at one time Cpl Peacock could see 17 planes circling over the other Troop. They withdrew successfully. The whole Sqn withdrew to RHQ at Pt. 197. RHQ then withdrew to BIR SHEFERZEN arriving there at about 1600 hrs. 1 MAC and 1 RRAC of Cpl Peacock's Tp and a 8cwt Bug from RHQ were sent out at 2130 hrs to attempt to pick up Lt Pitman and LCpl Dayman. They reached the rendezvous at about



	0100 with the RRAC and the Bug, the MAC having been left further back. No sign of Lt Pitman, although Cpl Peacock patrolled 2 miles East and 1 mile West of the rendezvous. They remained until 0320 hrs and then started back. Just after they left the TRIGH CAPUZZO going South, they were fired at by A/Tk guns. The Bug disappeared and although Cpl Peacock waited it did not reappear and he went back without it, picking up the MARC on the way. A Sqn Usual patrol watching EL GUBI. 2Lt Spickernell Tp left at 1845 hrs to try and intercept traffic on the EL GUBI – EL ADEM road. Returned at 0730, NTR.
28/7/40	C Sqn HQ moved back to SIDI OMAR area. 5Tp (Sgt Galpin) took ver patrol at SIDI AZEIZ. Fired on by 8th Hussars. This is the second time. Two patrols, Cpl Prosser's Tp and Cpl Barnes from RHQ with 2 B vehicles, left at about 2000 hrs to the SIDI AZEIZ – GABR SALAH track with a view to carrying out a recce to the NW at first light. Sqn HQ moved at 2030 hrs to BIR EL HAMARIN. Sgt Galpin's Tp remained in observation of SIDI AZEIZ A Sqn TSM Clarke's Tp carried out a close recce of EL GUBI the previous night and in the early morning he reported at least 50 vehicles and some gun emplacements clearly visible. 3Tp (2Lt Henderson) carried out a close recce of EL GUBI during the night and early morning. Got within 1½ miles of EL GUBI and reported camp fires on the ridge around the camp.
29/7/40	C Sqn Two patrols moved off at 0500 hrs and went NW for 10 miles. At 0805 Cpl Barnes reported he had found the three men off the missing W/T Bug. LCpl Chambers, Tpr Preston and Tpr Keen. Patrols found nothing else and returned to SIDI OMAR by 1030 hrs. LCpl Chambers stated that on the night they were lost they became separated from the RRAC when they were shot at by the A/Tk guns. They were attempting to make their own way home when they drove into a large hole and could not get the car out again. They smashed the wireless, removed the maps, arms and ammunition and started walking. They walked until 1000 hrs the following day, then rested and carried on at intervals during the day. They walked again during the night and had just laid down when they saw some ACs. These proved to be Cpl Prosser's Tp and they were unable to attract their attention. LCpl Chambers ran after the car for some time but the Tp did not see him. The other two men sat down and waited, and a short time later, Cpl Barnes appeared and picked them up. LCpl Chambers had steered by means of an oil compass which had a bubble in it and it was impossible to take a bearing with it but only got the general direction. At 1900 hrs the Sqn moved out again to carry out a recce for Lt Pitman. It was carried out by 3 patrols of 1 AC and 1 B vehicle each parallel and to the West of SIDI AZEIZ – GABR SALAH track and NW to GABBANET EL MGAIER. Nothing was seen except two white very lights. A Sqn patrols in observation of El Gubi. Capt Lloyd arrived as 2i/c. B Sqn resting at BUQ-BUQ.
30/7/40	C Sqn Patrols carried out between Sidi Azeiz – Gabr Salah track and the wire. No signs of Lt Pitman, LCpl Dayman or Sgt Mines's Tp. Withdrew by 1600 hrs. A Sqn Two patrols in observation of El Gubi. Capt Wainman returned from leave.
31/7/40	C Sqn In observation of Sidi Azeiz with Sqn HQ at Sidi Omar. A Sqn At about 2100 hrs 30 enemy lorries reported moving East from EL GUBI. 2Lt Spickernell's Tp in contact. They came about 9 miles East along TRIGH EL ABD with their lights on, halted, then returned to the GUBI area. W/T communication was very bad during the night.
AIR ATTACK OF JULY 27th 1940 Herewith please find information and general report on the air attack imposed on Troops of C Squadron 11th Hussars	



It is regretted that very little information is at present available, as personnel involved (except for one Troop who are at present on a 72 hour patrol) are either dead or missing.

The following information is available however, and is submitted to you for perusal and information.

A reconnaissance biplane always appears to locate the Armoured Cars first, and after machine gunning and bombing the Troop, flies away. Approximately 10 to 15 minutes later, the fighters appear and engage the target. Tactics of the fighters in nearly all cases, were dive bombing and machine gunning from out of the sun in single file. Then the planes would fly around and break up and repeat the attack from all angles on all cars. The planes fly at low altitude.

Both 2 seater, single engined biplanes and single seater, single engined monoplanes were in action. (17 monoplanes and 8 biplanes)

Great use of incendiary bombs and possibly bullets were used with good results, also armour piercing bullets. Two RRAC and one MRAC tyre were set on fire. In another instance a ring of incendiary bombs were dropped around a RRAC, making visibility practically nil.

August
1940

CO: Lt Col JFB Combe

Aug 40

11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)

1/8/40

C Sqn

One Tp in observation of SIDI AZEIZ from the West. Sqn HQ was just West of SIDI OMAR.

A Sqn

The Tp in contact with the enemy reported that the enemy force which had come out the previous night was now 9 miles West of TAIEB EL ESSEM facing towards EL GUBI. The Tp were ordered to break contact. Sqn HQ returned to BIR GIBWI leaving one Tp in observation of TAIEB EL ESSEM. The Sqn handed over to B Sqn during the evening and returned to BIR SHEFERZEN.

B Sqn

Sqn left BUQ-BUQ and arrived at BIR SHEFERZEN at 1600 hrs and moved up to take over from A Sqn in the evening. 1 Tp (Sgt Bowyer) went on to take up a position near TAIEB EL ESSEM. Sqn HQ were at BIR GIBWI. 3 Tp (Sgt Rich) took over from TSM Woodward at FORT MADDALENA.

2/8/40

C Sqn

HQ in same place with one patrol watching SIDI AZEIZ. Sqn HQ moved at 1900 hrs to BIR EL RAFA. Cpl Peacock's Tp carried out patrol to SIDI AZEIZ – GABR SALAH track and further West during the evening, NTR.

A Sqn

Went on to BUQ-BUQ.

B Sqn

HQ in BIR GIBWI area with a patrol forward at TAIEB EL ESSEM. Sgt Rich Tp at FORT MADDALENA. RHQ at BIR SHEFERZEN.

Headquarters

Support Group

25th August, 1940

My Dear John,

I have just returned from visiting you're a Sqn and David Lloyd, and I would like to tell you how well served we were by them yesterday.

As you know the Gabr Saleh force came out in 2 columns and with about 20 fighters – eventually withdrawing again and leaving a smaller force at Gabr Saleh and the rest going to Gobi.

Your chapshad a stiff time from the enemy fighters and arty but kept me well posted with information throughout and maintained contact with both forces most of the day and with me all the day.

David was very level headed throughout and TSM Clarke did especially good work in maintaining contact with the Southern Column.

I am very grateful to the Sqn for this good work.
(Sgd) Brigadier,



Support Group.	
September 1940	CO: Lt Col JFB Combe
[All individual Squadron reports have been incorporated into the main body to aid readability]	
Sept 1940	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
2/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. spasmodic shelling in a SE direction from the Southern force during the night was reported. A mobile searchlight also moved out a short distance from the Southern force and lit up an area to its East but our patrol avoided it. At 0615 hrs Sgt Peacock's Tp took over from Sgt Lamb. Sgt McAllister's Tp remained on the Southern patrol. No other movement seen.
3/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. At 0615 hrs Sgt Lamb's Tp took over the Southern patrol and 2Lt Trayner's Tp the northern patrol. Sgt Gore who had returned from England took over command from Sgt McAllister. During the day Sgt Lamb carried out a recce of Pt. 179 as Air had reported a party of men digging and forming a camp there. Sgt Lamb went forward on foot over an escarpment and watched the area for an hour and 50 mins but saw no movement. Sgt Peacock's Tp went out at 1730 hrs to try and locate a Gladiator which had crashed at a point believed to be 4 miles South of the TRIGH EL ABD and 2 miles West of the wire. Earlier during the day (0815 hrs) a column of 16 vehicles moved out from the Northern force 2 miles to the NE. They then started firing in a SE direction with every conceivable type of gun, A/A. LA, A/Tk, pom-pom and field guns. The firing continued for an hour and the column returned to the Northern force.
4/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. At 0615 hrs Sgt Gore's Tp relieved 2Lt Trayner on the Northern patrol, Sgt Lamb's Tp remained on the Southern patrol. The usual breakfast fires were seen in the northern force. No MT movements seen in the Southern force but only parties of men walking about. Spasmodic shelling from the Southern force took place from 0845 to 0905 hrs. The direction of fire was to the SW, South and SE and the shells appeared to fall in the area of Pt. 179. Major Payne-Gallway visited the Southern patrol and 2Lt Reid Scott the Northern patrol during the morning. At 1028 hrs Sgt Peacock found a crashed Gladiator 2½ miles West of the wire and 1 mile South of the TRIGH EL ABD. The plane was a total wreck. During the morning an enemy bomber appeared to land West of the Northern force. At 0900 hrs a column of 12 vehicles moved out from the Northern force and carried out firing with HE and light automatics. After each shell was fired a burst of LA fire followed. This continued for an hour and the column then went home. During the afternoon Brigadier Gott visited the Sqn and discussed tactical matters with Major Payne-Gallway.
5/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. Sgt Smedley (2Lt Trayner sick) relieved Sgt Gore's Tp on the Northern patrol and Sgt Peacock relieved Sgt Lamb on the southern patrol. At 0845 hrs a column of about 30 lorries left the Northern force, proceeded to area 45503653 and began firing HE, LA, A/A and pom-pom in an easterly direction. At 1142 hrs 12 vehicles left the Northern force and disappeared NW. At 1225 hrs 26 enemy fighters flying high passed over GABSAH going East.



	At 1315 hrs one enemy bomber flying South to North at a great height passed over BIR SHEFERZEN. At 1702 hrs 5 enemy bombers flew over the Northern and Southern patrols, turned East, passed over Sqn HQ and continued flying East. At 1740 hrs some bombs were dropped 3 miles South of BIR SHEFERZEN.
6/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. At 0615 hrs Sgt Gore relieved Sgt Smedley. Sgt Peacock remained on the Southern patrol. At 0645 hrs Lt Col Campbell (4th RHA) proceeded on a recce of GABR SALAH force, he returned at 1115 hrs. At 0945 one enemy bomber circled very low over both forces and disappeared West. The usual 'Battle Practice' party from the Northern force did not go out this morning. This may have been due to the thick ground mist which restricted visibility to only 50 yards and did not lift until 0900 hrs. very little movement was seen in either force during the day but the mirage was very bad. At 1915 hrs two tanks which appeared to be mediums were seen from the Northern force. From 1930 – 1950 hrs there was considerable movement by Infantry within the Southern force. Major Payne-Gallway and Lt Col Campbell observed the enemy force from 1820 – 2005 hrs.
7/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. At 0615 hrs Sgt Lamb relieved Sgt Gore on the Northern patrol and 2Lt Trayner relieved Sgt Peacock on the Southern. Visibility was very bad owing to dust storm over enemy force. At 0910 hrs a party of men with a lorry began to dig what appeared to be a trench on the rising ground at the NE corner of the Southern force. The digging continued for an hour till the visibility prevented further observation. Lt Col Campbell carried out a further recce.
8/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. At 0615 hrs Sgt Peacock relieved Sgt Lamb on the Northern patrol. At 1555 hrs one enemy bomber was seen flying SE over GABR SALAH at about 3000 feet.
9/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. At 0615 hrs Sgt Gore relieved 2Lt Trayner on the Southern patrol and Sgt Lamb relieved Sgt Peacock on the Northern. There was a great deal of air activity during the day. At 1742 hrs the Echelon and LAD at BIR SHEFERZEN were bombed and machine gunned. Four HE and 60 anti-personnel and incendiary bombs were dropped of which 1 HE and 30 of the others were dud. The attack was accurate but there were no casualties. At 1759 hrs 2 enemy aircraft machine gunned Sqn HQ. Two attacks were made and Major Payne-Gallway's car was hit by 3 bullets. The aircraft were single engined monoplanes, camouflaged brown with a big white patch on the tail. They were single seaters with either 4 or 8 guns. They were the same type as used against the Sqn on July 26th. At 2045 hrs movement of tanks and other vehicles from the Northern force was heard. They were believed to be going North. A considerable amount of shelling was also heard but neither the flashes of guns or of the shells landing could be seen. At 2215 hrs all noise of movement ceased.
10/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. The CO and Adjt went up to visit C Sqn and stayed the night. C Sqn. Visibility was very bad during the early morning. At about 0900 hrs a column of 200 vehicles were reported stationary 1½ miles NE of the Northern camp. The camp appeared to be deserted and there were only 6 lorries in the Southern camp. Our patrols were driven off by A/Tk and shellfire. At 0941 hrs, the Echelon and LAD were bombed and machine gunned at BIR SHEFERZEN. 100 anti-personnel and incendiary bombs were dropped but no casualties. At 1030 hrs 34 vehicles were reported stationary 2 miles West of GABR SREDI. By 1130 hrs these had



	increased to 113 vehicles and were drawn up in a long column facing East. Later more vehicles joined the column from the West and at 1218 hrs the whole column moved NE. By 1250 hrs the head of the column was at point 189 (462369) moving NE at 1500 hrs, the head halted at Pt. 197 (47053755). They moved on slowly during the afternoon and spent the night in the vicinity of Pt. 207. At 1745 hrs the patrol watching the head was attacked by aircraft. At 1755 hrs a column of 250 vehicles containing 1000 Infantry with tanks was reported near BIR UAAR.
11/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. Still in touch with enemy forces who were advancing towards the wire and NE.
12/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. In touch with and observation of enemy forces in SHEFERZEN and SIDI OMAR AREA.
13/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. The Italians had been carrying out a certain amount of night bombing during the past few nights. On the night of Sept 12/13th they dropped a large number of bombs between Kilo 88 and 103 on the BARRANI – MATRUH road. These bombs did not go off on landing but only when they were touched afterwards. Unfortunately the leave party going down to MATRUH station in the early hours of the morning ran into them and Tprs Baker and Walsh were killed and LCpl Gingell wounded. C Sqn. In observation of enemy forces in same area.
14/9/40	RHQ, A & B Sqns at MAATEN MOHAMMED. C Sqn. 100 enemy vehicles in area Beacon 46 and 300 in area Beacons 42 – 39. Sgt Peacock in observation at SHEFERZEN area, Sgt Lamb observing any movements East from Beacons 49 – 42 and also along the wire. 2Lt Trayner in observation GARET ABU SAYID (513349) and in touch with 1st RTR on his right. He later moved to EL KINIBISH (512355). At 1200 hrs enemy columns reported halted on general line 534358 to 514364. At 1245 hrs Sgt Lamb's Tp was heavily attacked by 8 fighters for 15 mins. The radiator on one car was punctured but there were no casualties. At 1530 hrs 2 lorries crossed the wire at SIDI OMAR followed by 10 more who halted at SIDI OMAR. An hour later the original 2 lorries went back. At 1630 hrs 50 lorries at SIDI OMAR. At 1825 hrs there were 100 vehicles stationary facing East at Beacon 42.
15/9/40	At 0200 hrs B Sqn were ordered out to support the Coldstream Guards who were delaying the enemy advance along the coast. The enemy had almost reached BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn and RHQ moved out at about 1800 hrs. The Regt now had to take up a line from ZANWET EL TARFAYA (just East of SIDI BARRANI) due South to the 300 grid line. The Support Group were in front but after they pushed back behind the SIDI BARRANI – BIR KHAMSA line the Regt was going to take up the line. B Sqn were to be in the North, A Sqn in the middle and C Sqn in the South. The enemy column along the coast had reached BUQ-BUQ by nightfall. There was no enemy advance South of the escarpment.
16/9/40	Support Group were still in position. Their right flank was just West of SIDI BARRANI and the line ran South to BIR ENBA with their left flank at BIR SOFAI (which was later withdrawn to BIR TALATA). B Sqn were operating, under orders of the Coldstream Guards, against the enemy column along the coast. The enemy were using a large number of medium tanks. A Sqn HQ was at the Xroads just NW NIZWET METAMIR with patrols out to the NW. they were heavily bombed at about 1000 hrs and LCpl Panchen killed. C Sqn were still on their way back from SHEFERZEN area.



	RHQ was at ALAM SHITEWAN. The enemy continued his advance along the coast, the Coldstreams with B Sqn and some guns delaying as far as possible. By 1500 hrs the Coldstreams had to withdraw from SIDI BARRANI and the whole Support Group were ordered back to the line MAATEN MOHAMMED due South. The enemy were in SIDI BARRANI by nightfall. The position of the Regt was as follows:- - B Sqn in North watching eastern exits from BARRANI. - A Sqn in the middle observing to the West. - C Sqn on the South as far as the 300 grid line. The Support Group were withdrawing through the Regt to their new line during most of the night. They were not all clear by the following morning and some of the 60th and Rifle Brigade were still out on the southern flank. There had been much air activity during the day and many bombing attacks carried out by the enemy.
17/9/40	RHQ moved back to about 1 mile NE of the cross tracks at NIZWET ALAM SHITEWAN. The Sqns were still on the same lines of observation. Various small parties of enemy lorries and tanks moved out East from SIDI BARRANI and were kept under observation. They did not go very far along the road, 15/20 miles, and retired back to BARRANI by the evening. 2 enemy tanks, watched by a patrol of A Sqn, were at NIZWET HABS most of the day. Enemy planes were seen but air activity decreased. There was a good deal of bombing or shelling in the BARRANI area during the evening and a Warship was observed by B Sqn off MAATEN MOHAMMED steaming in an easterly direction. At 1930 hrs the Support Group withdrew right back to the GELLAZ and KHALDA areas. The Coldstreams went back to MATRUH. The Regt was the only unit left in contact with the enemy. The RASC failed to bring any water or rations for the Regt. No water had been received the day before and nothing at all the day before that. The weather was pretty hot but not as hot as the previous day. The 4th and 7th Armd Bdes were moved to the escarpment area between BIR KENAYIS and Charring Cross. No movement was seen during the night.
18/9/40	RHQ at NIZWET SHITEWAN C Sqn. At ALAM SHITEWAN with patrols out as on previous day. Several Bren Carriers, 8cwt trucks and M/Cs abandoned by the 60th. Rifles were found and as many as possible were salvaged, the remainder were burnt. An Air Force 3-ton lorry was located at BIR KHAMSA and an attempt was made to salvage it. A Sqn HQ at the East of ALAM EL QATRANI with patrols out to the West. B Sqn HQ at 637352 with patrols watching the eastern exits of BARRANI. Very little happened as on the previous day, but small parties of enemy lorries with tanks proceeded about as far as the 626 Grid line on the main road, also to the South and SE of BARRANI. One patrol was fired on by A/Tk guns from the backs of lorries. Enemy air activity was again slight. The RASC produced some rations and water for the Regt. The weather was noticeably cooler and much more pleasant. Major Miller from B Sqn visited RHQ in the evening.
19/9/40	The Regt still on the same Line. Again some enemy in small parties came out from BARRANI along the road to the East and also to the South. They were watched and reported on by A & B Sqns. A patrol of A Sqn saw some lorries carrying mules. The mules were taken off the lorries and allowed to graze for a time. During the afternoon a report came in from Div to say that two columns of 10 and 15 ACs had crossed the frontier at FORT MADDALENA. C Sqn were ordered to keep a look out for them. During the day C Sqn salvaged the RAF lorry which had been abandoned at BIR KHAMSA. News was received that the men of C Sqn who had been missing since July 26th were prisoners and were safe and well. About 3 had been wounded but were getting on well. The one exception was Sgt Mines who had died of wounds in TOBRUK hospital on August 3rd. Lt Tl Pitman MC was said to be safe and well treated. Air activity again was slight.
20/9/40	The Regt still on the same Line. Enemy activity in the morning was slight. A number of lorries and tanks



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Cavalry Of The Line - 11th Hussars War Diary

	were reported by A Sqn to the South of BARRANI and some lorries by B Sqn to the SE. 38 enemy bombers were seen flying East by A Sqn at 0945 hrs. A force, of which B Sqn was part, was formed to operate in the North. There was no enemy activity in the afternoon but an Air report said that there was an enemy force at BIR SOFAFI and another one approaching BIR SOFAFI from the HALFAYA Pass.
21/9/40	The northern sector of the Line was taken over by C Column. A Sqn took over the line from BIR IMMA to ALAM DABASH and C Sqn came into reserve at ALAM SHITEWAN. B Sqn were directly under the command of C Column Comdr. 12 enemy vehicles came down the main road during the morning, proceeded as far as the 617 Grid, then returned to BARRANI. Major Miller and Lt Col Campbell (C Column Comdr), made a recce during the evening in order to study the possibility of a raid on an enemy camp situated South of BARRANI. C Sqn sent a patrol to locate an enemy force reported by Air to be in the area X tracks South of the White Pillars. 50 enemy vehicles were reported by the patrol to be in that area. They saw the patrol and released what appeared to be carrier pigeons. Some of the lorries moved towards the patrol (Sgt Peacock) and he withdrew. Two lorries were also seen in a Wadi close by unloading crates. They were chased by the patrol but made off West and escaped. One patrol reported 35 enemy vehicles moving NW towards NIZWETHAB. At 1025 hrs. they later halted in area 603360.
22/9/40	Regt still on the same Line. C Sqn. Remained concentrated in the BIR SALEH – ALAM SHITEWAN area. A Sqn. In observation in the same line. NTR. B Sqn. Seven enemy vehicles came down the main road as far as the 608 Grid and then returned to BARRANI. At 1500 hrs the whole of C Column advanced to the gun positions chosen at 607365 arriving there at 1800 hours. Two Troops of B Sqn were placed on either flank of the gun position to give early warning of any outflanking movement by the enemy. Our guns opened fire on the camp at 1900 hours and continued for 30 minutes. The enemy also replied with shellfire. The patrol on the North flank reported enemy lorries and guns at 607369. These guns were firing at our own gun position. At 2000 hours C column withdrew in the dark. Some damage was done to vehicles on the return journey owing to the bad going. It was estimated that 3 enemy lorries had been set on fire by our shelling.
23/9/40	C Sqn. In reserve during the day. At 1800 hours Sqn set out to raid the enemy force at BIR SOFAFI. Owing to the bad going and breakdowns so much time was lost that it was considered not possible to reach the objective and get back during the hours of darkness. The raid was abandoned and the Sqn returned to BIR SALEH arriving back at 0340 hours. A Sqn. On the same line of observation. B Sqn. The day was spent reorganising and maintaining the vehicles after the previous evening operation. The enemy shelled various places to his East and South during the day, otherwise there was no movement. C Column was relieved by G Column commanded by Major Grenville Grey KRFC.
24/9/40	C Sqn. BIR SALEH area. A Sqn. On same line of observation with Sqn HQ near ALAM SHITEWAN. B Sqn. A certain amount of enemy movement between ALAM TUMMAR and BARRANI was observed and in the afternoon enemy patrols were seen in areas 606372 and 606379. The former appeared to be establishing a dump and the latter consisted of 8 lorries and 4 guns. Sqn HQ moved to 628361. At 1500 hours Major Miller and Major Grenville Grey made a recce to the BIR MATROD area.



25/9/40	In the evening RHQ moved to new position at 645345. C Sqn. Moved to BIR HASHIM 637350. B Sqn. Same position under command of G Column Comdr. A Sqn. Same line of observation with Sqn HQ at same place. No enemy movement. The CO had received a letter from Lt Tl Pitman MC which gave news of the C Sqn men captured on the 26th July.
26/9/40	Regt still on the same line. C Sqn. At BIR HASHIM 637350. A Sqn. HQ at ALAM SHITEWAN with patrols out on the line from the X tracks at 612355 to ALAM DABASH. B Sqn. HQ at 627362 with patrols from the coast to A Sqn's northern boundary. RHQ at ALAM EL GIBARAT 643345. The enemy's biggest concentrations were in the ALAM EL TUMMAR area where there were between 250 and 300 vehicles and in the BIR SOFAFI area where there were about 400 vehicles. There was a little enemy movement of lorries and guns in the NIZWETHABS area but otherwise no forward movement.
27/9/40	During the afternoon a certain amount of enemy movement was reported by both A & B Sqn. 30 lorries, some tanks and guns were reported in the NIZWETHABS area. A Sqn reported another column of about 25 vehicles to the South of NIZWETHABS. These columns remained in position all night. During the afternoon an Air report was received that there were approx 400 vehicles in the 600300 square. This was sent on to Div HQ and orders were received to send a patrol to gain contact. This was done but no sign of the enemy was seen. Later a message was received cancelling the patrol and also the Air information. It is thought that the pilot gave the wrong map ref.
28/9/40	C Sqn sent a patrol to BIR SOFAFI which gained certain information. Nothing else to report.
29/9/40	A Sqn reported a large number of lorries in the NIZWETHABS area. A patrol was sent to BIR ENBA and reported no sign of the enemy. C Sqn in reserve at BIR HASHIM. B Sqn in same position under orders of G Column. RHQ in same position.
30/9/40	The Regt still on the same line. Little enemy movement seen, except at NIZWETHABS which was visited by enemy patrols. 50 lorries were reported at BIR ENBA by A Sqn. 25 were stationary and the other 25 moved along the track towards SIDI BARRANI.
Reconnaissance of Enemy Camps. 2Lt JAN Crankshaw with a scout car and two ACs proceeded, on 28.9.40 to reconnoitre enemy camp at SOFAFI. He proceeded from X Tracks 610339 in a SW direction, crossed the BARRANI THALATA track at about 587330 and the SOFAFI – KHAMSA track at about 575326, proceeding to Pt. 213 565324, which was reached at about 1845 hours. Here the two ACs were left and Lt Crankshaw went on alone to Pt. 213 56353285 where he saw, at 564330, 40 lorries which were parked anyhow in the SW of the assembly; and were not dispersed. Four AA guns in lorries, which were sunk into the ground, were in the NE corner of the assembly. Two guns were, between these two parties, dug in emplacements or earthworks. Fresh and well made cairns, about 3 feet high, were to be seen in several places always about ½ mile to 1 mile in front of the guns. Marks of hob nailed boots were clearly visible. One cairn was at Pt. 213 56533285. About 1 mile NE of the above, at 56603320, three rows of mules tied up on lines were clearly seen and estimated at 200 mules, also 8 lorries. Lt Crankshaw then withdrew for the night to 57203303 and heard one M/C moving and a few lorries at about	



57353325.

At 2200 hours, he saw flashes or flares roughly due North in the direction of the two White Pillars, at the X tracks 569335. After the flashes there were loud explosions in three then "crumps" which were not loud. This went on for 20 minutes.

Lorries were heard starting up before first light.

At 0635 hours, he moved forward and left the ACs at 57403315 and went on in the scout car to 57153335 and heard talking (Italian) and saw Infantry in groups (estimated numbers 100) walking about. Men were in green overcoats and had rifles with bayonets.

Small, low bivouacs on poles were seen at 56953342 also 2 dug-outs with corrugated iron roofs, also more cairns. 3 field guns on SE corner of camp at 37013349. 2 lorries in the centre, on the skyline, with earth works around them.

A fresh cairn with a wooden "T" and hob nailed boot marks at 67623340.

No movement was seen at all on eastward track to ALAM EL RABIA. One man in brown or canvas was seen in the camp also one in leggings, breeches and peaked cap. No tar brushes or black men were seen. Considerable digging in both camps. The main camp is along the ridge at 369335 and probably extends North, which accounts for so little being seen from the South. The other camp in area 364335 could not be seen.

29.9.40 JFB Combe. Lt Col.

Activities of B Sqn from 0400 hours 15-9-40 to M.N. 17/18-9-40

Sept 15, 1940

The Sqn left MAATEN MOHAMMED at 0400 hours. Proceeded to BUQ-BUQ and came under orders of the Coldstream Guards. At 1000 hours 4Tp (SQMS King) proceeded down the winter track and gained contact with an enemy column advancing from the West. 2Tp (Sgt Hoyland) observed a column at 539360 moving NE towards the winter track. The RHA were shelling both columns. However, at 1600 hours they ran short of ammunition and together with the Coldstream Guards were withdrawn. SQMS King retired in front of the enemy column till it reached 572367 where it halted for the night. Sgt Hoyland was observing the tail of the column which was at 550362 at 1930 hours.

Sept 16th, 1940

The Coldstream Guards were holding a position along the 584 Grid line supported by a French Motor Coy and 12 guns of 3rd RHA. At 0740 hours, 5Tp (2Lt Dier) reported head of column at 570371. They later reported 25 light tanks at 570369 moving SE. They were then shelled and had to move from ALAM EL RIMF. At 0930 hours 2Tp (Sgt Hoyland) reported 70 vehicles at 570370 and 3 medium tanks at 577362. At about 1100 hours the Guards withdrew to a position at ALAM EL DABDE. At about this time 2Lt Dier captured two enemy motor cyclists, one of whom was wounded. At 1130 hours a column of 60 tanks and lorries began to move East from WESHKER. 2Lt Dier kept in touch. At 1300 hours enemy columns reached SIDI BARRANI – BIR KHAMSA track at 596371. They then turned North. The column was shelled by our guns. Information had been received from Support Group that a Sqn of out tanks was advancing North along the BIR KHAMSA – SIDI BARRANI track and were only 7½ miles from SIDI BARRANI.

Consequently the Coldstream Guards did not withdraw at once but as the tanks never turned up they eventually had to, and only just got away in time. Just before dusk 3Tp (2Lt Halliday) captured a motor cyclist who fell off his M/C and whistled for the patrol to come and pick him up. The Coldstream Guards had retired to a position South of MAATEN MOHAMMED and the Sqn were watching the eastern exits from SIDI BARRANI.

Sept 17th, 1940

At 0740 hours 3Tp (2Lt Halliday) reported 24 vehicles just out of BARRANI and at 0940 hours 3 lorries at 606372. At 0945 hours 1Tp (Sgt Taber MM) reported 6 vehicles going along the main SIDI BARRANI – MATRUH road. This column was later reported to consist of 10 lorries and some M/Cs. They reached the 621 Grid line at 1230 hours and halted. At 1300 hours 3 of the lorries and some M/Cs continued on to the 626 Grid line where they were fired on. One M/C blew up and the whole patrol retired to SIDI BARRANI at 1600 hours. Touch was regained with the enemy at SIDI BARRANI at 1600 hours and the eastern exits from the latter place kept under observation. During the night the Guards retired from the position at MAATEN MOHAMMED and went back to MATRUH. During the last few days the Sqn had often been under shellfire and had been fortunate in escaping any damage or casualties.

SECRET

SUBJECT:- Enemy Aircraft.

Headquarters,

7th Armoured Division.

With reference to my Signal 2/109 of 19.9.40 regarding the enemy 'plane shot down by C Squadron, 11th Hussars PAO; herewith further details.

The machine was identified as a BREDA 67. Armament consisted of one .5" and one .303" enclosed in each wing (a total of 4 guns) there was also a bomb rack under each wing and in addition there were four holes under the pilot's seat also presumed to be a bomb rack.



Landing lights were fitted on each wing. On the tip of each wing a black circle with yellow background with the LICTOR enclosed in the black circle. Red St. Andrew's crosses under each wing. Tail fin painted black with white cross in the centre. The words "BRED A 67" were painted on the fuselage between propeller and cockpit. On the side of the fuselage was painted a Wolf's Head and the figures "11" (obviously a Squadron mark or crest).

The fuel tank was located in the fuselage immediately behind the cockpit.

The machine appeared to be in perfect condition with the exception of broken oil pipe which had been shot away. The machine was thoroughly searched but no papers or documents of any kind were found. The machine was set on fire and burnt by the patrol who found it.

Lt Col,
Commanding, 11th Hussars PAO.

From:- No. 319529
L/Cpl Garner,
11th Hussars PAO.
English Prisoner of War,
Cyrenaica
Officer Commanding
11th Hussars PAO
Egypt.
Sir,

The officer in charge of British Prisoners here has asked me to write to you on behalf of the family of one GAGGIO MONTANO.

This Italian soldier has been reported missing and is believed to be a Prisoner of War in Egypt. He was among the men captured with General LASTRUCCI.

At present the family of this man have received no word concerning him and would be obliged if you would place this letter in the proper quarter in order that he may write to his people.

At present I am the only prisoner here who can write, the other two still being wounded. Tomorrow I shall be going to the rest of my Troop at a concentration camp.

You will be pleased to hear that we are very well treated. The doctors are very good and done everything possible for our wounded, especially for Sgt Mines who eventually died. Sgt Mines was given a Military Funeral with full honours.

I am, sir,
Yours obediently
(Sgd) PH Garner, L/Cpl.

T. I. Pitman.
Dear Colonel,

I am afraid I made a bit of a box up over this show. We tried to walk home, but we were really half cocked before we started. Then we ran out of water. I would like to tell you that Cpl Dayman put up a grand show and walked in his socks for several miles with his feet red raw, until he could go no further. I put him in a well to keep cool – then I thought I saw our troops but the mirage was very bad and I walked straight into the enemy. They went and got Dayman and did everything they could for us, water above all! Dayman is still covered in bandages but he is quite ok again.

Do tell Peter not to worry, as I am sure he is. He did everything he could, but it was just the luck of the draw. I have no one to blame but myself. God, I wish I could have the last week over again.

A plane flew over us the morning of the first day's walking but we could not attract its attention. We often shot at it, but it still went on. It nearly broke my heart (one of Van's boys too). But perhaps Allah was good to us as we were in a pretty bad state when we were picked up.

I am hoping to see Mines and Gay whom I am afraid are pretty bad. Mines has lost a leg and he also has one above the heart. Gay has lost a leg and Tpr Garner an arm. The others are ok but I have seen none of them as yet. They are all getting the best of attention with a good doctor. I will let you know if I see them.

I hope this reaches you ok and do tell Peter how sorry I am about all this. Everyone is most kind here but the outlook is depressing as I miss you all very much.

Best of luck to all PAO's always,

Yours ever,
(sgd) Tommy.

PS I have just seen Mines. I am afraid he is bad. The doctor says he has a 50/50 chance. The other two, Garner looks bad but they say he is ok, Gay looks as good as ever.

Note:- Sgt Mines died afterwards on August 3rd and was buried with full Military Honours.



SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

BY

MAJOR GENERAL M. O'MOORE CREAGH MC

COMMANDER 7th ARMoured DIVISION.

The Divisional Commander would like it impressed on all ranks that the operations likely to occur in the next few weeks may well have a decisive influence on the War in the Mediterranean.

The spirit and work of the Division during the past 4 months has been splendid.

Experience has shown that we are undoubtedly superior to the enemy in every way except perhaps temporarily as regards quantity of equipment. It is therefore imperative that the strictest attention is paid to the care and maintenance of the machine. This must be the individual concern of all ranks.

For the rest we are all of us, whether we know it or not, fighting for the principles of liberty, justice and honour and last but by no means least to kill Italians.

Let us go forward with confidence and good courage to that task.

In the Field

21 September 1940.

SUPPORT GROUP – 7th ARMoured DIVISION

Special Order of the Day

By

Brigadier WHE GOTT MC

The Commander in Chief Middle East in a visit to the forward area yesterday, asked the Commander Support Group to convey to all ranks his congratulations on the good work carried out by the Support Group during the operations of the past week.

During his visit he also stated that the impending battle in which we shall be engaged, was regarded as likely to be decisive in the present campaign for the mastery of the Mediterranean.

The Commander Support Group conveys to all ranks who served under his command during the recent operations his thanks and appreciation for their determined efforts and for the cheerful spirit in which they met difficult and arduous conditions.

Our own losses in men and material were small, whilst by our action the enemy cannot have lost less than 150 vehicles and large numbers of personnel. This is a substantial success. Our immediate task now is to ensure that we are fit and ready to play our part in the final overthrow of the invader.

In the Field

20/9/40

7th Armoured Division Intelligence summary No. 49

(based on information up to 2000 hours 11 Sep 40)

GENERAL

On the night 9/10 Sep the enemy started a move to re-establish himself on the frontier from the sea to SHEFERZEN. Great activity had been seen throughout the area. The Italians have established themselves on Egyptian territory from BP 26 to the sea. A thrust has been made from the North and West, and after two days of slow systematic progress they command the frontier between CAPUZZO and SIDI OMAR where they are in position against the wire. A force is lying 9 miles West of SHEFERZEN. This move has been accompanied by an air offensive of great intensity.

ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Movement at G. SALEH was first seen during the evening 9 Sep. tanks were heard North of North CAMP at 1910 hours and at 1955 hours 10 lorries and 2 tanks moved West from South CAMP and halted after 1 mile. During the night there were sounds of engines running and of vehicles moving. Shelling or bombing was also heard though no aircraft were in the area.

10 Sep. At 0705 hours patrols of 11th Hussars reported a column of about 200 MET stationary 1½ miles NE of North CAMP and a little later 18 lorries moved forward from it, from which Infantry debussed. At 1045 hours a body of 113 vehicles was counted about 2 miles NW GABR SREDI. More vehicles had already come up from the West and the number was further increased at 1135 hours after which the whole force formed up in close formation with advance guard of 10 vehicles, a flank guard of 12 and a rear guard of 10. It then moved off and at 1245 hours halted on the AZEIZ track at 462370 where it remained for lunch. At 1430 hours it moved on slowly along the track. It is not known to what extent this column had been reinforced but it may have amounted to some 450 vehicles.

Meanwhile G. SALEH had been evacuated, only 6 vehicles remaining in SOUTH CAMP. All tents were struck and removed. Photographs show North CAMP deserted and SOUTH CAMP to have an increased number of dumps. A column of 90 MT with tanks was reported by Air at 0950 hours, North of the road BARDIA – AZEIZ. Between 1430 and 1600 hours there were 200 MET in the area 4 miles North of B. HAFID. The occupants wore white breeches and tarbrushes with tassels and were probably Libyan. At the same time there was a column of 100 at Pt. 207 83377 and



another 240 with 1,000 Infantry 3 miles SE of B. UAAR 471366. These latter may have come from the force which lunched at Pt. 207. Strat/R also reported 100 MT half way between CAPUZZO and AZEZ, each column reported had an element of tanks.

11 Sep. At first light the B. UAAR column was still there, "huddled up". At 0830 hours the Air saw 100 MT going into AZEZ from the North West. This showed that the movement came as much from the North and right flank as from the G. SALEH area.

At 1000 hours a column moved East along the TRIGH EL ABD, halted at Pt. 179, 3 miles East of G. SALEH, and moved to NEZUET MABRUCA 480356 where it halted at 1535 hours and remained until dusk. While this force was advancing another of 250, probably from B. UAAR was in the area NW of S. OMAR and halted at 1300 hours at B. EL TGMET with two elements of 40 vehicles approaching S. OMAR. By 1535 hours 100 MT were stationary 2 miles North of S. OMAR. At dusk the 250 from TGMET were halted a mile from the wire opposite BP 45 and the 100 were against the wire by BP 46.

During the day a large column, said to be 300 strong, moved NE, passed G. LACHEM to B. HAFD where it left 20 vehicles to command the ridge and halted for the night 3 miles further East.

Strat/R reported 40 lorries in South Camp in the evening and these may have been part of a column of 80 seen earlier South of the Camps.

200 lorries remained throughout the day 4½ miles NE of CAPUZZO and a camp had been started there. A large concentration was seen 2 miles North of AZEZ in the evening.

BARDIA – CAPUZZO Area.

Much movement was seen around CAPUZZO during Sep 8th. Early on Sep 9th a large number of vehicles was seen near BP 26. After moving in the area for some time they went South with a great column of dust. During the night 9/10th Sep 150 – 200 men were working with feverish haste on gun emplacements in the WADI NASRANI. From early morning there was considerable movement of MT about 522381 and activity continued throughout the morning. At 1900 hours 100 men crossed the wire North of BP 26 and there was much activity all day in the RAMLA area.

On 11th Sep 6 vehicles and 100 men were in the area BP 24 – 25. At 0830 hours and at 1130 hours 6 MLcs were in observation on the aerodrome. The enemy is in virtual occupation of a line running East from BP 26 to the sea.

OWN TROOPS

A patrol of 3rd Coldstream Guards to 421382 encountered the enemy digging in WADI NASRANI and withdrew, abandoning one truck which failed to start. An officer remained in observation however.

A patrol 1st KRRC went 40 miles West of MADDALENA on 9th Sep and reached MARAB EL CARN and the track running South from GOBI. They found no sign of the track being recently used. Six Libyans were found wrapped in their blankets as if they had died in their sleep. A patrol of the 2nd Rifle Brigade on 9th Sep crossed the track running South from G. SALEH to SWA and found an unoccupied aerodrome, the location of which is not yet established. After 2 days of action patrolling in touch with the enemy's movements, patrols of 1st RTR have now been withdrawn East of the wire. 11th Hussars are keeping contact with the force in area B. UAAR – TRIGH EL ABD.

ARTILLERY

Enemy

Attention has continued to be centred on SALUM barracks and any patrol in the MUSAID area. On 9th Sep and 10th Sep their tactics were varied from a slow rate of fire over a long period to short and heavy concentrations. On 11th Sep however, the barracks was shelled by 5.9 guns from 1030 – 1210 hours at the rate of one shell every 3 minutes, 50% of these were dud. Four guns have been located in WADI NASRANI.

Own

Our arty has continued to harass the enemy. The HAFD column was shelled 11th Sep and two fires were started. In the evening the forces at SIDI OMAR were heavily shelled but the result is not yet known.

AIR

Enemy

The Italians covered their move with intense dive bombing and machine gunning of troops in the forward area. Throughout 10 and 11th Sep 11th Hussars patrols were attacked. Full details of Air Operations are not yet available. 26 fighters remained in the air throughout 10th Sep landing periodically for ¾ hour to the West of G. SALEH for refuelling. 11th Sep SALUM area and HQ Sp Grp and 1st RTR were bombed between 0900 – 1000 hours though no casualties were suffered. SIDI BARRANI aerodrome has been bombed three times and upwards of 100 bombs have been dropped. It was not yet occupied, our aircraft having moved to SATELLITE.

Own

In spite of superiority in numbers our aircraft have continued to carry out recces whenever required. Some of these have been done by bombers and their information has not been as accurate or as useful as AC planes. Enemy concentrations were bombed in the BIR RAFAA area in failing light 10th Sep and the S. OMAR force was bombed evening 11th Sep.

IDENTIFICATIONS

A Cpl/Maj of the BIRSAGLIERI Regt of 62 Div was captured 11th Sep and is under interrogation. He came from



AZEZ and as 62 Div were known to be in the area BARDIA – CAPUZZO before the G. SALEH force arrived, it seems likely that the latter is not connected with troops in the northern area but is a third Div, probably a combination of 1 and 2 Lib Div.

CONCLUSIONS

between 900 – 1,000 vehicles are in the frontier area South of CAPUZZO and come from the G. SALEH direction. This represents a full Division. The fact that they have virtually vacated the G. SALEH camps indicated that they intend to remain on the frontier. The further concentration near AZEZ and West of CAPUZZO would strengthen an offensive on SALUM and the fact that a corner formed by the old frontier and the sea has already been bitten off makes this probable.

(sgd) CNF Fuller, Captain for Colonel, General Staff

Honours and Awards.

HQ Western Desert Force

No. 1123/A

24th Sep 40

The GOC Western Desert Force wishes to congratulate L/Cpl Chambers MM on the award of the Military Medal.

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT DROPPED BY ITALIAN AIRCRAFT 16/9/40

List of English Prisoners of War captured on 26 and 29 July and 4 August 1940.

Rank	Unit	Surname and Christian name	Notes
Lt	11th Hussars	PITMAN Thomas	Good health
2Lt	11th Hussars C Sqn	JENSEN Peter Robert	Good health
Sgt	11th Hussars C Sqn	KYNES Henry	Good health
Cpl	11th Hussars	GRAYSTON Alfred	Good health
Cpl	11th Hussars C Sqn	GARNER Rowland	slight splinter wound right elbow
Cpl	11th Hussars Egypt	DAYMAN Walter	Good health
Tpr	11th Hussars C Sqn	GARNER Frederick William	Amputation of right arm at shoulder
Tpr	11th Hussars C Sqn	STONE Fred James	Good health
Tpr	11th Hussars	HOUSE Ronald	Good health
Tpr	11th Hussars C Sqn	MADDOX Ernest Edward	Good health
Tpr	11th Hussars C Sqn	ROGERS Edward William	Good health
Tpr	11th Hussars	KENNY James Henry	Good health
Tpr	11th Hussars C Sqn	GAY Derrik	Amputation of left leg
Tpr	11th Hussars C Sqn	NIGHTINGALE Joseph	Chest wound but not pierced
Sgt	11th Hussars C Sqn	MINES Gordon	Died in hospital of wounds on 26.7.40. Buried with the military honours due to his rank.

October 1940

CO: Lt Col JFB Combe

[All individual Squadron reports have been incorporated into the main body to aid readability]

Oct 40

11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)

1/10/40

Position unchanged. B Sqn patrols were shelled. A Sqn on a recce to BIR ENBA reported no enemy.

2/10/40

C Sqn.
2Lt Crankshaw proceeded on patrol to BIR SOFARI to observe and report on the enemy force in that area. A Sqn Ldrs conference was held at RHQ. Owing to the fact that the area to the South of A Sqn line had now to be watched, C Sqn were ordered to take over A Sqn's northern patrol and A Sqn



	were to move further South. Some enemy movement was reported by B Sqn.
3/10/40	C Sqn. Sgt Lamb's Tp proceeded to BIR MAGASID to take over from A Sqn's patrol at that place. At 1300 hours 2Lt Crankshaw returned, the patrol was not able to gain any information other than that approx 10 lorries and some M/Cs had used the track from the White Pillar X tracks to BIR ENBA quite recently. A Sqn sent a patrol to the BIR KHAMSA – WESHKET EL KHAMSA – EL GUSLEIN area, no enemy seen. B Sqn under orders of T Column. 1Tp was at ALAM EL FAKRI. 2Tp relieved 5Tp at Pt. 58. 3Tp relieved 4Tp at ALAM EL HATSHI. At 0800 hours 4Tp reported 8 enemy vehicles at 608362 and they were later joined by 10 more vehicles, 5 of which were towing guns. 4 vehicles retired West at 1045 hours, the remainder following at 1225 hours. No further movements.
4/10/40	C Sqn HQ at BIR HASHIM. Sgt Lamb's patrol at BIR MAGASID had nothing to report. They liaise with the French Motor Coy in that area. A Sqn. HQ moved to BIR EL KILAB. Two patrols in observation and one patrol on recce in the BIR KHAMSA area. The latter consisted of one MRAC and one scout car. No enemy reported. B Sqn under orders of T Column. 3Tp (2Lt Halliday) took over ALAM EL HATSHI patrol and 5Tp the Pt. 58 patrol. At 0900 hours 5Tp reported 9 vehicles moving down the main SIDI BARRANI – MATRUH road at 605375. At the same time 3Tp reported 4 vehicles moving SE at 612357 and at approx 1130 hours retired West towards SIDI BARRANI. The column consisted of some open lorries containing Infantry and some closed diesel lorries. No further movement.
5/10/40	C Sqn. The patrol at BIR MAGASID was taken over by Lt Burden's Tp. Sgt Peacock's Tp proceeded on a patrol to the BIR SOFAFI area. A Sqn. The patrol in the BIR KHAMSA area returned with NTR. At 1625 hours 5Tp reported 20 enemy vehicles stationary at 574337. B Sqn. Under orders T Column. 1Tp (Sgt Taber) went to ALAM EL FAKRI. 2Tp took over from 5Tp at Pt. 58 and 4Tp relieved 3Tp at ALAM EL HATSHI. The enemy sent their usual patrols to NIZWET HABS, the patrol was accompanied by 3 medium tanks. RHQ. At ALAM GIBARAT 643345. At about 1330 hours between 45 and 50 enemy planes were seen flying East. The information was passed back by the RAF observation detachment attached to RHQ. The planes bomber MEPSA MATRUH from a height of 18,000 feet.
6/10/40	C Sqn. Sgt Peacock withdrew from the BIR SOFAFI area at 0845 hours he arrived back at 1230 hours. B Sqn. 1Tp (Sgt Taber) relieved 4Tp at ALAM EL HATSHI. 5Tp was at Pt. 58. 3 shells were fired at this Tp about 1030 hours. The Support Group had moved up the previous day and the Regt had come under their orders from 1900 hours on the 5th. Support Group HQ was 4 miles East of BIR GIBRIN. The Group itself was divided into two columns consisting of one troop of D Bty RHA and the 2nd Rifle Brigade (less 2 Coys) were in the area EL HAMURA 637358. The left column, consisting of one troop D Bty RHA, F Bty RHA (less one troop) and one Coy of the Rifle Brigade were at NIZWET SHITEWAN 630337. The role of these two columns was to harass the enemy where possible and to impose maximum delay should he advance. The 11th Hussars were still on a line of observation from just East of SIDI BARRANI in the North to BIR KHAMSA in the South. There was no enemy movement during the day but at 1040 hours B Sqn reported Pt. 58 (615370) was being shelled.



7/10/40	A Sqn. At 1150 hours 5Tp reported 20 enemy vehicles stationary at 599337. At 1525 hours they reported 14 vehicles at 588334 with 30 more coming up from the West. 10 minutes later they reported that the 30 vehicles had stopped and made a good air target. At 1545 hours they reported that there were 7 armoured vehicles and 12 large lorries at BIR ENBA. These lorries were later reported to be unloading stores. At 1730 hours the patrol at BIR KHAMSA reported that there were 8 vehicles moving South between EL GUSLEIN and BIR KHAMSA. At 1745 hours 5Tp reported there was no movement at BIR ENBA. It seems likely that the enemy were dumping stores for the advance which was to take place the next day. B Sqn 2Tp took over from C Sqn patrol at BIR MAGASD. 4Tp was at ALAM EL HATSHI and 5Tp at Pt 58. At approx 1700 hours, 2 shells were fired at the patrol at Pt. 58. LCpl Petrie and Tpr Horton were cooking their supper at the time, beside the AC. LCpl Petrie received a nasty wound in the arm and Tpr Horton less serious wounds in the arm, chest and legs. They were attended to by the Rifle Brigade Doctor and evacuated early next morning. C Sqn. The patrol at BIR MAGASD was taken over by B Sqn at 0720 hours. The Sqn Ldr (Major P Payne Galloway) attended a conference at Support Group HQ. At 1415 hours the Sqn moved to BIR KHAMSA where it arrived at 1745 hours less one Tp which arrived at 1900 hours. One platoon KRRC which was to be attached to the Sqn arrived at 2130 hours. Information had been received that the Italians had opened the frontier road (running along the West side of the wire) to MT traffic on Sep 27th for the first time since the outbreak of the war. The fort at GARN EL GREIN (30 miles North of GIARRABUB) was being used as a staging camp for vehicles and it had been observed from the air that there was usually some MT in groups round the fort. This fort is almost certainly to be the same one which was captured by C Sqn on June 22nd. It was known as GARET EL GELEB. The defences were said to have been considerably strengthened. C Sqn were to carry out a raid on the fort with the object of destroying as many vehicles as possible and capturing some prisoners. They were to make a wide detour to the South and come in from the East. A squadron of RAF Armoured Cars who were attached to the Regt arrived in the vicinity of RHQ in the evening. It consisted of 10 ACs and some transport. This sqn will in future be known as D Sqn.
8/10/40	Large forces of enemy vehicles moved East from the BIR ENBA and BIR SOFAFI areas. They moved both North and South of the escarpment. The other two columns reached approx the areas 610339 and 611327. The southern column was shelled by our guns. Both columns were observed by A Sqn patrols who reported their position throughout the advance. The column consisted of light and heavy tanks, guns and lorries. Both columns later withdrew. There was no movement in B Sqn's area during the day. A Sqn. At 0635 hours 5Tp reported that there were 4 guns at BIR ENBA. At approx 0800 hours they reported 30 vehicles moving East and 16 moving NE. At 0950 hours 1Tp reported 20 vehicles moving SE with their head at 603326 and more vehicles at 600332. Half an hour later they reported 12 vehicles at 601328 and 3 lorries and a gun at 606330, all stationary facing East. At 1035 hours the advance began. 20 vehicles were reported by 2Tp advancing East with the head at 602336. A quarter of an hour later they reported that the number of vehicles had increased to 100. At 1100 hours 200 vehicles were moving towards ALAM EL RIM from the West. At 1110 hours 1Tp reported 50 vehicles in WADI EL MELLA moving East. Their position was given as 60803250. At 1124 hours they reported that enemy vehicles were advancing SE from ALAM EL MELLA and some were moving South of ALAM EL RIM. There was a good deal of shellfire at the time. At 1210 hours 2Tp reported that the main enemy column was in 3 groups stretching for 3 miles East from ALAM MELLA. There was ½ mile between each group. At 1225 hours the head of the column was moving SE and 20 more large lorries were approaching ALAM MELLA from the West. At 1230 hours 1Tp reported 6 vehicles retiring SW at 610322. At 1235 hours 3Tp made contact with our gunners who had been shelling the enemy column. Half an hour later 2Tp reported the rear of the enemy column at 615330 heading NW.



	At 1415 hours they reported that they had last seen the enemy at 605335. Some enemy, including light tanks, were later reported halted at 598335. No further enemy movement was seen. When the enemy column was shelled some lorries were seen to have been hit and were quickly towed away. B Sqn. 3Tp relieved 5Tp at Pt. 58. 2Tp remained at BIR MAGASID and 4Tp at ALAM EL HATSHI. No enemy movement seen. C Sqn. At 0630 hours the Sqn moved to Overhanging Rock and then on to C.204 where it arrived at 0705 hours. At 0725 hours a Lysander dropped a message giving position of FDA patrols. At 0825 hours Sgt Lamb's Tp which was just passing C.204 was attacked by 12 to 15 dive bombers who bombed and machine gunned his cars. One plane was shot down by Sgt Lamb himself. The attack lasted for about 15 minutes and Sgt Lamb's car was damaged by a bomb. A large hole was blown in the sump, no one was hurt. The car was kept at C.204. the remainder of the Sqn (less Lt Burdon's car, which had broken down and was being mended North of C.204) arrived at Mileage Mark at 1000 hours. They halted 3 miles SW to rest and wait for Lt Burdon's Tp. In the meantime orders had been received to withdraw and abandon the attack. The Sqn began to withdraw at 1145 hours and went back to C.204 to pick up the AC. This point was reached at 1400 hours. Lt Burdon's Tp with the fitters did not arrive till later and the Sqn did not leave C.204 till 1530 hours. The original order was to go to BIR ABU THMEIL but this was later changed to BIR ABU KILAB. The Sqn halted for the night 11 miles SW of BIR ABU KILAB. The raid had been abandoned because the Sqn had been seen from the air and also because enemy column had advanced East from BIR ENBA and BIR SOFAFI and at one time nearly reached the 610 grid line. The advance was not maintained and the enemy later withdrew.
9/10/40	B Sqn reported a certain amount of enemy movement in the NIZWETHABS and Pt. 58 areas. The enemy force which had advanced the previous day appeared have withdrawn completely. Three ACs of D Sqn were attached to B Sqn in order to see the ground over which we worked and the methods we use. A Sqn. 3Tp proceeded on a recce to BIR ENBA area and a patrol was sent to the BIR KHAMSA area. Lorry and tank tracks were seen East of BIR ENBA and entrenchments at BIR ENBA itself. Tracks were seen to run NW from BIR ENBA and this must have been the direction in which the column had retired. No movement was reported in the BIR KHAMSA area. B Sqn. 1Tp relieved 4Tp at ALAM EL HATSHI. 5Tp went to Pt. 58 and 2Tp remained at BIR MAGASID. At 0930 hours 5Tp (2Lt Dier) reported 5 enemy vehs moving East down the main BARRANI – MATRUH road. They came as far East as the 621 Grid. A plan was made to surround them and cut them off. The Rifle Bde sent two platoons and the RHA 2 Bofors guns while two 25pdrs were held ready. However the enemy lorries managed to slip away up one of the deep wadis to the North of the road and escape. C Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0700 hours and arrived at BIR ABU KILAB at 0800 hours. They then moved to C.90 (634332) arriving there at 0915 hours. The Sqn remained at that place for the rest of the day. There was nothing further to report. At 1520 hours Sgt Peacock left to carry out a patrol to ALAM EL RABIA area. Unfortunately he broke a stub axle and it was not mended till 2115 hours. He stopped for the night in area 587333.
10/10/40	The usual enemy movement in the North was reported by B Sqn. C Sqn took over A Sqn's northern patrol at 611339. C Sqn HQ moved to 624338. A Sqn. A patrol was again sent out to BIR KHAMSA area. 5Tp with Capt Ames and the breakdown lorry returned from BIR THALATA where they had been salvaging a Bren carrier and a 8cwt truck. Those were taken on to RHQ. No enemy movement seen. B Sqn.



	4Tp (Sgt Rich) took over the ALAM HATSHI patrol, 2Tp went to Pt. 58 and 3Tp were on a roving patrol North of the main road. Ten enemy vehicles came out of SIDI BARRANI and halted at ALAM EL HATSHI. They later retired West. An enemy 3 engined bomber landed at SIDI BARRANI aerodrome. D (RAF) Sqn arrived with C Sqn. They were under command of Flt/Lt Casano and had come from Palestine, which was their HQ. They had been working in Trans-Jordan, on pipeline protection, and in Iraq on Saudi Arabian border recce. C Sqn. Sgt Peacock reached his objective and carried out his recce. He arrived back at Sqn HQ at 1100 hours. He left again at 1620 hours in a scout car with two French officers to recce ALAM EL RABIA.
11/10/40	Usual enemy patrols in the North. A Sqn had nothing to report. B Sqn. 1Tp took over the ALAM EL HATSHI patrol. 5Tp the Pt. 58 patrol and 4Tp went to Kilo 113 (613373). 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) reported two separate enemy columns moving in the HATSHI area. A party of 13 enemy vehicles came as far East as the spot height 100 (617360), the furthest they had been in this area. After the column of 13 vehicles had retired from 617360, 1Tp picked up a set of tracks of the type that fasten on to the rear set of wheels on a six wheeled lorry. At 1630 hours 1Tp was shelled from the 616362 area. The fire came from the NIZWET EL HABS direction. A fighting patrol of the RHA and Rifle Bde took place in the TUMMAR area during the night. The intention was to open fire on some mule lines and during the confusion the Rifle Bde men were to go in and capture a prisoner. Unfortunately the mule lines were not where they were expected to be and the Italians replied with lorry arty fire. The patrol retired and the rifle Bde left behind a Bofors A/Tk gun. Capt Lawson rejoined the Regt from the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force and went as 2i/c B Sqn. C Sqn. Lt Burdon took over from a patrol of A Sqn. Sgt Peacock returned with the two French officers at 0800 hours. At 1505 hours Cpl Chambers with one RRAC and 2 French officers in a 8cwt truck left for ALAM EL RABIA.
12/10/40	A Sqn. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) took over the patrol at ALAM MELLA and carried out a recce in that area. He found an Italian Sgt Major's jacket with some papers in it at 60903272. B Sqn Dispositions as follows:- 2Tp (Cpl Matheson) at Kilo 113 on the main road, 3Tp (Sgt Taber) Pt. 58 615370, 4Tp (Sgt Rich) ALAM EL HATSHI 612362 area. 1Tp and 5Tp were in reserve and Sqn HQ was at 628363. 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) found the Bofors gun left behind by the Rifle Bde the previous night. 2 columns of vehicles were on the move during the day. The first comprising 9 vehicles, moved down the main road and halted at 614373. They then shelled 2Tp. The other column of 12 vehicles moved about backwards and forwards in the 608362 area. Pt. 58 was shelled during the evening and later Pt. 88 (616361). The Sqn Ldr and Capt Lawson were at the latter place at the time, visiting 4Tp. 2Lt Dier proceeded on leave to Cairo. C Sqn. Cpl chambers and the French officers not having returned, Lt Burdon and his Tp was sent forward to the MOHAMMED EL GERRARI area to look for them. He saw them in the distance but could not get up to them as he broke a shackle pin. When this was repaired he was ordered to proceed to BIR ENBA to try and locate 15 enemy vehicles reported by Air on the previous evening. At 0905 hours 2Lt Crankshaw, who was at BIR MAGASID reported vehicles to his North. They were too far away to give accurate information. At 1000 hours Cpl Chambers and the French officers returned. At 1900 hours Lt Burdon returned, having seen no enemy movement in the ENBA area.
13/10/40	A Sqn. 4Tp took over the ALAM EL MELLA patrol. At 1025 hours 5Tp at BIR KHAMSA reported 5 enemy vehicles at BIR THALATA.



	At 1500 hours there were 15 vehicles at BIR THALATA. At 1700 hours they were reported moving North. At 1835 hours 5Tp reported 50 vehicles at ALAM RABIA. Capt AVC Robarts arrived to take command of the Sqn. B Sqn. A Tp of the RAF took over the patrol at Kilo 113. 5Tp (Lt Loch) was at Pt. 58, 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) at ALAM EL HATSHI and 3Tp (Sgt Holland) at Pt. 88. The usual enemy patrol took place in the morning. In the early afternoon it appeared that the enemy were erecting a high wooden observation post in the TUMMAR area. 5Tp were shelled at Pt. 58 at 1700 hours, 3 shells falling within 50 yards of the Tp Ldrs car. Soon afterwards he sent one car (Sgt McCarthy) to gain touch with the RAF Tp on his North. The car ran into a minefield laid across the road at Kilo 119 and was blown up. No one was hurt and the crew evacuated the car and walked back to Sqn HQ. There was intermittent shelling between Pt 58 and Pt. 88 during the night. One enemy recce plane flew over the road as far as ALAM EL ABD 638363 and returned. The RAF bombed BARRANI during the night. C Sqn. 0600 hours Sgt Peacock relieved Lt Burdon's Tp at 611339. At 1620 hours Sgt Peacock reced forward to BIR ENBA to locate any enemy as a platoon of the Rifle Bde were going to spend the night there.
14/10/40	A Sqn. 1Tp (2Lt JW Poston) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. At 1300 hours 5Tp (Lt Friend) reported no enemy at BIR THALATA. He could not see ALAM RABIA owing to the haze. Capt Robarts carried out a recce to the forward areas. B Sqn. A 15cwt truck was sent out early in the morning to try and drag the RRAC off the minefield, it also struck a mine and was blown up. No one was hurt and both vehicles were abandoned. Dispositions:- 2Tp (Cpl Matheson) in the WADI EL MAKILA 620372 area, 3Tp (Sgt Holland) ALAM EL SAM?? 629368 area, 4Tp (Sgt Rich) Pt. 88 area, 5Tp (Lt Loch) 630360 area. There was a good deal of enemy activity during the day. A forecast had been made by Intelligence that the Italians were going to resume the advance on this day. Two columns of 15 vehicles each advanced, one each side of the road, as far as the WADI ABU NAFLA 624370. Another column came down the road behind them. 2Tp (Cpl Matheson) was shelled. Sqn HQ moved 1 mile to the East of their usual position but moved back in the afternoon. There was a certain amount of enemy activity in the HABSA area. Lt Ramsey RE was sent up with TSM Bowyer in the afternoon to examine the car on the minefield and to advise on the best method of getting them away. He reported that there was an Italian 10-ton diesel lorry and an Italian truck blown up on the minefield. At 1700 hours Sgt Rich reported that shells had scored two direct hits on ALAM EL HATSHI where he had 2 men watching the enemy, neither was hurt. The breakdown lorry arrived at Sqn HQ to assist if possible in towing the RRAC and 15cwt truck off the minefield. C Sqn. Heavy bombing or shelling was heard during the night in the TUMMAR area. The patrol of the Rifle Bde returned through 2Lt Crankshaw's Tp at BIR MAGASID. They had seen no enemy. At 0730 hours Sgt Nash relieved the MAGASID patrol. At 0825 hours Sgt Nash reported 15 vehicles moving SE towards NIZWETHABS. They halted there and later disappeared North.
15/10/40	A Sqn. 3Tp took over the ALAM MELLA patrol and 2Tp the BIR KHAMSA patrol. 3Tp carried out a recce of the 612322 area acting on information from an RA patrol that there were 20 vehicles in that area. 4Tp also carried out a recce of the 619322 area. Both troops reported no enemy. B Sqn. TSM Bowyer went up with an RRAC and the breakdown lorry to the minefield. The RRAC on the



	minefield was safely towed away. TSM Bowyer then attempted to tow away the 15cwt with his own RRAC. While being guided into position by TSM Bowyer the RRAC struck another mine which went off seriously wounding TSM Bowyer. He was taken back to Sqn HQ and attended to by the Rifle Bde Doctor. He was considered too ill to be removed. He died at 1345 hours and was buried in the presence of the Sqn at 1630 hours. The exact site of the grave is 62833635, SIDI BARRANI 1/100,000. There was some enemy movement during the day. A column of 24 enemy vehicles moved via HATSHI to ALAN EL IMMA, halted there and moved back in the afternoon. The area 618373 was shelled in the afternoon. Lt Ramsey RE and Cpl Savigar proceeded once more to the minefield and removed the remaining RRAC, the Italian vehicles were burnt. The French Motor Coy carried out a fighting patrol into SIDI BARRANI during the night. C Sqn. Lt Burdon's Tp relieved Sgt Peacock at 611339. At 1135 hours Lt Burdon proceeded West on a patrol to cover some RA officers who were making a recce. He went as far as BIR ENBA and saw no sign of the enemy and returned to his original position at 1700 hours. 2Lt Reid Scott's Tp proceeded on a recce to the ALAM HELEIAT 601350 area. He returned at 1725 hours and reported what he had seen and the nature of the going. Two enemy bombers were seen flying West to east over ALAM EL FAKRI during the morning. 5 enemy bombers were later seen flying East to West.
16/10/40	A Sqn. 4Tp took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. At 0800 hours 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) reported an enemy force in the ALAM EL RABIA area. The main force was in the area 56503350 and the other from Trig point 248 to 57703370. At the same time 10 vehicles were reported stationary at BIR THALATA area. 4Tp (TSM Clarke) was sent to recce the BIR THALATA area. He reported that there was no enemy at BIR THALATA and no sign of any vehicle tracks in the area. B Sqn. 2Tp at ALAM EL MAQRUN 617373. 3Tp at Pt. 58 and 4Tp at Pt. 88. 20 enemy vehicles moved via AQQAQIRABU MOREIRA 613366 to 622370 where they were shelled by our guns from ALAM EL SAMN. They retired to 613368. A strong column of 40 vehicles moved East between the main road and the coast as far as Grid 619. They stopped there and were joined by other vehicles. The other column retired. 21 enemy fighters flew round at a height of 20,000 feet from 1000 hours. The column on the 619 Grid remained in position during the night. Capt Fuller, Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, a staff officer from Div visited the Sqn. He and Major Miller visited the guns at ALAM EL SAMN. C Sqn. 2Lt Crankshaw relieved 2Lt Reid Scott at BIRABU MAGASD 614348. He carried out a patrol 4 miles West and 5 miles North from that place. The going was bad.
17/10/40	A Sqn. 1Tp (2Lt Poston) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) was in the BIR KHAMSA area. 1Tp carried out a recce with the RHA (Major Withers) in the BIR THALATA and Trig points 208 596334 areas. They were looking for suitable gun positions. At 1600 hours Capt Justice the MO visited the Sqn. At 1730 hours Capt Lloyd arrived to take over command of the Sqn. Capt AVC Robarts left to take over command of C Sqn. B Sqn. RAF Tp in WADI ABU NAFLA, 5Tp (Lt Loch) Pt. 55 area, 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) Pt. 88 area.. 2, 3 & 4Tp in reserve. Sqn HQ and the reserve Troops spent the night 16/17 at BIRABU SULEIMAKA 631361 and moved at dawn to 630358. The move took place as it was thought that the old position had been spotted by the enemy from the air. There was considerable enemy movement in the area North of the road on the 619 Grid line. The enemy appeared to be consolidating their new position at 619374. About 20 vehicles moved from NIZWET EL MABSA to ALAM EL HATSHI. At 1030 hours 20 enemy aircraft flew over the area for half an hour. The CO visited the Sqn in the morning. Several AA guns fired at the Lysander which flew over the enemy camp at 619374 in the afternoon.



	C Sqn. Major P Payne Gallway was evacuated sick and Capt AVC Robarts took over command.
18/10/40	A Sqn. 5Tp took over ALAM MELLA patrol. 1Tp brought in an Italian M/C found in the ALAM MELLA area. It was in good running condition. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) was in the BIR KHAMSA area. At 0900 hours 5Tp left its position to carry out a recce of BIR THALATA. No enemy movement seen. B Sqn. 2Tp (Sgt Mathison) was in the WADI ABU NAFLA, 3Tp (Sgt Holland) at Pt. 55 and 4Tp (Sgt Rich) at Pt. 88. 9 enemy vehicles moved from HABSA South of ALAM EL IMMA. On the way they were joined by 10 more. 12 large lorries joined the enemy force at 619374 at 0935 hours. 3 parties of 5 vehicles each left the TUMMAR area during the morning, one moving to HABSA and the other two SE. the columns at ALAM EL IMMA retired West in the afternoon. Capt Lawson visited RHQ and stayed to lunch. Major Collins 16/5th Lancers, a staff officer from Div, stayed the night with the Sqn. C Sqn. 1Tp (2Lt Reid Scott) took over the BIR ABU MAGASID patrol. 4Tp (Sgt Peacock) was at the Xtracks 611339. At 0935 hours 1Tp reported and enemy column of 20 vehicles leaving NIZWET EL HABSA and 10 vehicles leaving ALAM EL HATSHI. These columns joined at the Xtracks 611354 and moved South down the western track to BIR EL KHIREGAT 610350. They stayed there for a quarter of an hour and then turned back North and returned to NIZWET EL HABSA. On their way South they travelled in good air formation with four guns in front and four behind. When they turned round and went North they travelled in single file.
19/10/40	A Sqn. 3Tp took over the ALAM MELLA patrol and 1Tp relieved 2Tp at BIR KHAMSA. Two natives appeared at Sqn HQ and asked to be taken to Major Baird the Western Desert Liaison Officer. They were sent back to RHQ with the Echelon. B Sqn. 5Tp (Sgt Cameron) in the Pt. 32 (631369) area, the RAP Tp in the 623365 area and 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) in the Pt. 88 area. From 0630 to 0730 hours the RHA from ALAM EL SAMN shelled the enemy position in the WADI MAKTLA 619374. One big column of black smoke was seen. The enemy returned the fire but could not find the gun position. They fired down the coast road, then across the main road and finally between ALAM EL SAMN and the main road. 5Tp (Sgt Cameron) came under fire, one salvo landing within 50 yards of a car. It did not appear that the Tp was shot at, but merely happened to be in the line of fire. After the shelling had ceased all activity closed down owing to a bad sandstorm which severely limited visibility. 1Tp reported an enemy column in the HABSA area, which appeared to be recceing for wells. The Comdr of the Support Group, the colonel of the Cameron Highlanders and General Dorman Smith visited the Sqn in the evening to make arrangements for a recce at dawn. Lt Loch went sick and returned to Cairo. C Sqn. There was a bad sandstorm all day, 1Tp (2Lt Reid Scott) was at BIR ABU MAGASID and 3Tp (Lt WV Burdon) at 611339. NTR.
20/10/40	A Sqn. 4Tp (TSM Clarke) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. NTR all day. B Sqn. A patrol of the Rifle Bde were in the area North of the main road. 3Tp (Sgt Holland) was at Pt. 55 and 4Tp (Sgt Rich) were firstly at ALAM EL IMMA and then in the area 612360. For the first time for many weeks no enemy patrols were seen. Major Miller, Brigadier Gott and the Colonel of the Camerons went on a recce at dawn to look at the enemy positions in the WADI MAKTLA. While doing this they came upon a party of Libyans who were picking melons on a melon patch. There were 5 men and they were about 400 yards from the Brigadier's party who were



	observing the enemy camp. They did not appear to have heard the cars approach and only some of them carried arms. There was a certain amount of movement in the Pt. 90 area. Major Miller carried out a recce in the afternoon. The CO and Capt Robarts visited the Sqn in the evening. 3Tp (Sgt Holland) reported that the enemy had an observation post in the melon patch. C Sqn. 5Tp (Sgt Smedley) relieved 1Tp and 3Tp remained at 611339. The CO and Capt Robarts carried out a recce in the area ALAM EL IMMA. NTR.
21/10/40	A Sqn. 5Tp (Lt Friend) took rations to BIR THALATA for the KHAMSA patrol. On his way back to take over the patrol at ALAM MELLA one of his RRAC broke a rear spring. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) were then ordered to take over the ALAM MELLA patrol and 5Tp to return to Sqn HQ. Owing to an Air report of 80 vehicles at 576308 1Tp carried out a recce of the area West of BIR KHAMSA. No enemy were seen. B Sqn. The Rifle Bde was in the area North of the road. RAF Tp were in the Pt. 55 area and 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) in the area between Pt. 88 and ALAM EL IMMA. Again there was very little enemy activity. Some vehicles were stationary in the Pt. 90 area and some shells were fired from there into area 611367 at 1715 hours. Four Troops of the Sqn were in reserve which was unusual and they took advantage of the situation by carrying out maintenance on the cars and gun cleaning and also having themselves a good wash. C Sqn. Two patrols out in the usual positions. NTR.
22/10/40	A Sqn. 3Tp (TSM Woodward) took over ALAM MELLA patrol. At 1700 hours 3Tp started a recce of the THALATA area. At 2000 hours 1Tp at BIR KHAMSA reported sounds of vehicles moving to their North. Noise stopped after half an hour. Sqn HQ moved about 2 miles SE to 626324. B Sqn. One column of enemy vehicles moved out from Pt. 90, went as far East as 607370 and then retired to Pt. 90. An explosion was heard from the minefield at Kilo 119. The White House at MATRUD was blown up as it was considered to be too prominent a landmark. An attack was to be made on the enemy camp in the WADI MAKILA during the night. 8th Hussars and the Cameron Highlanders came under command of Support Group. Major Miller went to a conference at Support Group HQ in the morning and also took the Colonel and Sqn Ldr of the 8th Hussars over the ground on which they were likely to have to operate. The RHA were to shell the camp from 1900 hours to 2300 hours and the Camerons attack from the South at midnight. The French were to make a diversion along the coast road from the East. The 8th Hussars were just SW of BIR HASHIM and their role was to deal with and counter attack from the West during the withdrawal on the following morning. They had a Tp of RHA supporting them. The RAF were to bomb HABSA and TUMMAR camps during the night and also to provide fighter protection during the evening and on the following morning. 2Lt Spickemell arrived with the Sqn in the evening. C Sqn. NTR.
23/10/40	A Sqn. 3Tp (TSM Woodward) carried out a patrol 3 miles West of BIR THALATA. No enemy was seen. At 1030 hours 4Tp (TSM Clarke) relieved 1Tp at BIR KHAMSA and 5Tp (Lt Friend) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. Lt Turnbull went on leave. B Sqn. The plan was carried out as arranged. The Camerons were unable to penetrate the enemy camp to any great extent owing to the heavy small arms fire they encountered. They captured one prisoner and destroyed some lorries. They lost 2 killed and 4 wounded. No counter attack was made so the



	8th Hussars did not come into action. They did however fire at the RAF Tp (P/O Douglas) who was going up to Pt. 58. The Camerons withdrew successfully. A column of 20 vehicles moved from HABSA to 612373 at 0945 hours and then retired West. 30 vehicles were reported in the ALAM EL SHAMIKH area during the afternoon and there appeared to be taking up a position there. While trying to get a close view of these vehicles the RAF Tp were twice shelled. It was seen that one enemy vehicle had been blown up on the minefield at Kilo 119 as a result of the explosion heard on the previous day. The troops who were out during the night and early morning did a lot of good work collecting stray Camerons who had lost their way returning from the battle. C Sqn. 1Tp at BIRABU MAGASID and 4Tp at the southern patrol position at the Xtracks 611339. 21 enemy vehicles were seen stationary on the ridge at ALAM ABU HILEIQAT 602350 and they remained there all day. At 1600 hours 4Tp carried out a recce to the BIRENBA area. No enemy movement seen.
24/ 10/ 40	A Sqn. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. Lt Friend took over as 2i/c of the Sqn during the absence of Lt Turnbull on leave. The MO (Capt Justice) visited the Sqn during the afternoon. B Sqn. 25 vehicles were still in the ALAM EL SHAMIKH area. Two other columns were reported, one at 627371 and the other on the coast track at 629372. Both of these columns eventually retired as did the vehicles in the ALAM EL SHAMIKH area. C Sqn reported that large numbers had left HABSA and gone first of all West and then South. A patrol was sent to see if HABSA was unoccupied but some enemy were found to be still there. 5Tp (Sgt Cameron) reported two men in a block-house at 628370. At 1630 hours 20 vehicles were seen moving from Pt. 58 to the enemy camp in the WADI MAKILA. 7 or 8 men were also seen on the 617 grid line just North of the main road. An enemy recce plane flew over the Troops in reserve and was engaged with fire. C Sqn. 3Tp (Lt Burdon) relieved 1Tp at BIRABU MAGASID and 5Tp (Sgt Smedley) took over the 611339 patrol. At 0700 hours 3Tp reported no enemy in the ALAM HILEIQAT area but visibility was bad owing to the ground mist. At 0745 hours they reported that the 21 vehicles seen on the previous day were still in the same position and their earlier report was incorrect. At 1100 hours the CO, Major Withers RHA and Capt Roberts went on to ALAM HILEIQAT to look for suitable gun positions. Considerable dust could be seen from the ALAM TUMMAR – NIZWET HABSA area and noises of moving vehicles could be heard. The force at HABSA seemed smaller and it was thought some of it was moving SW. 40 vehicles could be seen at HABSA, 20 near TUMMAR and 20 at ALAM KHUNFIS. From ALAM HILEIQAT 50 vehicles could be seen in the ALAN NIBEWAT area and it appeared that ground defences were being constructed. There may have been many more vehicles beyond the ridge. At 1800 hours 4Tp (Sgt Peacock) joined 5Tp at the latter's position preparatory to escorting the guns of the Left Column to a position chosen by Major Withers during his recce with Capt Roberts. There was a certain amount of air activity during the day, six fighters and two recce planes being seen by the northern patrol.
25/ 10/ 40	A Sqn. In the middle of the night the guard at Sqn HQ reported they could hear vehicles moving. The patrol at ALAM MELLA said they could hear nothing. It was later discovered that they were our own gunners moving up to a position from which they could shell the new enemy positions at ALAM NIBEWAT. 3Tp (TSM Woodward) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol and also took rations to the Tp at BIR KHAMSA. They later carried out a recce of the BIR THALATA area but visibility was very bad owing to a sandstorm. B Sqn. The Navy shelled BARRANI from 0300 to 0400 hours. Planes first dropped parachute flares over the target area. Some fires and explosions were seen and heard. Some vehicles were reported in the ALAM SHAMIKH area in the morning. The camp at the WADI EL



	MAKTILA appeared to be more spread out and there were parties of men digging. In the evening shells were fired at HATSHI and Pt. 88. Major Paley of the "I" Branch visited the Sqn and looked at the enemy from Pt. 76. C Sqn. 3Tp (Lt Burdon) was at BIRABU MAGASID, 5Tp at 611339 and 4Tp were left flank guard to the guns who were 1 mile South of ALAM HILEQAT. No enemy movement was seen. At 1730 hours the guns shelled the enemy position at ALAM NIBEWAT for 20 minutes. The enemy vehicles retired out of sight.
26/10/40	There was a very bad sandstorm blowing throughout the day. It started in the middle of the night. Visibility was nil all day. The storm died down in the evening. C & A Sqn had nothing to report. B Sqn area during the evening when the dust had died down somewhat, 2Lt Spickemell's Tp reported that 8 enemy vehicles had come out from NIZWETHAB towards ALAM EL HATSHI. The vehicles halted one mile NE of the latter place and spent the night there. Coys of the 60th Rifles relieved the Coys of the Rifle Brigade in the right and left columns. Major Leatham arrived to take over command of the Regt, the Colonel having gone the previous day to command the Support Group in the absence of the Brigadier.
27/10/40	C Sqn had nothing to report. A Sqn. No enemy movement reported. 3Tp (TSM Woodward) took over the BIR KHAMSA patrol and 1Tp (2Lt Poston) the ALAM MELLA patrol. The latter Tp carried out a recce of the BIR THALATA area during the day and then returned to a position just West of ALAM RIM. B Sqn dispositions were as follows:- 2Tp (Sgt Mathison) North of the main road, - RAF Tp (P/O Douglas) at Pt. 58, 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) at Pt. 88. It was reported that the enemy vehicles in the HATSHI area had retired. No enemy movement was reported during the day but sounds of blasting were heard from the direction of TUMMAR and MAKTILA camps between 1530 and 1700 hours. RHQ position was still ALAM EL GIBARAT.
28/10/40	A message was received during the night which read as follows:- "Information denotes caution". Later in the day it was learnt that Italy had invaded Greece. It had been expected that they might make a simultaneous advance in this area. However none came. No Sqn reported any enemy movement. B Sqn saw one enemy bomber escorted by 9 fighters flying East to West towards SDI BARRANI at 1535 hours.
29/10/40	C Sqn had nothing to report. 3Tp (Lt Burdon) was at BIRABU MAGASID and 4Tp (Sgt Peacock) at 611339. 2Tp A Sqn (2Lt Henderson) carried out a recce of the BIR THALATA area., no enemy seen. Capt Lloyd visited RHQ. B Sqn dispositions:- 5Tp (Sgt Cameron) North of the main road, - RAF Tp (P/O Douglas) at Pt. 58, 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) in the Pt. 88 area. The patrols reported that the numbers of enemy vehicles in the Pt. 90 and MAKTILA area appeared to have decreased. One enemy bomber flew East at 1230 hours at approx 5,000 feet. This machine was fired at by the Italian AA guns in the TUMMAR area.
30/10/40	4Tp C Sqn (Sgt Peacock) took over the BIRABU MAGASID patrol and 1Tp (Lt Reid Scott) the patrol at 611339. At 1100 hours 4Tp was machine gunned by a Lysander. Sgt Peacock waved his arms and the plane flew away. At 1630 hours 3Tp (Lt Burdon) left to carry out a recce of the NIBEWA area.



	A Sqn had NTR. B Sqn area 3Tp (Sgt Hoyland) took over the Pt. 58 patrol and 4Tp (2Lt Spickernell) the Pt. 88 patrol. Major Miller visited RHQ as did the other Sqn Ldrs. No enemy movement.
31/10/40	C Sqn. 1Tp (Lt Reid Scott) at BIRABU MAGASID reported 12 vehicles moving SE from HABSA at 0950 hours. At 1000 hours they disappeared in the area 609360. 5Tp (Sgt Smedley) was in observation at 611339. SSM Chapple returned to the Sqn after being in hospital. A Sqn. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) took over the patrol at BIR KHAMSA and 4Tp (TSM Clarke) the patrol at ALAM MELLA. Some unidentified aircraft were reported flying East. B Sqn. 2Tp (Sgt Mathison) in the Pt. 32 area, RAF Tp (P/O Douglas) at Pt. 58 and 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) in the Pt. 88 area. A patrol of the 60th Rifles who were lying up for enemy North of the road shot at a Libyan patrol and are believed to have inflicted 3 casualties. 18 enemy planes were reported flying East at 1250 hours. 12 planes returned at 1340 flying in a very ragged formation. One bomber and one fighter flew over 2Tp at 300 and 50 feet respectively, both appeared to be in a bad way. They were fired at and the fighter swerved. The bomber's engines were covered in oil, the rear door was open and something was hanging out. It was later learnt that there had been a battle over MATRUH and ? enemy machines had been brought down. We lost 4 planes. During the day two enemy columns were reported moving East astride the main road. They were reported by the arty OP at ALAM EL SAMN which was later shelled and had to withdraw. Some shells also fell in the ALAM GALUD area. One of the columns reached the 625 Grid line but eventually both columns retired West. RHQ. At ALAM GIBARAT. Major Leetham, who was commanding the Regt, visited A Sqn HQ.

Air Attack on C Sqn 11th Hussars on 8-10-40

SECRET

Headquarters,

Support Group.

Place. Cistern 204 (575287).

Date. 8th October 1940.

Time. 0825 hours.

Method.

Low dive machine gunning and bombing.

12 to 15 BREDA 65's.

no previous reconnaissance.

Troop was stationary and dispersed over 500 yards.

Direction of Attack. From East.

Direction of Withdrawal. West.

Damage Inflicted by Enemy. One MARC disabled by bomb causing sump to have a large hole blown into it and damage to under part of engine.

Enemy Casualties. One enemy BREDA 65 brought down by Bren gun fire. The machine burst into flames on hitting the ground and the pilot was killed.

General Notes. The leading Troop of C Sqn was halted in area Cistern 204, when the Troop Leader, Sgt Lamb, saw two enemy planes overhead. These planes dropped two bombs, one of which landed just in front of the car causing considerable damage, but at the time the extent of this damage was not known. The Troop commenced to move, but at the same time Sgt Lamb saw 12 enemy planes to the East of him which commenced to turn and dive at him and his other two cars. He fired at the first plane diving straight at him and this plane crashed to the ground within 30 yards of his car and burst into flames. The legs of the pilot and his body was mutilated. The pilot had been hit twice in the head by bullets and the visor was shattered. The remainder of the planes carried on bombing and machine gunning; and after Sgt Lamb had moved for ¼ mile his car stopped owing to the damage caused by the bomb previously mentioned. The bomb, it was ascertained later on, fell at a distance of 30 yards from the vehicle. A splinter struck the front axle and tore off the base of the sump. Sgt Lamb ordered his crew to run to a nearby Bir while he carried on firing. The enemy aircraft paid no attention to the dismounted men and as soon as they saw that Sgt



Lamb's car had stopped, they left it and turned their attention to the other two cars, which they bombed and machine gunned for several minutes and then flew off in a Westerly direction. Sgt Lamb's car was hit in several places by bullets.

This is by no means the first time that immediately a car stops, and therefore presumably in their opinion "out of action", that they have either flown off or paid no attention to it.

A nominal roll of personnel in the Enemy Sqn was found on the Pilot and has been handed to Wing Commander Brown.

10-10-40 (sgd) Lt C

ol,

Commanding, 11th Hussars PAO.

Report on a Patrol Carried out By Troop C Sqn 11th Hussars on 5/6 October 1940

Headquarters,

Support Group.

Ref Map SIDI BARRANI 1/100,000

Composition of Patrol.

Sgt Peacock (Commander)

1 MAC

1 RRAC

1 Ford Scout Car

Patrol left BIR HASHIM 637350 at 1245 hours on 5th Oct and proceeded to area Pt. 217 583331, arriving there at approx 1700 hours. From this position approx 50 lorries were seen stationary in area Pt. 239 673336. Patrol proceeded to area Pt. 219 581335 and nothing was seen from this position. Patrol withdrew and bivouacked area Pt. 217 583331.

At 0830 hours on 6th Oct patrol proceeded to Pt. 218 384354. The ACs were left here and the patrol leader went North in the scout car to Q of QUTHUTH, 583336 thence West crossing East and West track at 57573356, thence NW to cistern 626 574336. At the point where he crossed the track fresh diesel marks of approx 5 lorries were seen on the track. The visibility up to this time was approx 100 yards owing to the heavy mist.

On reaching Cistern 626 the mist cleared slightly and the patrol leader was able to distinguish extensive diggings 900 yards to his North (area 57463371). The diggings looked like a trench and parapet approx 3 feet in height and 100 yards long, running NE and SW. the top of the digging was irregular and not levelled.

Immediately North of the digging were rectangular objects resembling heaps of stones approx 5 feet high and 20 feet long. One of these had what appeared to be a doorway. No gun was observed in these objects and the patrol leader moved up closer to get a better view.

At least 50 men were seen working in the digging area. The men did not look like soldiers and were dressed in various forms of apparel such as white civilian caps, black or dark blue skull caps, blue shirts, white shirts, light and dark coloured slack. One man dressed in light coloured suit and trilby hat, accompanied by a soldier in green uniform and stiff cap appeared and walked to the edge of the digging.

The gentleman in the trilby hat had a bundle of papers in his hand with which he gesticulated and pointed as if explaining the digging to his colleague. They were all Europeans. The patrol leader formed the opinion that they were civilian labour.

Only 5 lorries were seen stationary in area Pt. 238 573336 but it is possible that the remaining 45 of the 50 seen the previous evening may have been out of sight down a dip.

In the Field, (sgd) JFB Combe. Lt Col 6-10-40 Commanding, 11th Hussars PAO.

Report on a Patrol Carried out By Troop C Sqn 11th Hussars on 9/10 October 1940 Headquarters, Support Group.

Sgt Peacock, 1 scout car, 1 MAC and 1 RRAC left at 1520 hours on patrol to ALAM RABIA area to ascertain if enemy was still there. He was ordered NOT to get close and not to be seen at any cost. Owing to mechanical breakdowns patrol did not reach 587333 until 2147 hours, where he remained for the night. At dawn he moved forward to 58413332 from where he could see that the diggings at ALAM RABIA had increased. He could also see men walking about and marking. One lorry was visible in area Pt. 238 573336.

Peacock moved to 58283342 from where he confirmed what he had already seen. No movement was seen on track running East and West from X tracks 569335 – BIR ENBA, also No movement seen in area West of 584333. Numerous tracks of diesels and some light tanks seen in area SIDI MUHAMMAD EL GERBARI 59533336. Patrol returned at 1100 hours.

In the Field, (sgd) JFB Combe. Lt Col 11-10-40 Commanding, 11th Hussars PAO.

Reconnaissance carried out by 1 Tp A Sqn 11th Hussars 30/31 October.
Area SOFAFI and RABIA.



Route Taken.

From the HQ to ALAM EL MELLA – Pt. 215 598323 – Pt. 226 577324 – just North of Pt. 227 57433280. The enemy was observed from this last position.

Information – Enemy.

RABIA. Observation good. 30 – 40 vehicles (mostly lorries) seen parked close together. These were located slightly on the East side of the top of RABIA. Diggings observed South of RABIA roughly along the Grid Line. No movement.

SOFAFI EAST CAMP. 100 vehicles fairly close together. There were what looked like a breastwork on the South and SE of these vehicles roughly on the 220 contour line. No movement.

SOFAFI NORTH CAMP. Nothing could be seen of this camp.

SOFAFI SW CAMP. From bearing taken, the location of this camp appeared to be Pt. 215 56553322. 4 or 5 vehicles could be seen moving about inside the camp. Six vehicles were seen approaching the camp from HABATA.

Diggings were seen around the South and SE side. Observation difficult. No movement of any personnel seen in any of the camps.

Ground.

Pt. 226 57703240 is the nearest point to the enemy that one can get without being seen. There is a small East and West ridge on this Pt. And some scrub just South of the ridge. This point would serve as an OP. There is no other nearer the enemy than this for an OP. The point from which the patrol observed the camps would not be any good, as it could be seen by the enemy. There is a low level stretch of country all the way along the 330 Grid Line which prevents one getting nearer to the camps without being seen.

Going.

MELLA to Pt. 215, 15 mph.

Pt. 215 to Pt. 226, 12 mph except for the last 2 miles which gets worse, 8 mph.

HAQFET UMM EL GHUZLAM to Pt. 227 574327, 13 mph.

All this country is rocky going with patches of camel scrub and camel humps.

The country between our patrol and the enemy was the same.

1.11.40 (sgd) Captain & Adjutant.

Reconnaissance carried out by 3 Tp C Sqn (Lt Burdon) 11th Hussars 30/31 October.

From ALAM EL QREISH (588352) it is possible to obtain a good view of the enemy camp near ALAN NIBEWA (595355).

The enemy camp covers the following area:-

59283576 – 59653576 – 59553564 – 59253565

At the SW and NE corners there appear to be three medium tanks each. At 59203570 there are 3 MET. Between these 3 MET and the main road there are 3 stone Sangars in a line running North and South.

A line of stone Sangars running North and South cover the East side of the camp.

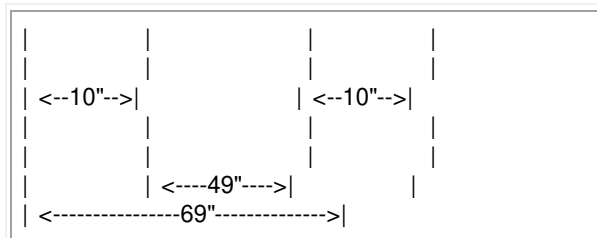
Between 100 and 200 MET were counted in the camp, but there may well be more as there is a ridge at the North of the camp which cuts off the view of the North of the camp.

Single lorries moved in and out of the camp apparently haphazardly. There are no tents visible.

At dawn 31.10.40 numerous wood fires were lighted, also what may have been petrol cookers or even acetylene lamps of some description as they gave off a very bright light.

TRACKS. To the West and parallel to the BIR ENBA track there are numerous tracks made by tracked vehicles.

Measurements of these tracks are as follows:-



No movements or signs of enemy were seen to the NW or West of ALAM EL QREISH, and the patrol leader believes that he was not observed by the enemy.

31.10.40 (sgd) AVC Roberts Captain,
commanding C Sqn 11th Hussars.

November
1940

CO: Lt Col JFB Combe



Nov 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/11/40	C Sqn reported no enemy movement all day. 5Tp (Sgt Smedley) was at BIRABU MAGASD and 3Tp (Lt Burdon) at 611339. A Sqn also had NTR. Capt Hartnell, the MO, (in place of Capt Justice on leave) visited the Sqn. B Sqn reported no enemy movements outside their established camps. 5Tp (Sgt Rich) moved forward from Pt. 32 to SIDI ABU HAMAR 626370 and got a good view of MAKILA camp. They reported about 120 vehicles situated in groups. One OP appeared to be in process of construction at 619373. Men were seen walking as far East as the 623 Grid line. 3rd Hussars arrived at NIZWET SEINAB.
2/11/40	C Sqn. 3Tp (Lt Burdon) was at BIRABU MAGASD and 4Tp (Sgt Peacock) at 611339. No enemy movement was reported. Capt Robarts carried out a recce of the area BIR ENBA – ALAM HILEIQAT with officers of the 3rd Hussars. The enemy camp at NIBEIWA was clearly seen and over 100 vehicles counted. A large enemy bomb found 2 miles West of the X tracks at 611339 was exploded by the REs. a piece of shrapnel hit an AC which was 400 yards away from the scene of the explosion. A Sqn. NTR. 1Tp (2Lt Poston) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. B Sqn again reported no enemy movement outside their camps. Pt. 88 was shelled from ALAM EL SHAMIKH at 1800 hours. The 60th Rifles carried out two patrols during the night, one to Pt. 97 in the NIZWET EL HABSA area and the other in the ALAM EL SHAMIKH area. The six cars of the RAF Sqn which had been back to Cairo for the fitting of No. 9 Sets returned to RHQ.
3/11/40	C Sqn. 4Tp (Sgt Peacock) was at BIRABU MAGASD and 1Tp (2Lt Reid Scott) at 611339. 1Tp looked for a position to the West from which the ground to the West of BIR ENBA could be seen. A suitable position was found at 59704572. Capt Cayzer and a party of officers and NCOs of the 3rd Hussars left for a recce of the BIR ENBA – HILEIQAT area. At 1030 hours 4Tp reported 25 enemy vehicles moving SW at 604353. 10 minutes later they halted. Orders were sent to Capt Cayzer to cancel his recce and return to Sqn HQ. At 1045 hours 20 more vehicles joined the others. At 1054 hours 25 of the vehicles moved South to 604350. They opened up with arty fire to their South. The shells fell in the area 603345. 1Tp were ordered to withdraw East of this point. At 1243 hours they moved West into NIBEIWA camp. 1Tp were then ordered back to their original position. At 1400 hours 4Tp were ordered to recce the area where the enemy had been in order to discover information of enemy vehicles from their tracks. At 1530 hours they were shelled from NIBEIWA camp. A Sqn had nothing to report. 3Tp (TSM Woodward) took over the ALAM MELLA patrol. 4Tp B Sqn (2Lt Spickernell) reported at 1015 hours 13 vehicles moving SE from HABSA. They were probably part of the 20 vehicles which joined the column reported by C Sqn. B Sqn HQ moved to BIR OMAR 627356. D (RAF) Sqn which was now at full strength (10 ACs) took over B Sqn's two northern patrols. Their HQ was at B Sqn's old position. This left B Sqn with only one patrol, at Pt. 88 (616361). The remainder of their Troops were in reserve.
4/11/40	C Sqn. 1Tp (Lt Reid Scott) at BIRABU MAGASD and 5Tp (Sgt Smedley) at 611339. NTR. A Sqn had nothing to report. 4Tp took over the ALAM MELLA – ALAM DABASH patrol and 5Tp (Lt Friend) went to BIR KHAMSA and took over from 2Tp. Lt Friend later sent out a patrol to observe South of the 300 Grid line. 2Tp B Sqn (Sgt Mathison) at Pt. 88 reported no enemy movement all day. D Sqn had nothing to report. The CO who had returned to the Regt from the temp command of Support Group the previous day, went on leave.



5/11/40	At 0820 hours 4Tp B Sqn (Sgt Rich) reported 12 enemy vehicles moving East from HABSA. Their number was later reported to be 21. One enemy plane was flying over these vehicles which halted at 610359. At 0930 hours 5Tp C Sqn (Sgt Smedley) reported 10 vehicles moving East at 612358. These were almost certainly part of the column reported by B Sqn. These 10 vehicles went out of sight over a ridge. In the meantime Sgt Rich was retiring in touch with the enemy who had stated to advance again. They moved fairly quickly South of ALAM EL IMMA to the 620 Grid line. At 1155 hours they halted with their head at 621355. There were about 40 vehicles all together including some tanks and guns. 3Tp B Sqn (Sgt Holland) was sent to GHOTAREIDA to report any enemy movement to the South. In the meantime another column was on the move. At 1030 hours 3Tp C Sqn (Lt Burdon) reported 10 vehicles at 592348 moving SE they were later reported to be 19 and to be halted at the same point. At 1105 hours they were reported to be at 593349 moving slowly SE they were in two columns of 10 vehicles each. At 1226 hours they reached BIRENBA. Two large tanks were seen in the column. At 1240 hours 5Tp at BIRABU MAGASID was ordered to retire owing to the enemy columns advancing to its North and South. They retired 3 miles East. Meanwhile the enemy at 621355 were still halted. The 3rd Hussars and a Tp of guns had been ordered to BIRABU MAGASID with a view to engaging the enemy column. 5Tp C Sqn were later sent to the HQ of the 3rd Hussars so that information could be passed to them as quickly as possible. At 1300 hours the enemy at BIRENBA were reported to be moving North of the track and no more was heard of them. The other column remained halted at 621355. At 1415 hours our guns opened fire from the South and the enemy began to retire West. The 3rd Hussars eventually appeared on the scene and attacked the enemy at about 1500 hours. However the enemy got away without appearing to suffer any casualties, at any rate in vehicles as none were left behind. After the 3rd Hussars abandoned pursuit 3Tp B Sqn (Sgt Holland) was ordered to recce the area where the enemy had been. Both this Tp and Sgt Rich's Tp came under heavy shellfire from Pt. 90 and ALAM EL SHAMIKH. They then retired to their normal position. 3Tp D Sqn reported 21 vehicles moving West from this point at 1705 hours. By 1730 hours the area was clear of enemy. Owing to the enemy advance D Sqn patrol had been forced to retire but took up positions before dark. 17 enemy fighters circled over the enemy column between 1200 and 1300 hours.
6/11/40	C Sqn. Major Payne Gallway arrived back and took over command of the Sqn. Capt Roberts left for Cairo. No enemy movement reported. A Sqn. No enemy movement reported. 3Tp (TSM Woodward) took over ALAM MELLA patrol. B Sqn had 2Tp (Lt Spickernell) in the Pt. 88 area. 10 enemy vehicles were reported moving West from ALAM EL SHAMIKH at 0740 hours and there was some arty fire in the evening. Capt Lawson reced the ground over which the enemy had advanced the previous day. Tracks of tanks and guns were seen. D Sqn. 2Tp (P/O Shearing) at ABAREL SARAHNA (627370) and 3Tp (F/Sgt Ault) in the 620366 area. 1Tp (P/O Douglas) was in reserve. At 1100 hours 1Tp reported an enemy OP at 62783710. This OP retired West at 1235 hours. At 1720 hours while 2Tp was returning to their night position they were heavily shelled. No damage was caused.
7/11/40	C Sqn. Sgt Peacock's Tp was at BIRABU MAGASID and Lt Reid Scott on the northern patrol. No enemy movement reported. A Sqn. 2Lt Spickernell returned to the Sqn from B Sqn. NTR. B Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Holland was in the Pt 88 area. No enemy movement. D Sqn. 1Tp (P/O Douglas) was at Hill 60 (620336) and 2Tp (P/O Shearing) at ALAM EL SAMN 629368. The position at ABAREL SARAHNA was found to be unsuitable. No enemy movement reported.



8/11/40	C Sqn. 2Lt Crankshaw Tp relieved 2Lt Reid Scott in area 610339. 2Lt Reid Scott took over the BIRABU MAGASD patrol. At 1030 hours 2Lt Crankshaw moved South to investigate some enemy vehicles moving East from MOHAMMED EL GARRARI 595333 reported by A Sqn. He broke a spring near BIR YASIM and did not gain contact. Major Payne Gallway carried out a recce of the area BIR ENBA – Pt 192 – BIR BINT. No enemy seen in the area. From BIR BINT he went up to Pt 161 594351 from where a good view of NIBEIWA camp could be obtained. At 1615 hours the northern patrol reported 10 vehicles moving East at 613357, 15 minutes later they halted at 605360 where they remained until dark. A Sqn. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) took up a position at Pt 196 611337 At 1020 hours they reported they could see 4 enemy columns advancing on them 10 miles to their West. 4Tp (TSM Clarke) which was in the ALAM MELLA area reported that they could see nothing. 2Tp were ordered to recce forward to gain further information but at 1050 hours reported they had lost contact. They went 9 miles but saw nothing except for some clumps of bushes which probably accounted for the columns. 2Tp then returned to their original position at Pt 196. B Sqn 2Tp (Sgt Cameron) was at Pt 88. There was a little air activity. D Sqn. 1Tp (P/O Douglas) at Hill 60 and 3Tp (F/Sgt Ault) at ALAM EL SAMN. NTR.
9/11/40	C Sqn. At 0855 hours Lt Burdon's Tp, which was on patrol in the area of Xtracks at 610339 reported 7 lorries and a light tank stationary at ALAM ABU HILEQAT. Men were walking about in the area. At 0930 hours 22 vehicles moved South from the same place and by 1000 hours they had reached 600347. The total number of vehicles was now reckoned to be between 30 and 35 and they were halted facing West. The original 7 lorries at ALAM ABU HILEQAT had been joined by another two and were still in the same place. Soon afterwards the column at 600347 moved off in a westerly direction and disappeared over a ridge at Pt 156. Contact was broken as 4 lorries were seen to have turned round and were now moving East as well as 9 lorries moving South from ALAM HILEQAT. The patrol was now at Pt 170 598347 and they could see another 22 vehicles halted at 592349 facing West. At 1125 hours this column moved off North and disappeared over the ALAM HAMAM ridge. The 9 lorries moving South and the 4 moving West had disappeared and it was thought that they had joined one of the other columns. The patrol then moved West again and got within 200 yards of the BARRANI – KHAMSA track. Large clouds of dust were seen moving South from SIDI KABISH 594358 but no vehicles. At 1215 hours 7 vehicles were seen moving South over the ALAM EL HAMAM ridge. They stopped on the ridge for a moment and then turned back into the NIBEIWA camp. At 1225 hours 12 vehicles were seen moving North from NIBEIWA up the track towards BARRANI. No enemy were reported South of NIBEIWA camp. The patrol observed for a time from Pt 185 and then went on to BIR ENBA where they found some fresh tracks and sangars NE of the BIR. The sangars were destroyed. Major Payne Gallway with Lt Col Wilson RHA and Lt Col Petherick 3rd Hussars carried out a recce of the BIRABU MAGASD area. A Sqn 4Tp (TSM Clarke) was at Pt 196 611336 and 3Tp (2Lt Spickernell) at Pt 215 598323. 1Tp (2Lt Poston) was at BIR KHAMSA. This Tp carried out a recce 4 miles West of KHAMSA, no enemy movement reported. B Sqn 4Tp (Sgt Rich) was at Pt 88. There was nothing to report during the day but the evening before our gun had fired into the MAKILA area and the enemy had replied at ALAM EL SAMN. D Sqn 3Tp (F/Sgt Ault) at ALAM EL SAMN and 2Tp (P/O Spearing) at Hill 60. No enemy movement was reported. 3Tp were shelled during the evening. During the night the Navy bombarded SIDI BARRANI.
10/11/40	C Sqn. 4Tp (Sgt Peacock) relieved 3Tp (Lt Burdon) at Pt 70 598347. 3Tp took over the patrol at BIRABU MAGASD. 1Tp (2Lt Reid Scott) went to 610339. A patrol to BIR ENBA reported no enemy movement. At 1600 hours 3Tp reported 3 unidentified aircraft circled over them and flew off West. A Sqn.



	2Tp (2Lt Henderson) carried out a recce of the BIR THALATA area. At 1150 hours they reported a large column of vehicles moving from SOFAFI to ALAM RABIA. At 1220 hours they were heavily shelled and had to retire. During the morning 1Tp (2Lt Poston) at BIR KHAMSA reported 5 vehicles moving to their North. These were later reported to be camels. B Sqn. 1Tp (Sgt Hoyland) at Pt. 88. 2Lts Halliday and Cunningham returned from Cairo. D Sqn. 2Tp (P/O Spearing) at Hill 60 and 1Tp (P/O Douglas) at ALAM EL SAMN. NTR.
11/11/40	C Sqn. 1Tp (2Lt Reid Scott) took over the patrol at Pt. 170 4Tp (Sgt Peacock) went to BIRABU MAGASID. Major Payne Gallway visited Lt Col Wilson RHA and Lt Col Petherick 3rd Hussars. At 1120 hours 1Tp carried out a patrol to Pt. 192 and BIR ENBA. No enemy were seen but during the patrol aircraft were heard overhead but were above the clouds and could not be seen. At 1205 hours one enemy fighter flew low over the patrol travelling in a westerly direction. The patrol returned to Pt. 170 at 1325 hours. At 1320 hours 4Tp reported 20 vehicles moving North in the HATSHI area. They soon went out of sight of the patrol. A Sqn 5Tp (Lt Friend) took over the patrol at Pt. 215 598323 and 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) took over at Pt. 196 611336. No enemy movement reported. B Sqn 3Tp (Sgt Holland) in the Pt. 88 area. The enemy made 2 journeys from HABSA to HATSHI during the day, on both occasions with 15 vehicles. The first was at 1030 hours and the second at 1330 hours. On arrival at HATSHI they shelled the Pt. 88 area. 8 enemy fighters circled overhead in the morning and some planes were heard in the afternoon but not seen. Brigadier Gott visited the Sqn in the afternoon. D Sqn. 3Tp (F/Sgt Ault) at Hill 60 and 1Tp (P/O Douglas) at ALAM EL SAMN. No enemy movement reported. Sqn Leader Page left to return to RAMLEH.
12/11/40	C Sqn. 5Tp (2Lt Crankshaw) took over the patrol at Pt. 170 and 1Tp (2Lt Reid Scott) went to BIRABU MAGASID. Two enemy columns moved out and both patrols were in contact with them most of the day. At 0825 hours 1Tp reported 22 enemy vehicles halted at SIDI ALI 6103356. At 0915 hours the column began to move SW. the column consisted of 2 light trucks in front and 20 lorries, 4 of which were towing guns. They reached SIDI NAIM 606353 at 0940 hours. Two of the vehicles of the column resembled Bren carriers. They kicked up a lot of dust. The lorries towing the guns did not keep to any one position but moved about within the column. At 1015 hours they were at Pt. 143 605349. It disappeared from view at 1056 hours one mile North of Pt. 159. Contact was temp lost owing to the fact that the other column (which will be dealt with later) had arrived in the area and acted as rearguard to the original column. The enemy had turned North again and at 1155 hours were at 596358. At 1225 hours they halted at Pt. 113 603358 where they remained for an hour. At about 1400 hours they moved North and appeared to enter the HABSA camp. The other column was first seen by 5Tp at 0910 hours. 7 vehicles were reported moving South down the BARRANI – KHAMSA track with their head at ALAM EL HAMAM. Later there were said to be 15 vehicles and by 0930 hours they had reached Pt. 185 591346. 5Tp who were moving South temp lost sight of the enemy but later almost ran into it just East of Pt. 185 and was heavily shelled. The column was halted facing East at 593346. The Morris AC broke a king pin and the Tp had to withdraw. It was chased by 9 vehicles and had to move quickly SE the front axle was damaged and contact with the enemy was lost. In the meantime 3Tp (Lt Burdon) had been ordered to move out and gain contact. One enemy fighter flew low over 5Tp who at 1035 hours again saw the enemy column at SIDI ABBAS 600345. It was halted facing East. It consisted of 17 lorries, 6 guns and 4 vehicles resembling Bren carriers. At 1047 hours they moved off ENE and at 1104 hours halted in the area Pt. 159 603345 where they apparently made contact with the other column. At 1115 hours they moved off fast in a NNW direction with Lt Burdon Tp in contact. They reached Pt. 153 601350 at 1132 hours where they halted for a few minutes and appeared very bunched. They



	moved off again in a NW direction and were thought to enter NIBEIWA camp. They were not seen again. At 1230 hours Lt Burdon's Tp carried out a recce of the area Pt. 192 – BIR ENBA. He remained in the Pt. 204 593340 area while 2Lt Crankshaw was still trying to mend the king pin on his Morris. Eventually the fitter had to be sent. At 1400 hours considerable dust was seen between SIDI KABISH and NIBEIWA camp. At 1500 hours Lt Burdon was withdrawn to Sqn HQ. B Sqn. 2Tp (Sgt Cameron) in the Pt. 88 area. At 0815 hours he reported 20 vehicles moving East from HABSA. They halted just West of ALAM EL IMMA. 2Tp retired to Pt. 96 and lost touch. It seems that the enemy then proceeded SW and joined the column first reported by C Sqn's northern patrol. A Sqn. At 0915 hours 5Tp (Lt Friend) in the 590334 area reported 2 light armoured vehicles to his North. They were later reported to be moving towards ALAM EL RABIA. At 1020 hours 5Tp reported the ENBA area clear of enemy but at 1100 hours they were in contact with the enemy forces at SIDI ABBASS 600345 which C Sqn were watching. The enemy soon moved out of sight of A Sqn's patrol. D Sqn. 3Tp (F/Sgt Ault) at Hill 60 and 2Tp at ALAM EL SAMN. NTR.
13/11/40	C Sqn. 3Tp (Lt Burdon) relieved 5Tp at Pt. 170 and 5Tp went to BIRABU MAGASID in place of 1Tp. 4Tp (2Lt Winlove) went to Pt. 204 590334. At 0750 hours 3Tp reported a M/C and some other vehicles moving to his North but further investigation produced no other information. At 1200 hours Major Payne Gallway carried out a recce of the forward areas. At about 1400 hours shells started landing in the area C.446 (598351). 27 shells altogether were fired but it was impossible to see where they came from. A Sqn. 2Tp (2Lt Henderson) took over the southern patrol at 599323 NTR. B Sqn. 4Tp (2Lt Halliday) in the Pt. 88 area. NTR. D Sqn. 3Tp at ALAM EL SAMN and 1Tp at Hill 60. No enemy movement reported during the day. Just before midnight the previous night an unidentified plane dropped two flares over the night position taken up by the two Troops. 4 HE and a number of incendiaries were dropped 300 yards away from the position.
14/11/40	C Sqn. 4Tp 2Lt Winlove took over the patrol at Pt. 170 and 3Tp Lt Burdon went to BIRABU MAGASID. At 1210 hours 4Tp carried out a patrol to Pt. 192 and at 1302 hours reported 50 enemy vehicles moving NE from 586335. At 1320 hours 10 vehicles were reported halted at 592350. Half an hour later the patrol moved East and reported 15 vehicles one mile South of ENBA and 32 vehicles two miles South of ENBA. Touch was lost with these columns but at 1530 hours the patrol was shelled from the enemy a mile South of ENBA. They then mysteriously disappeared and were not seen again. A Sqn. 1Tp 2Lt Poston took over patrol at 599323 and 2Tp 2Lt Henderson the patrol at 593355. At 1300 hours two vehicles moving South along the ENBA track were reported by 2Tp. Soon afterwards 42 vehicles were seen advancing East from RABIA. More vehicles were also reported moving South from ENBA. At 1350 hours they had reached 586339 and the other column was halted at 585334. Later 15 vehicles were seen moving North towards ENBA. They later increased to 20 and were halted on the track facing North. These were the same as one of the columns reported by C Sqn. The other column of 32 vehicles seen by C Sqn were also seen by 2Tp and at 1425 hours were halted facing East at 588341. The patrol tried to get better observation by moving round to the South and like C Sqn did not see the column again. B Sqn.



	1Tp Sgt Hoyland at Pt. 88. Various enemy patrols were seen. One of 15 vehicles was reported at HATASHI and another small column was halted at 608360. By 1600 hours they had all returned to the ridge SW of Pt. 90. D Sqn. A column of 10 vehicles was reported at 614368. They later moved NW out of sight.
15/11/40	C Sqn. 1Tp 2Lt Reid Scott carried out a patrol to ENBA. 4Tp 2Lt Winlove went to MAGASID. Major Payne Gallway, the CO, the Adjt and Brigadier Gott went to BIR SHALLUDI where the left column was situated. NTR. A Sqn. 5Tp Lt Friend took over patrol at 597329. B Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Holland in the Pt. 88 area. The patrol went to the HATSHI area where he spent most of the day. Fewer vehicles than usual were reported in the Pt. 90 area but there was more activity at ALAM EL SHAMIKH where there were between 30 and 40 vehicles. No other movement reported. D Sqn. A few enemy vehicles were reported in the evening in the 625369 area. They came from MAKTLA and after firing a few shells returned to the camp.
16/11/40	C Sqn. 1Tp 2Lt Reid Scott carried out a patrol to ENBA and 5Tp 2Lt Crankshaw went to MAGASID. There was a certain amount of air activity during the day. During the afternoon a Lysander was chased by 3 enemy aircraft. The Lysander shot one down but then had to make a forced landing, but the crew were safe. A Sqn. 3Tp and 1Tp carried out the usual patrols but no enemy was reported. B Sqn. 2Tp 2Lt Cunningham in the Pt. 88 area. There was a little local movement in the ALAM EL SHAMIKH area. Air activity was greater than usual. D Sqn. Local movement was reported.
17/11/40	C Sqn. The MAGASID patrol reported work going on at the NE corner of NIBEWA camp. Enemy fighters were also reported circling round the area. In the afternoon 6 or 8 shells landed in the 600357 area. A Sqn. Only enemy air activity was reported. B Sqn. 4Tp 2Lt Halliday in the Pt. 88 area. At 1015 some shells landed in the Pt. 58 area. Some enemy fighters circled the area. D Sqn. NTR.
18/11/40	C Sqn. 3Tp Lt Burdon patrolled to ENBA. A Sqn. A searchlight was seen at RABIA during the evening. B & D Sqns NTR.
19/11/40	A successful engagement took place during the day with an enemy column. Soon after 0730 hours 4Tp C Sqn 2Lt Winlove reported he was being attacked by 6 enemy dive bombers. The attack lasted for 20 minutes. A further 20 fighters were circling overhead at the time. The Tp suffered no casualties or damage but Major Phillips 3rd Hussars, who was with the Tp at the time, was badly wounded. At 0835 hours 1Tp C Sqn 2Lt Reid Scott reported movement of small parties round BIR HABSA.



	At 1000 hours there was considerable movement in NIBEIWA camp and on the track running North from there to BARRANI. At 1135 hours a column of 30 vehicles was seen at 606356. They moved towards NIBEIWA camp and entered the camp an hour later. Meanwhile another column of about 20 vehicles had been seen at 694348. This column moved SE and at midday were halted at 595345. A few minutes later another column of 16 vehicles were reported near the graves SE of ALAM ABU HILEIQAT. At 1230 hours 10 vehicles were seen to move South from NIBEIWA. Ten minutes later they were followed by a further 15. They soon disappeared from the sight of the patrol at MAGASD. At this moment RHQ moved out. They went to BIRABU MAGASD where they arrived about 1430 hours. In the meantime an engagement had taken place between the left column (3rd Hussars, 1 Coy KRRC and some guns) and the enemy column. RHQ went on to ALAM ABU HILEIQAT and arrived just in time to see the tail of the enemy column withdrawing into NIBEIWA. The CO, Major Leetham, the Adj, Lt Grant Thorold and Lt Burdon were all sitting on the hill watching the enemy. Suddenly the enemy opened fire on the hill with 4 guns. The first salvo exploded about 30 yards from where they were sitting. The party hurriedly left and escaped unhurt. About 3 more salvos were fired before they reached the safety of the ACs but the only damage the officers received were cuts and bruises caused by hurling themselves on the ground when they heard the shell coming over. Major Leetham came off worst in this respect, severely bruising his knee and breaking his watch. Several fires were seen in the area South of NIBEIWA and Lt Burdon and his Tp were sent off to investigate. He found 5 Italian medium tanks and 1 lorry burnt out. There was also one Italian officer and 6 native troops dead. An enemy gun and some ammunition found in the same area were brought away. Further casualties sustained by the Italians were 2 lorries and another gun captured, also several prisoners, including one officer. Our casualties were one man killed and two wounded. An air battle had also taken place. We lost one Gladiator but 3 enemy planes were shot down and 3 badly damaged. The Italians in their broadcast news claimed they had destroyed 12 ACs, 5 tanks, some guns and 7 Gladiators. The total number of ACs claimed by the Italians to date was now 118, actually we had lost 8. B Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Holland in the Pt. 88 area also saw and reported the 30 vehicles which were seen by C Sqn at 606356 and which later entered NIBEIWA camp. In the afternoon he also saw 16 vehicles move out from Pt. 90. They moved very fast and it is believed they halted just NE of NIBEIWA camp as they were seen by the RHA party from HILEIQAT just before they were shelled. D Sqn. In the morning reported a few vehicles moving in the HATSHI area. A Sqn. During the afternoon while the battle was in progress a column was reported advancing NE from ALAM RABIA. A Sqn were ordered to investigate but they could not locate the column. It is believed that it returned to RABIA. RHQ got back to ALAM GIBART about 1900 hours.
20/11/40	C Sqn. 3Tp Lt Burdon carried out a further recce of the battlefield area and found some papers and other items. 1Tp 2Lt Reid Scott said that there were less vehicles than usual in NIBEIWA camp. There was a certain amount of air activity and an enemy recce plane was fired at by 5Tp 2Lt Crankshaw at BIR ENBA, and was believed to have been hit. During the afternoon there was an air battle over ENBA and 2 Italian planes were shot down. Both pilots were killed. A Sqn. NTR. B Sqn. 2Tp 2Lt Halliday was in the Pt. 88 area. A few vehicles were seen at ALAM EL SHAMIKH but no other enemy movement. D Sqn. NTR. RHQ. Moved position to NIZWETSHIHAIBA 618342. During the night Capt Ames RAOC took out a Scammel Tractor and Lt Burdon's Tp went as escort in an attempt to bring back one of the Italian tanks put out of action the previous day. The attempt was unsuccessful as the tanks had been burnt and were totally seized up and could not be moved.



21/11/40	C Sqn. ENBA patrol reported 10 MET, 4 with trailers at a position approx ½ mile SE of RABIA at 0926 hours. At 0940 hours 12 MET were seen stationary and facing East at Pt. 229 576336. By 0947 hours these had increased to 27 and moved at 1009 hours 500 yards in a SE direction and then halted. 12 of these then moved on again in an easterly direction and disappeared from sight of the patrol. At 1025 hours 4 lorries and 1 small vehicle appeared at 584339 moving North, later turning NW and halting at HAQFETKALINA. They then moved off again to the NW and disappeared into the mirage. At 1100 hours this party re-appeared and returned to 554339 and were lost to sight at 1110 hours moving SW. At 1134 hours the MET previously reported at Pt. 229 reappeared and moved off SW into the mirage. At 1300 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp went to Pt. 192 and buried the pilot of the CR42 which crashed there on 20.11.40 and then returned to his normal position in order to watch a column which was reported moving East from RABIA by A Sqn. This column was not seen by this patrol. From 1351 to 1420 hours there was considerable enemy air activity at high altitude. Planes flew over the ENBA patrol (incl 1 recce plane which flew low and was fired on) and Sqn HQ. All the planes flew off in a NW or North direction. A Sqn. 4Tp reported at 0830 hours that approx 80 MET were moving due East from RABIA and reported them as having halted at 0930 hours. This was probably the MET seen by C Sqn and taken over by them at 576336. At 1045 hours 4Tp reported 7 MET at 583338 which appeared to be patrolling up and down the track between 580336 and 585338. These MET disappeared to the West at 1347 hours. Between 1400 and 1425 hours 4Tp reported 14 enemy fighters circling over them. These aircraft later flew off in an easterly direction. At 2230 hours 3Tp 2Lt Spickernell left to carry out a recce of the wadis East of RABIA. B Sqn. 4Tp 2Lt Halliday took over from 2Tp 2Lt Cunningham at 0645 hours. Lt Cunningham reported that the searchlight seen about 1930 the previous night as being in the HABSA area and that the HATSHI area was clear of the enemy. At 0820 hours 4Tp reported 3 MET and 15 men walking about on HATSHI but he may have been at fault and they may have been on the Pt. 90 ridge. Considerable air activity between 1415 and 1445 hours. D Sqn. NTR.
22/11/40	C Sqn. At 1002 hours 2 lorries reported, probably a working party, on the edge of NIBEIWA camp. An explosion was heard and dust seen at 1125 hours at 60853624. A Sqn. 2Lt Spickernell returned from recce of wadis at 0600 hours to Sqn HQ, otherwise NTR. B & D Sqns NTR.
23/11/40	C Sqn. 2Lt Reid Scott 1Tp left for recce of Pt. 199 581342 at 0430 hours and returned at 0735 hours. During the day 6 enemy fighters and two single S79's were reported over ENBA and Sqn HQ at high altitudes. Two native agents (ours) were handed over to 8th (KRI) Hussars to be dropped in ENBA area. A Sqn. NTR B Sqn. Some air activity in the morning. At 0845 hours 11 fighters flew around at about 15,000 ft and at 0850 hours a recce plane flew over Sqn HQ at about 1,500 ft and was fired on without result. D Sqn. NTR RHQ. Capt Ames RAOC accompanied by Major Walsh RAOC, some fitters and a platoon of KRRC for protection took out a Scammel tractor in another attempt to bring back one of the enemy tanks knocked out on the 19th. They reached their objective at about 0230 hours on the 24th and after two hours hard work in the dark succeeded in towing one away.



24/11/40	C Sqn. Black smoke was seen in area TUMMAR CENTRAL lasting for about 20 minutes at 0740 hours. At 0940 hours the MAGASID patrol reported a large column of black smoke in NIBEWA camp which was visible for about 15 minutes. 2Lt Reid Scott returned from ENBA at 0831 hours after an early morning patrol to the West. At 0945 hours 10 fighters flew over SHQ at high altitude and later flew over ENBA in a westerly direction. At 1016 hours 9 fighters flew over SHQ flying East, very high. At 1300 hours 1 recce bomber flew high over the ENBA and MAGASID patrol. A Sqn. SHQ moved to 604333. At 0945 10 enemy planes flew East over SHQ at about 8,000 ft. At 1000 hours these planes flew over again in a southerly direction and then turned NW and disappeared. B Sqn. At 1150 hours 2Tp 2Lt Cunningham reported shelling in the MAKILA area, 6 MET moving West at 618369 and 6 MET stationary at 620369. At 1220 hours the enemy shelled Pt. 54 and the MET withdrew to the North. 3 MET were reported at Pt. 90, 15 MET and 50 men on OP at ??? D Sqn. NTR
25/11/40	C Sqn. At 0921 hours 17 enemy fighters flew over ENBA at a medium height flying East. Just prior to this 6 enemy fighters flew East over ENBA and a few minutes later appeared over SHQ and circled round in pairs in the area of C Sqn 8th Hussars and RHQ 8th Hussars. At one time these pairs split into singles as though they were going to attack, but at 0934 hours joined into pairs and flew away North. At 0937 hours a recce plane flew over ENBA and disappeared North. At 0941 hours the 17 fighters flew over the MAGASID patrol flying north at high altitude. A Sqn. At 1510 hours Col Combe and Capt Lloyd in the Colonel's Ford left to carry out a recce of ALAM EL IGAB – Pt. 211 593336, Trig Pt. 218 587336 and Trig Pt. 223 585337. Within 24 minutes of their arrival at Pt. 223 they were shelled from the direction of RABIA. The shells fell short and no damage was done. B Sqn. No ground movement was seen throughout the day. 4Tp 2Lt Halliday reported a few enemy planes at about 0940 hours. D Sqn. NTR.
26/11/40	C Sqn. A patrol 3 miles West of ENBA reported No movement seen. 8 enemy fighters circled ENBA at 1000 hours and flew off SW. one enemy recce plane flew over SHQ at a fairly low height at 1020 hours flying NE. At 1046 hours 8 enemy fighters again circled ENBA. A Sqn. At 0700 hours 4Tp reported a large column of smoke approx 7 miles away from their position. They had previously heard heavy AA fire. The Tp proceeded to the area to investigate and found a burnt out Blenheim at 58838333 (Pt. 214) with the charred bodies of the crew, totalling 3. All possible particulars and salvage were taken. B & D Sqns NTR.
27/11/40	C Sqn. MAGASID patrol reported 12 HE shells landing at ILWET FALLAF 603353. Nothing further to report. A Sqn. NTR except that 3 crosses were sent out to be erected over the graves of our dead airmen. B & D Sqns NTR.
28/11/40	C Sqn. At 0935 hours the ENBA patrol reported 3 columns of MET with approx ¼ mile between them. The position of the head of the centre column was 582337. The northern column consisted of 12 MET, centre column 10 MET and the southern column 3 MET. All columns halted facing East. Two guns



	from the centre column shelled ENBA at 0955 hours and 4 HE shells fell within 200 yards of the OP. The guns were believed to be 105mm. At 1015 hours all the MET with the exception of 2 moved off SW. the 2 MET were from the northern column and appeared to be functioning as an OP as the patrol thought they had a ladder. At 1115 hours these 2 MET also retired to the SW. At 1055 hours 40 MET including 6 large lorries were seen moving East in area ALAM QREISH and at 1100 hours they halted in area Pt. 163 590350. 8th Hussars reported 35 tanks and 15 lorries in the same area. At 1129 hours 25 MET of this column moved away to the West, while the remaining 15 remained halted, with the crews dismounted and moving about. At 1134 hours these remaining MET moved West also. The ENBA patrol moved NW to endeavour to see where they had moved to, but could see no sign of them after they went over ALAM QREISH. At 1137 hours patrol reported No movement seen between Pt. 192 and QREISH 589351. A Sqn. 3Tp 2Lt Spickernell took over the northern patrol from 1Tp at ALAM EL IGAB. 1Tp had moved forward to bury the remains of the crew of the crashed Blenheim. The burial service was read by Sgt Hutchinson. The graves are located at 588334. 3Tp moved forward at 0947 hours to investigate the area Pt. 213 in which C sqn had reported enemy movement. They reported at 1045 hours that this area was clear of the enemy. B Sqn. Enemy movement during the day was slight. Intermittent MET moved from MAKILA to BARRANI and vice versa during the morning but visibility was bad owing to dust caused by high winds from the NW. Air activity during the day consisted of an air circus of 9 fighters over ALAM EL SAMN flying NW also 3 unidentified biplanes. D Sqn. SHQ moved to 627351
29/11/40	C Sqn. At 1000 MAGASID patrol reported shelling to the North of them. Nothing was seen. At 1615 hours 3Tp Sgt Nash relieved 4Tp at MAGASID. At 1635 hours the enemy recce plane popularly known as "BARDIA BILL" flew over ENBA at medium height flying West. At 1700 hours 4Tp relieved 5Tp at ENBA. A Sqn. NTR B Sqn. NTR D Sqn. NTR
30/11/40	Visibility very bad owing to sandstorm. B Sqn reported a certain amount of air activity in the morning. Otherwise all Sqn had normal patrols with NTR.
Reconnaissance Report Headquarters, Support Group. A Reconnaissance of area ALAM ABU HILEQAT was carried out by Lt Col JFB Combe at approx 1400 hours 3rd November after withdrawing of enemy columns to NIBEIWA from Pt. 153 601356 the following enemy positions were observed. NIBEIWA Camp. Bearing of Northern edge of Camp 313°. Bearing of Southern edge of Camp 304°. 30 – 40 vehicles (lorries) seen in camp on Eastern edge but centre of camp and Western edge not visible. What appeared to be a tent was observed in centre of Eastern edge. Sight internal movement of vehicles and personnel observed. Vehicles were lorries. Distance too great to ascertain if any tanks, or guns there. On bearing of 344° 4 vehicles were observed stationary on high ground. Presumably TUMMAR West Camp. Impossible owing to great distance to ascertain types of vehicles. On bearing 3° 18 vehicles were seen. Presumably HABSROAD Camp. Vehicles were lorries. On bearing 20° approx 20 vehicles were seen, presumably Pt. 90 Camp.	



Bearing of Eastern edge of camp 22°.

Bearing on Western edge of camp 18°.

In all the above camps internal movement was slight, but any vehicles moving appeared to cause heavy dust. The light was fair to good but even with the aid of powerful glasses and a telescope it was not possible to ascertain if any tanks were there or to locate gun positions.

On ALAM ABU HILEIQAT the footprints of 3 men were seen:-

a) 1 barefoot

b) 1 Sandal – large with heel,

1 Hobnailed – the nails were placed round the edge of the sole. By its shape it is considered this was also a sandal and not a boot.

A patrol was subsequently dispatched to investigate WELLS to the North of HILEIQAT but was shelled from NIBEWA and forced to return.

In the Field

4.11.40

An account of Action at IMMA 5th Nov.

At 0830 hours 5th November 1 Troop 11th Hussars reported 20 MET moving East at HABSA. These MET were followed by others and the column appeared to consist of 25 MET moving in the following formation:-

2 vehicles 200 yards in front,

2 guns in lorries,

8 lorries with hoods,

8 lorries without hoods,

2 guns in lorries,

single vehicle bringing up the rear.

The column halted 615357 at 100 hours and then moved ESE with the head halting at 620355 by 1145 hours. The column then appeared to form 2 parts, the forward one consisting of 12 MET, 13 tanks and 4 guns at the Wells in area 620355. The forward party was further divided into two groups of 12 MET and 2 guns in each group.

The main column halted area 619357 – 619356 – 617356 – 617357. This main column consisted of 30 – 40 MET.

At about 1415 hours our guns opened fire on the main column, the shells falling 1,000 yards to the East.

The light tank sqn 3rd Hussars under cover of barrage moved forward from about grid line 350 to the ridge at 615355.

The Cruiser sqn moved round to the East from 617350 via 620351 to 620355.

Almost before the tanks had commenced their advance, the Italian commander had made up his mind to return because at 1420 hours the blue smoke of diesel engines starting up could be seen in the enemy main column.

At 1427 hours the column was moving West with tanks at the flanks. The column appeared to have tanks on the outside, then un-hooded lorries, and lorries with hoods in the centre. the enemy left behind a rear guard consisting of 15 MET and 4 guns.

These stayed in a position about 617356 and the cruisers appeared to come up to within 700 yards of them. Two enemy guns ceased to fire and then the rear guard made off at 1500 hours in a NW direction. The Cruisers moved parallel to the East of the column and arriving at BP 88 were met with fire from a portion of the enemy column which halted 615362.

9 enemy medium tanks were also encountered at this position and they fired a good deal before retiring. The main column returned NW 613365 thence West to 606365.

In the Field

7.11.40

December 1940	CO: Lt Col JFB Combe
Dec 40	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/12/40	C Sqn. At 0615 hours Brigadier Savoury and the Bde Major proceeded on a recce to Pt. 160 594350 BIR ENBA and ALAM HILEIQAT accompanied and guided by 2Lt Crankshaw. The party returned to SHQ at 1030 hours. 2Lt Crankshaw remained at HILEIQAT to guide a party consisting of Brigadier Lloyd and Brigadier Lomax and their IOs and Lt Col Combe. This party reced HILEIQAT, BIR MAGASID and BIR QITAN. Prior to 2Lt Crankshaw taking over the party had been guided by Sgt Smedley. The party returned to SHQ at 1300 hours.



	4Tp 2Lt Winlove relieved 1Tp 2Lt Reid Scott at MAGASID. 2Lt Reid Scott proceeded to contour 100 (617360) to take over from a patrol of D Sqn. At 1400 hours SHQ moved to area C.269 620350. At 1453 hours 6 enemy fighters flew over ENBA at high altitude flying East. At 1720 hours Northern patrol reports 3 enemy shells fell in area 614358, 4 guns fired but only 3 shells exploded. At 1845 hours ENBA patrol returned to SHQ. A Sqn. 2Tp took over Northern patrol from 1Tp at ALAM EL IGAB. At 1300 hours D Sqn arrived in SHQ area. B Sqn. 2Tp 2Lt Cunningham at ALAM EL SAMN. 3Tp Sgt Cameron at ring contour 70. No enemy movement was seen all day except at 0815 hours 9 MET left MAKILA camp for BARRANI. From 0850 – 0900 hours an enemy recce plane was seen over the patrol areas and at 0915 hours enemy shelled area to the North of Trig Pt. 88. D Sqn. SHQ moved to a position approx 1 Kilo SE of A Sqn HQ.
2/12/40	C Sqn. At 0935 hours Northern patrol reported 8 enemy fighters flying over them at high altitude in a NW direction. At 1000 hours 1 enemy recce plane flew over Northern patrol at medium altitude NW. A Sqn. At 0600 hours 4Tp left for KHAMSA to take over from 5Tp and at the same time 5Tp left for the Northern patrol at 591343 to take over from C Sqn. At 0615 hours D Sqn took over from 2Tp at ALAM EL IGAB. 3Tp reported enemy shelling at 590350 (Pt. 163) the first shell landing at 0920 hours – about 3 or 4 guns were in action. At 0945 hours 3Tp who had a light tank of 1st RTR attached to them reported 100 MET moving West from NIBEIWA. This information came from the 1st RTR and was relayed to 3Tp through the attached light tank. At 0945 hours 8 CR42's flew East over this Tp at about 7000 ft, they then flew over SHQ and turned NE At 1103 hours 1st RTR again relayed information to the effect that a large coln of MET were moving SW in area 615353. At 1118 hours 3Tp reported No movement seen RABIA area. At 1145 hours more relayed information from 1st RTR reported 1 MET at 59723543 stationary, also considerable movement of MET at the southern end of NIBEIWA camp. B Sqn. 4Tp 2Lt Halliday at ALAM EL SAMN. 1Tp Sgt Mathison ring contour 70. All other tps in reserve. 2Tp reported an enemy plane flying low over ALAN EL SAMN from East to West at 0330 hours. This may have been dropping Thermos bombs as some were found in the morning of the 3rd by the CIH between Kilos 82 and 95 on the main road. D Sqn NTR.
3/12/40	C Sqn. Northern patrol reported that during the night they saw a green light on the ground for approx 10 seconds at Pt. 90 606364. At 0900 hours BARDIA BILL and escort of 9 CR42's circled around ALAM FAHKRI and ALAM EL IMMA area until 0928 hours when they flew off West. At 0911 hours 3 enemy shells fell in area Pt. 100, this is the same area that was shelled at 1720 hours on the 1st Dec. this area is sometimes used as an OP by our arty. At 0915 hours TSM Scrivener 2Tp relieved 2Lt Winlove at MAGASID (southern patrol) and 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp relieved Reid Scott 1Tp at contour 100 (Northern patrol). At 1320 hours 12 MET moved to 605350 from NE and halted facing SW. At 1321 hours 8 shells landed at 614361 which is 2 miles due West of Northern patrol. It was impossible to tell whether the shelling came from the stationary 12 MET or from the HABS road camp. It may have been that the enemy were shelling camels which had been seen in that area, indeed at 1336 1 shell landed at 1 mile West of the patrol and actually hit a camel. At 1400 hours the 12 MET which were reported at 605360 were at 60453614 and the total had



	increased to 14, 6 of which moved off South West while the remainder stayed halted and shelled area 617360. 7 shells landed 1 mile South East of their position, 2 further shells landed 2 miles North of southern patrol at 1442 hours. At 1450 hours visibility improved and the 8 MET were pin pricked at Pt. 97 608361 and NOT at 60453614. The remaining 6 MET still in same position. At 1510 hours the Northern patrol reported that two large lorries with trailers and 1 M/C moved off NW from Pt. 97. At 1522 hours all the remaining MET moved off NW and out of sight. At 1645 hours the Northern patrol was shelled while moving West to HATASHI, 3 shells fell 400 – 500 yards in front of them. A Sqn. At 0600 hours 1Tp took over from 3Tp at 591343. At 1100 hours 3Tp returned to SHQ having carried out a recce of the wadis North of RABIA. At 1705 hours 2 officers (1 RAF and 1 ALO) arrived at SHQ to inspect the wreckage of the crashed Blenheim at 589334. B Sqn. 2Tp 2Lt Cunningham ALAM EL SAMN and 3Tp Sgt Cameron at contour 70. No enemy movements seen during the day except that 16 MET moved out of MAKILA and went to BARRANI at about 0830 hours. From 0910 – 0935 hours 9 enemy fighters were circling the area at about 18,000 feet. D Sqn. NTR.
4/12/40	C Sqn. At 0615 hours the Sqn Ldr did a recce of HATASHI and OPs East of this point. The enemy shelled ALAM HILEIQAT area, BIR EL IMMA area and C.275 from 1020 to 1031 hours. All the shelling except on HILEIQAT appeared to come from Pt. 90. At 1218 hours BIR EL IMMA and C.278 areas were again shelled. 20 rds were fired. At 1445 hours 3 CR42 flew high over Northern patrol and then circled to the South. At 1610 hours 1 lorry appeared on the ridge at Pt. 90 and 12 men dismounted. The lorry remained for 3 mins and then moved off SW and disappeared. The men remained for a short time and then disappeared over the ridge. At 1705 hours the enemy shelled area 612358, 4 rounds. During the night considerable bombing and shelling was heard also flares and very lights seen. This shelling was also heard by RHQ. A Sqn. 2Tp took over Northern patrol at BIR ENBA from 1Tp. At 0800 hours Capt Lloyd met 1Tp who escorted him together with the RAF and ALO officer to the burnt out Blenheim. B Sqn. 4Tp 2Lt Halliday at contour 70. No enemy movement during the day except 17 MET left MAKILA for BARRANI in small groups between 0745 and 0845 hours. At 1010 hours Pt. 58 was shelled and at 1230 hours Pt. 88 was shelled. D Sqn. NTR.
6/12/40	C Sqn. 2Lt Winlove 4Tp relieved Sgt Nash 3Tp at Northern patrol. 2Lt Reid Scott 1Tp remained at Southern patrol. At 0905 hours Southern patrol reported 3 enemy guns West of Pt. 90. At 1005 hours 8 CR42's flew West of Sqn HQ. Visibility became very bad during remainder of the day owing to dust. Diaries from A & B Sqn for this date have unfortunately been lost but very little of interest occurred.
7/12/40	C Sqn. At 0814 hours 5 CR42's flew West over MAGASID at high altitude and at 0815 hours 10 CR42's flew North over Pt. 88 at medium altitude. No movement seen for rest of day. A Sqn. At 0600 hours 5Tp took over patrol at ALAM IGAB from D Sqn. No movement seen during the day. B Sqn. NTR



8/12/40	C Sqn. D Sqn relieved MAGASID patrol at 0630 hours and at 0730 hours D Sqn relieved Northern patrol. At 0830 hours the Sqn concentrated at C.241 and at 1100 hours Sqn moved to Echelon area to replenish. At 1315 hours Sqn moved to ENBA area. By 1700 hours Sgt Nash 3Tp was in position at Pt. 199 and 2Lt Reid Scott at Pt. 177, SHQ at Pt. 194. 3Tp was shelled at his position and was forced to withdraw slightly. At 1830 hours he returned to SHQ having been relieved by patrol from Support Group. No movement seen remainder of day. A Sqn. 1Tp Sgt Hutchinson took over from 3Tp 2Lt Spickernell at KHAMSA. At 0615 hours Sqn moved to a position 3 miles North of BIR THALATA. At 0630 hours 2Lt Clarke's Tp went on recce to look for some Free French who were last seen in the THALATA area. At 0800 hours Sqn Ldr went to BIR THALATA to pick up Capt Ruthven of the RB and 2 Frenchmen. At 0830 hours Lt Turnbull also left for THALATA to pick up two more French. At 0930 hours Cpl Bailey brought in 5 more French. At 1230 hours the Sqn Ldr took them all to Support Group HQ. At 1500 hours 2Tp returned from ENBA patrol. B Sqn. Sqn moved from BIROMAR at 1030 hours, replenished at 268345 and then moved to BIR ENBA where they arrived at 1530 hours. At 1615 hours 1Tp Sgt Taber left for ALAM GREISH 589351 and 2Tp 2Lt Cunningham was ordered to 585349 but missing his way and getting shelled from RABIA he spent the night with SHQ. 3Tp Sgt Cameron and 4Tp 2Lt Halliday spent the night at C.416 585348. 5Tp Sgt Matheson after replenishing, went to RHQ to pick up two new cars; he spent the night at 600340.
9/12/40	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0810 hours the Sqn advanced on a one Troop frontage to WADI EL KABSH – WADI KHARRUBA and on to SAWANI KHOR. 1Tp 2Lt Reid Scott doing advance guard to the Sqn. On reaching BIR MITKHATRI 582350 2Tp TSM Scrivener was sent out to the left flank to SAWANI KHOR via ILWET ZATAR 580353, ILWET KHAZA 578358. However he broke down at ILWET ZATAR and 4Tp 2Lt Winlove was sent to replace him. At 0715 hours WADI KABSH was reported clear of enemy. 2Lt Reid Scott located a camp at 0745 hours at 579???. At least 6 field guns and about 50 men were seen walking about. MET were seen at ALAM EL RIMTH and SAWANI EL KHOR but no tanks. At 0751 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp was sent to WADI KHARRUBA and reported it clear of enemy. At 0758 he was ordered to push North to Pt. 60 580369 which he reached at 0933 hours. From this position he could see MET moving down the BARRANI road from East to West and came under shell fire at 0936 hours. He then turned West and went to C.671 578368 from where he could see a line of lorries stretching NE and SW between Pt. 38 and C.670. At 1000 hours he reported he was being shelled from RIMTH camp and that he could see a camp at ILWET EL AUSASA and at 1008 hours another camp at ALAM BARAK 575370. At 1012 hours he was withdrawn to SHQ at ILWET KHAZALI 570358. In the meantime 2Lt Reid Scott was keeping observation on 579363 and ALAM RIMTH. At 0808 hours he reported enemy positions at ABAR EL ABDAR 572365 containing 10 MET and 4 guns. At 0829 hours he reported 50 MET moving West in the area ALAM BARRAKI and at 0915 hours 40 MET moving NNW in a long line between ABAR ABDAR and ALAM RIMTH. He could see no tanks, but 4 guns. At 0936 hours he was fired at by A/Tk guns from SAMALUS where he could see some enemy MET, 4 field guns and some A/Tk guns. At about 1000 hours SHQ were heavily shelled from 579363. The 4th RHA replied to this fire and then were engaged themselves. The shelling lasted for 15 minutes. At 1127 SHQ moved to 57733551. Patrols were in observation from 1100 until 1730 hours at the following places:- 2Tp at 57293507, 4Tp at 56534408, 1Tp at 57083541, 5Tp at 57613601. No movement seen from RABIA or from West. A camp was seen at ALUM SAMALUS and ILWET QATAR 564358. 5Tp could see shelling from SAMALUS and ALAM RIMTH and movement between SAMALUS – ABAR



EILET TAHIR – SAWANI EL KHOR – ALAM EL RIMTH. This patrol was heavily shelled from RIMTH and had to withdraw slightly.

1Tp could see SAMALUS camp and ILWET KATAR camp sangars, and 2 field guns firing from KATAR SE at patrol. 12 shells were fired. No movement seen South and West from these camps.

4Tp No movement seen to West, South and North.

2Tp No movement seen except for large bunch of vehicles, 25 frontage, the leading 5 of which were facing North. These vehicles were seen at 1700 hours. There was also considerable shelling from RABIA in a SE direction at approx 1600 hours.

At 1800 hours patrols were withdrawn. No movement seen during the night except for 2 searchlights in North.

A Sqn.

At 1600 hours Sqn came under command Support Group, when 4Tp TSM Clarke went to Pt. 222 581334 to watch RABIA from the East and 5Tp Lt Friend went to HAQFET EL RAMADEN to watch SOFAFI and RABIA camp. 1Tp proceeded from KHAMSA to GUSELIN to watch to the West.

At 0715 hours 5Tp reported 5 MET moving West from RABIA to SOFAFI East camp.

At 0720 hours 5Tp reported heavy shelling from SOFAFI South West camp.

At 0800 hours SHQ moved to 586337.

At 0830 hours a Blenheim was shot down by a CR42 at approx 585331 and the pilot who was injured was picked up by SHQ. The remainder of the crew were killed. The pilot was taken to the ADS at GARRARI.

At 1045 hours 5Tp reported 15 MET moving NE towards SOFAFI X tracks and at 1330 hours the same Tp reported that a lot of men were lined up at RABIA and looked as though they were preparing to evacuate the camp.

At 1400 hours SHQ moved back to its previous position.

At 1530 hours SHQ escorted Major Turnbull RHA to recce gun positions 2 miles South of HAQFET RAMADEN.

At 1700 hours SHQ was shelled from SOFAFI camp.

At 1705 5Tp reported there were approx 20 MET in SOFAFI East camp, stationary.

At 1930 hours SHQ moved back to old position accompanied by 4Tp.

B Sqn.

The Sqn moved at 0615 hours. 1Tp Sgt Taber moved to the north from ALAM EL GREISH and 2Tp also moved North ALAM EL AGRAD, moving along the 586 Grid line. 4Tp 2Lt Halliday moved to the East end of WADI AL KHARUBA. SHQ and 3Tp followed 4Tp. 2Tp and SHQ arrived at ALAM EL AGRAD at 0820 hours about the same time as RHQ. 1Tp had been delayed by shellfire from NIBEIWA and was then at 588358. 4Tp had also got a bit behind and were at 583360 at this time.

2Tp then proceeded to move NE towards 590370. SHQ with 3Tp leading proceeded due North to the 370 Grid line. 4Tp captured 10 lorries and 300 men at SANYET EL TIFLI which delayed the advance of 4Tp. No resistance was put up by the enemy.

At 0640 hours 3Tp captured a lorry at 585372 and then proceeded to the BARRANI road.

At 0855 hours at 587375 3Tp captured 8 more lorries and 50 men coming from BARRANI, again without resistance.

1Tp and 2Tp who had joined up, saw some men walking about on the high ground at 588375 at about 0910 hours and decided to make an attack. However, on arriving at the hills they were met by A/Tk fire. Sgt Taber and Tpr Palstein (in different cars) were killed and a RRAC containing Cpl Horton, LCpl Holdsworth and Tpr Hamilton was set on fire and the above men reported missing. Only one man however was seen to jump out of the car. Meanwhile SHQ had reached the BARRANI road 1000 yards to the West of the high ground at 588375 where they found 3Tp Sgt Cameron and the 8 lorries and 50 men he had captured. SHQ retired South from the road followed by 3Tp and the captured lorries and prisoners as the enemy position to the East appeared to be firmly held. 2Lt Cunningham's and Sgt Taber's Troops then retired to SHQ where they were reorganised. The prisoners were sent South under escort.

SHQ position was 586368 with two Troops out observing in the line BARRANI – ALAM EL KHOR from the West, while ALAM EL RIMTH had also to be observed as the enemy position there appeared to be fairly strong.

At dusk the Sqn concentrated and leaguered at 584363. The position during the day had been that enemy positions which were supposed to be held were passed through without opposition and on reaching the main road it was fully apparent that the enemy had no conception of the attack. The Sqn slightly overshot the mark as it was not supposed to go further North than the 370 Grid line.

[Transcriber's note: Cpl Horton is listed by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as being killed on Dec 10. He has no known grave and is listed on the Alamein Memorial]



10/12/40

C Sqn.

No movement seen during the night.

At 0610 hours 4Tp moved to ILWETABU MAZHUD and took up position of observation. At the same time 2Tp moved to Pt. 73 568354 from where he could see ILWET KATAR and SAMULUS quite clearly.

At 0645 hours 5Tp moved to 57613601. There was No movement seen on SAMALUS – SOFAFI track.

At 0743 hours a RRAC of 4Tp was shelled from QATAR. Patrol reported 30 MET at 564356 but later this was corrected to 564359. Patrol returned to ILWET MAZHUD.

At 0810 hours 4Tp moved to SANYET EL SABIL to recce a leaguer – No movement seen.

At 1007 hours 2Tp who had patrolled West from 568354 reported that they had captured one Italian diesel lorry and one SPA truck containing an Italian Padre, two Italian Air force officers (ground staff), one Air Force OR and 20 ORs from the 62nd Div, who had been to collect the dead bodies of a Flt Sgt and gunner who had crashed on the previous day in a Breda 67. Patrol also reported No movement seen ILWET EL HALFA 560358. Patrol returned at 1130 hours with the prisoners and lorries. The Padre stated that he had seen some English prisoners of War at DERNA wearing 11th Hussars berets. He said they did nothing except play games and that they seemed very happy. He did not seem to know if there were any officers there or what the total number of 11th Hussars prisoners were. The Padre spoke quite good English and knew about the Greek advance. The others however spoke little English and did not know about the Greek advance. The Padre also stated that there were 200 aeroplanes at SOLLUM.

At 1225 hours 2Tp moved West to observe on BUQ-BUQ – SOLLUM road and SAMALUS – BUQ-BUQ road and also BUQ-BUQ area.

From 0745 hours to 1030 hours 5Tp at 57613601 reported enemy movement in area Pt. 52 367369 and gun positions in ALAM RIMTH area. Patrol was shelled several times during the morning and was forced to move ½ mile SE.

At 1300 hours visibility got bad owing to a dust storm.

At 1505 hours 2Tp reached Pt. 24 ALAM IDRI 553320 and Sgt Scrivener went forward on foot to observe. He reported he could see MET moving East and West along the Winter Track; 6 MET towards BUQ-BUQ and 5 towards SOLLUM (all lorries). 10 MET were seen stationary at BIR EL NAAS 553363 with an OP at Pt. 32 553363. No MET could be seen at BUQ-BUQ but a lot of dust could be seen there. No movement seen as far West as 545 North and South Grid line and between the 352 and 362 East and West Grid lines. Patrol arrived back at SHQ at 1815 hours.

At 1530 hours 5Tp at 57613601 saw three guns fire from ABAR ELET TAHIR 571362.

At 1715 hours 2Lt Winlove 4Tp withdrew to Pt. 82 575354 and remained in observation for the night.

2Lt Reid Scott 1Tp relieved 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp in North at 57613601. 5Tp then relieved 4Tp Sgt Scrivener and 3Tp Sgt Nash came into SHQ.

At 1830 hours it was decided to send back 2Tp's MRAC, as the bearings were going, and 1 RRAC of 2Tp had broken its steering column. This left the Sqn with four Troops. Sgt Scrivener took over command of Sgt Nash's Tp.

A Sqn.

At 0615 hours 4Tp took up position at Pt. 222 and at 0800 hours reported that RABIA was still occupied and that MET was moving about inside the camp.

At 0900 hours they reported movement of MET had stopped and that enemy arty was shelling accurately.

At 1000 hours SHQ and 1Tp liaised with 8th Hussars and moved to Pt. 226 577324.

At 1100 hours there was a bad sand storm and visibility was nil.

At 1510 hours 3Tp reported a column of men and a few MET moving about in RABIA camp.

At 1700 hours 3Tp returned to SHQ followed by 2Tp and 4Tp at 1830 hours.

B Sqn.

Troops moved out at dawn to the following positions:-

4Tp 2Lt Halliday to watch ALAM EL RIMTH 577365. 3Tp Sgt Cameron to Pt. 74 582368 and 5Tp Sgt Matheson to Pt. 74 588369.

At 0730 hours orders were received for the Sqn to recce and block the western exits from SIDI BARRANI. 2Lt Halliday's Tp and those of Sgt Cameron and Sgt McCarthy 2Tp were responsible for the area North of the main road to the coast on the line about the 593 grid.

2Lt Cunningham 1Tp stood astride the BARRANI – ALAM EL RIMTH track at about 593374. SHQ moved to the ALAM EL HARASH area and found the position where Sgt Taber was killed, deserted, but A/Tk gun etc were intact.

Sgt Matheson was sent into 2Lt Cunningham's area. A very bad sand storm came up and Troops had to maintain visual touch. SHQ and 3Tp were attacked by 8 enemy fighters at approx 1200 hours. They scored many hits but no casualties. During this action LCpl Lowe from Sgt Cameron's Tp went



	spare and was later found by the 7th Hussars with one man wounded (Tpr Leach) and Tpr Potgeiter was also slightly wounded. At 1300 hours visibility was down to 200 yards. 2Lt Halliday took 10 prisoners who appeared to come out of the ground! By 1930 hours our Infantry had closed in around BARRANI and the attack was ready. Troops were therefore rallied at 1530 hours South of the main road and moved to Pt. 74 588369. At 1630 hours the Sqn moved to a position 1 mile South of ALAM EL AGRAD where the night was spent. During the air attack LCpl Barry ditched a car in a man hole and Sgt Cameron's MRAC had to be evacuated. This left the Sqn with only four Troops of 2 cars each.
11/12/40	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0615 hours 2Lt Reid Scott 1Tp moved to QABR EL ABAG 570354 and 2Lt Winlove 4Tp to MAZHUD 565350. No movement seen on BUQ-BUQ – SOFAFI track at 0700 hours. At 0725 hours 2Lt Reid Scott reported that he thought SAMALUS and QATAR were clear of enemy and confirmed this report at 0731 hours. He was then ordered to move to SANYET SHINDIRRA 566356 and then to move North and up to BUQ-BUQ SOFAFI track as far as BUQ-BUQ to see if it was clear of the enemy. at 0937 hours he reported that BUQ-BUQ appeared to have been evacuated except for a small amount of MET moving about. He captured 4 field guns which had been abandoned at Pt. 32 560365. At 0950 hours he captured 2 lorries containing one officer and 16 ORs and a Breda gun in each lorry, which were moving East along the metalled road made by the Italians and called (by the Italians) "the road to Victory". One of the guns in a lorry opened up at a range of 65 yards and missed. The lorry was heavily fired on by the ACs and was disabled. At 0955 hours a further 2 lorries appeared at the same place, coming from the East and they were also captured. They contained 32 ORs. At 1000 hours 2 Breda A/Tk guns were captured at Pt. 44 605368. These guns were manned by one civilian! As the patrol was hampered by these prisoners, 2Lt Reid Scott made them take off their boots and socks which he removed and left the prisoners on the road. He then moved West and at 1035 captured one Major, one Lt and 24 ORs including 10 Blackshirts who were moving West along the road at 557380. The Major was riding pillion on a M/C and stated that he had come from SAMALUS. At 1040 hours a Libyan civilian employed on the water works at BIRNAGGASH 562368 was caught. At 1100 hours 2 Blackshirts appeared brandishing rifles and promptly proceeded to fight one another. They were both drunk on wine looted from the Italian hospital in the BUQ-BUQ area. They were added to the bag. The patrol remained in the area 55753682. At 1231 hours the patrol was fired on by SA automatic fire and one 9 pdr gun from ring contour 15 556367, and at 1300 hours two 9 pdr fired at them from 556367. Shells fell very close to the patrol who were forced to withdraw slightly. The Boyes Rifle on Sgt Lamb's MRAC was damaged by shell fire. At 1448 hours the patrol was fired on by MGs of the 3rd Hussars, luckily with no ill results. At 1530 a further officer and 2 ORs were captured. Patrol cut the phone wires running from QATAR – SAMALUS, QATAR – BUQ-BUQ. Patrol withdrew and rejoined SHQ at 2030 hours having helped 3rd Hussars escort prisoners as far as the BUQ-BUQ area. At 0725 hours the same day 2Lt Winlove moved forward from MAZHUD to SANYER ORIGIB 548354 which he reached at 0817 hours and reported No movement seen. He was then ordered to move NW to area of the high ground at 545363. At 1018 hours he reported 1 lorry and a lot of men in area track junc 543363. He was ordered to push on so as to be able to look over the ridge to the West of the track junction. At 1125 he reported that he had captured one enemy ammunition lorry and 3 men at the junction. At 1141 hours he captured 10 lorries which were moving West at 543363 and 44 men and 2 officers. Patrol remained in observation in the area of the track junction and was bombed and machine gunned twice. They returned to SHQ at ILWETNAAS at 1715 hours. At 0635 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp moved with SHQ from 577355 and at 1012 hours was ordered to go into ILWETNAAS which was reached at 1108 hours and observed a camp on the southern slope. He moved over a ridge and saw a lot of enemy on the northern slope. He captured 2 officers and 119 ORs and 2 Breda machine guns. The patrol remained in observation. At 1239 hours he was moved to the high ground at 548363 to watch the track junction North of there. Patrol remained in observation and later when moving West to help B Sqn on Northern Track



(summer track) reported 3 guns firing from 529366. Patrol withdrew to SHQ at ILWETNAAS at 1720 hours.

SHQ moved forward from 577355 at 0635 hours and at 1130 hours reached BIR SALHA 552361 where 44 prisoners were captured hiding in the BIR. SHQ later moved to track junction at 560363 and observed to the North. The Southern Track (winter track) was blocked in area 54103643 with 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp but nothing came along. The sqn concentrated at ILWETNAAS at 1810 less 2Lt Reid Scott who came in at 2030 hours.

Personnel and equipment captured by C Sqn was:-

1Tp 2Lt Reid Scott	- 4 field guns at Pt. 32, 4 lorries with A/Tk gun in each in BUQ-BUQ area, 2 diesel lorries and 1 M/C, 4 officers 76 ORs in BUQ-BUQ area.
5Tp 2Lt Crankshaw	- 2 officers and 121 ORs, 2 Breda automatic guns with AA sights, 1 Fiat in ALAM NAAS area.
4Tp 2Lt Winlove	- 10 diesel lorries with 3 Breda A/Tk guns, 2 officers and 58 ORs. Lorries and prisoners were attacked by enemy aircraft and prisoners ran away. Most recaptured by 1Tp B Sqn.
SHQ	- 47 ORs at BIR SALHA.
3Tp Sgt Scrivener	- 515 prisoners, 2 light tanks

A Sqn.

At 0710 hours the Sqn moved to recce a column of enemy retreating NW along the escarpment by SOFAFI and at 1130 hours were heavily attacked by 9 fighters. They were first sighted flying over in an easterly direction at low altitude and were obviously protecting a column of MET which were reported at half-way house camp. The aircraft turned back West in about 5 minutes and flew over us again. This time they spotted the Sqn and attacked. All the cars dispersed and returned fire. In the first dive they hit and set on fire the petrol tank of RRAC 236 of 5Tp. This car carried on moving for about 5 minutes when it stopped and the crew, who were alright, jumped out. Lt Friend circled around in his car until he was able to pick up the crew. In the meantime the remainder of the Sqn were still being heavily attacked. After 15 minutes the fighters flew off West. Apart from the burning RRAC the only other damage inflicted was one wireless mast shot away on the Rear Link car, and the only casualty was the Sqn Ldr who received a slight cut on his head.

The Sqn then collected and withdrew 4 miles South to get out of the area to change a punctured tyre on the Sqn Ldr's car and get a new mast. While the Sqn was still in the area, 12 more fighters appeared and spotted us at once. They then dived to attack, and again the Sqn dispersed. This time the aircraft had .7 ammunition and they did much more damage. This attack also lasted about 15 minutes. After it was over the Sqn took some time to collect and then proceeded further South and then East to get right out of the area.

The casualties in this second attack were Capt Lloyd who was shot in the wrist and leg, Sgt Hay who sustained wounds to his hand and leg, and Tpr Hunt who was shot in the groin and subsequently died. The latter two were in 5Tp and their RRAC No 341 was damaged and abandoned, but later recovered. TSM Clarke, LCpl Loxley and LCpl Winterbottom sustained slight wounds. SSM McMahon had a lucky escape as a bullet grazed his stomach and took away the buckle of his belt.

Nearly every run-flat tyre on the MRACs were punctured but they lasted alright for the Sqn to get out of the area.

The Sqn then withdrew back to reorganise and try and get more tyres up and be fit for the next day. The casualties went straight to the ADS at BIR ENBA in 3 MACs one of which returned to Sqn the following day.

The Sqn Ldr's car was evacuated and the 3rd MARC rejoined the Sqn at KHEIGAT 2 days later with TSM Woodward from the Echelon.

At 1630 hours the Sqn arrived at HAQFET RAMADAM and the casualties arrived at the ADS at BIR ENBA at 2200 hours. Tpr Hunt died an hour later.

B Sqn.

The Sqn moved from ALAM EL AGRAD to ILWETMAZHUD its task being to watch the coast road from the South and especially the track running North and South through SAWANI OGIRIN. Three Troops moved in front of SHQ, 1Tp North, 4Tp centre and 5Tp South. On the forward Tp reaching the line of the above track, the orders were changed and the Sqn was ordered to co-operate with C Sqn in closing the exits on the coast to SOLLUM in the area of the 540 Grid line. B Sqn responsibility was the Northern or Summer Track and C Sqn who were already in position, the southern or Winter Track.



	Unfortunately 1Tp and 4Tp had mechanical problems so 3Tp was ordered to push on closely followed by SHQ, with 2Tp in reserve at ILWETEL HAMRA 550358. SHQ moved to BIR SALHA 552361 where they passed through C Sqn. The Sqn attempted to cross the mudflats between the Summer and Winter tracks close to the 500 Grid line but came under fire from the enemy position at 552366 at a range of about 600 yards. The Sqn was forced to retire. By this time 1Tp and 4Tp had come up and were sent to cross the Summer Track further to the West and to join 5Tp who were supposed to be in position. 3Tp at this time had a petrol stoppage. SHQ remained at 545363. 1Tp and 4Tp had got across the mudflats with two cars only between them and immediately went into action to hold up the retreat of the enemy which was beginning. They put a field gun and an A/Tk gun out of action and firing at odd groups of men soon had the enemy apparently in a state where they thought there was a far larger force opposing them. During the afternoon they were joined by LCpl Ramsell. Prisoners by then began to literally pour in and 2Lt Halliday, 2Lt Cunningham and LCpl Ramsell accounted for approx 1800 prisoners and left dead and wounded on the area. These prisoners were all brought into RHQ at about 2359 hours. Amongst them were 4 Colonels and 22 other officers. While 1Tp and 4Tp had been doing this work, SHQ had been bombed and machine gunned and attempted to cross the mudflats at 1500 hours but got one MARC so badly stuck that it remained there until 0300 hours the next day when it was evacuated. 3Tp joined SHQ at 1430 hours. 5Tp also had a car stuck in the mud and never reached either track. Cpl Lester's car from 1Tp was also stuck in the mud but managed to get out. At 2359 hours all Troops were concentrated with RHQ at ILWETEL NAAS except the two cars stuck in the mud. RHQ. So many prisoners had come in that the CO decided that they would considerably hinder us the next day, so at about 0200 hours 12th December, they were started marching back towards BUQ- BUQ escorted by a Tp of 8th Hussars light tanks. Several of the Italian officers had small staff cars and had dosed down in the back seats with plenty of blankets (their men had none). The officers were ordered to get out and march with their men which they did reluctantly and in some cases a certain amount of pressure had to be used.
12/11/40	C Sqn. At 0620 hours 2Lt Winlove 4Tp moved to SAWANI OGIRIN to observe HALFWAY HOUSE area and to the West. 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp moved to 543363 and observed to the West. Sgt Scrivener 3Tp moved to BIR YASHIDA 546366 and observed to the West along the Summer Track. At 0845 hours 5Tp reported that 3 guns had fired 1 round each in a northerly direction at 529366. At 0900 hours 5Tp reported he had captured 300 prisoners and had destroyed 2 light tanks and 1 field gun. Later he collected more prisoners making a total of about 500. These were marched to BUQ-BUQ by Sgt Galpin, Cpl Williams and LCpl Ward. It was a difficult job as the prisoners were tired and thirsty and got very strung out. One of them even drank some petrol. Visibility got very bad at about 1200 hours and in some places not more than 25 yards. At 1500 hours patrols were withdrawn and by 1800 hours the Sqn was concentrated at the foot of SOFAFI pass, less the three RRAC escorting prisoners. These eventually returned at 2030 hours having had a difficult task with the prisoners who by the time they had been handed over were just about "all in". A Sqn. At 0600 hours the Sqn came under the orders of the 4th Armd Bde. Lt Turnbull took over as temp Sqn Ldr as Capt Lloyd was a casualty. Troops were reorganised as follows:- 1Tp Sgt Hutchinson 2 cars, 3Tp 2Lt Spickernell 3 cars, 4Tp 2Lt Clarke 2 cars SHQ Lt Turnbull 3 cars (with Lt Friend) At 1000 hours SSM McMahon and 1 MARC left the MDS for SHQ, arriving at 1230 hours. At 1030 hours 1Tp and 3Tp left for 4th Armd Bde at BIR KHREIGAT. At 1340 hours SHQ and 4Tp left for BIR KHREIGAT arriving at 1700 hours. In the mean time 1Tp and 3Tp had arrived with Bde and at 1410 hours 3Tp left on a recce of SIDI OMAR and found it strongly held. 1Tp was sent to recce HALFWAY HOUSE and at 1830 hours moved into position near HALFAYA pass to observe the camp. They returned at 1900 hours.



	B Sqn. At first light the Sqn moved to 556358 and Troops were expecting to have a day of rest. The morning was spent in maintenance and rest despite a bad dust storm. SSM Kitchen went with the crew of the HQ MARC to the mud flats at 544365 to collect the car which a cruiser tank was to pull out. However, SSM Kitchen got stuck in the mud himself and when at 1300 hours the Sqn received orders to move to the BIR SOFAL area 563335 Major Miller despatched 3Tp and remained behind with SHQ to wait for the SSM. All Troops had arrived in the leaguer position at 1900 hours and SHQ left for this position at 1630 hours but were held up by mechanical troubles at the Italian advanced landing ground at 557355, however they arrived and joined with the Troops at 2359 hours. SSM Kitchen arrived with the LAD the following morning at 0500 hours. RHQ. Went into leaguer at the foot of SOFAL pass where they were joined by Major Leetham who had come up from Cairo.
13/12/40	C Sqn. Sqn moved at 0615 hours to QARETABU SAYID 513349 arriving at 1010 hours and remained there all day. A Sqn. At 0600 hours 3Tp went out to the North to recce an enemy camp in area 519634. At 0615 hours the Sqn, less 3Tp, were given the task of watching and locating any enemy columns endeavouring to escape on top of the escarpment between HALFAYA pass and HALFWAY HOUSE camp. 1Tp moved SE from HALFAYA towards BATTUMA 531358. 4Tp moved out to BATTUMA to give 1Tp some petrol and help in the recce. SHQ moved to Pt. 97 531348. At 1005 hours 1Tp reported 12 burnt out lorries and a deserted camp site SE of BATTUMA 536357 and captured two men who were walking along the escarpment. At 1026 hours 4Tp reported 15 MET moving NW very fast at 526361 and at 1047 3Tp reported a camp at 52013590 and approx 60 MET at 52533677 with 6 large guns. At 1121 hours 4Tp reported BATTUMA area clear of enemy and that they had captured a further 3 prisoners. At 1230 hours 1Tp had completed recce to HALFWAY HOUSE and reported area clear and returned to SHQ at 1240 hours. 4Tp was ordered to proceed NW to watch for movement up HALFAYA pass or along the escarpment in that area, and took up a position around BIR NUH 528361. At 1250 hours Sqn again came under orders of the Regt and at 1255 hours SHQ and 1Tp in reserve moved to 513348, the Regt area. At 1300 hours TSM Woodward reported that he was at RHQ with the MARC of 2Tp which he had brought up from BIR ENBA after it had evacuated the casualties from the air battle and got the MARC repaired. He remained with RHQ until 1600 hours when he rejoined the Sqn. At 1510 hours 4Tp reported that he could see the camp at 52013590 which had been reported by 3Tp. At 1600 hours 4Tp saw three M11 tanks and was chased by them and was also shelled. The MARC broke one leaf in each front spring and also got stuck but just managed to get away. At the same time a Hurricane was shot down and crashed 200 yards from the Tp, the pilot was killed. At 1730 hours 4Tp returned to SHQ. Enemy air activity was continuous over the area the whole day. At 2000 hours the Sqn came under orders of "BIRKS FORCE" (RITA) and were informed that we were going to act as advance guard to the column which was going to make a raid into Libya that night. B Sqn. Sqn moved to QARETABU SAYID arriving at 1300 hours. The afternoon was spent in resting and maintenance of vehicles. In the evening, Major Miller, who had been ill for some days, was ordered by the CO to return to Cairo and Capt Lawson took over the Sqn with 2Lt Halliday as his 2i/c. Orders were received for a force consisting of the 11th Hussars, less A Sqn, the RAFAC Sqn (D Sqn), 2nd RTR and some guns under command of the CO (Combe Force) to cross the frontier and block the BARDIA – TOBRUK road. RHQ. RHQ moved to go to QARETABU SAYID at first light. The CO was required for a conference and shortly after starting he left in his Ford and Major Leetham took over command. We did not go on a compass bearing as there was a good track which Major Leetham and Lt Grant Thorold knew of. Unfortunately the turning was missed and when the Sqn halted to check up we discovered we were in sight of the enemy position at HALFAYA and they started to shell. This gave us our position and we



	reached the leaguer area was then reached without mishap or delay. The rest of the day was spent on maintenance. There was considerable air activity and Troops in the immediate vicinity were bombed but no hits scored on 11th Hussars. This was our first taste of large scale bombing and it was here that the MO, Capt JJ Justice, who was watching the enemy bombers with interest, remarked "Oh look! They've got their bomb hatches open". This remark was followed immediately by an appalling 'crump' not so very far away!
14/12/40	C Sqn. At 0200 hours the Sqn moved as an advance guard to Combe Force to Pt. 211 486392 arriving at approx 0700 hours. Three patrols were pushed forward to BIR IUNES 480403 (5Tp), GABR BZUE 484402 (SHQ, 1Tp & 4Tp), and BIR EL BAHEIRA 488403 (3Tp). All Troops and SHQ were heavily machine gunned by enemy aircraft from 0809 to 0930 hours. The Sqn suffered several casualties:- SSM Chapple was killed by an explosive bullet which came through the bottom of the turret. 2Lt Reid Scott and LCpl Archer of 1Tp were badly wounded. Tpr Pearson driver of Sqn Ldr Ford Utility car was wounded. Sgt Lamb, Cpl Tappern and Tpr Walker were slightly wounded but able to carry on. Three RRAC and one MARC were temp out of action with punctured tyres and radiators. The fitters lorry and Ford Utility car were set on fire and destroyed. At 0945 hours 4Tp 2Lt Winlove moved to BIR BUHANIA 480407 and observed on the BARDIA – TOBRUK road. 3Tp moved forward to Pt. 171 486407 and 5Tp remained at BIR IUNES. At 1037 4Tp reported 3 medium tanks and a lorry at 480410, and then reported that they had moved on to the main road due North of 480410 and remained there. These tanks were later attacked and destroyed by 2nd RTR. A few MET were seen moving mostly to the West along the main road. The largest party being six which were seen at 1133 hours. At 1154 hours Sgt Galpin with an RRAC from 3Tp at Pt. 171 left to cut the telephone wires on the main road. On reaching the road, a stone broke his timing gear and the car was immobile. At the same time he saw an enemy tank about 1000 yards away to his NE, halted on the road with the crew dismounted. The tank then moved slowly down the road but did not fire at the AC. Shortly afterwards an ambulance came along the road from BARDIA which Sgt Galpin held up. He locked the driver and other occupants inside and started to tow the AC away with the ambulance. Unfortunately one of the men locked in the ambulance opened a small door beside Sgt Galpin and tried to strangle him. After a desperate struggle Galpin managed to free his revolver and fired at his opponent and also two others who were troublesome. He fired 5 shots in all. More enemy vehicles were then seen coming down the road so Galpin decided to leave the RRAC and walk back to the MARC at Pt. 171. This he did with the remainder of his crew. The enemy meanwhile took the RRAC in tow with a lorry and moved off fast down the main road towards TOBRUK. The 2nd RTR tried to stop them but were unable to do so. It is amazing that the enemy tank did nothing except move with the lorry towing the RRAC. At 1220 hours 5Tp 2Lt Crankshaw, at BIR IUNES and SHQ at 484402 were again heavily machine gunned for 20 minutes. Cpl Tappers and LCpl Ward were badly wounded and one RRAC shot through the petrol tank and all the tyres punctured on the other RRAC of 5Tp. The back of Lt Crankshaw's MARC was set on fire and all the bedding destroyed, but they managed to put out the fire. Cpl Tappers put up a remarkably brave performance when, after this attack although wounded in the arm and head, bandaged up LCpl Ward who was very badly wounded. The MO Capt Justice said the bandaging had been very well done and might easily mean the saving of his life. At 1340 hours 4Tp 2Lt Winlove at 480407 was machine gunned and dive bombed, there were no casualties. At 1530 hours 3 and 4Tp were withdrawn to SHQ which had moved ½ mile West of RHQ. A Sqn. At 0130 hours the Sqn followed by D Sqn (RAF) left to join RITA at BIR KHREIGAT 520347. The Sqn missed the rendezvous in the dark and went straight up to the frontier at KILO 42 where it eventually joined RITA. At 0605 hours the Sqn crossed the wire as an advance guard to RITA and made for UMM MAALIF 486385 and then turned North to the Troads at Pt. 211 486393. At 0645 hours 1Tp was sent out to the high ground in area 502377 and 3Tp was sent to the high ground in area 497381 to report any movement. These two Troops moved along the high ground parallel with the Column.



	At 0745 hours 3Tp reported movement on the TRIGH CAPPUZO, West of SIDI AZEIZ which turned out to be our own troops. At 0750 hours just before reaching Pt. 211 the column was heavily attacked by enemy bombers and fighters. At 0808 hours the Sqn arrived at Pt. 211 and SHQ, 2Tp and 4Tp took up positions 2 miles NE of the T roads. At 0830 hours 3Tp took up a position at 495395 to watch for any movement from SIDI AZEIZ to the West. 1Tp was sent to 495380 to watch for any southern movement from SIDI AZEIZ also any movement from the East. Patrols reported No movement seen during the day but the whole Sqn was bombed continuously throughout the day without casualties. At 1730 hours the Sqn moved to BIR MICKAIL where the night was spent. At 2000 hours 1Tp returned to SHQ and 3Tp was ordered back but failed to get in to SHQ until early next morning. The Sqn spent a peaceful night. B Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0030 hours and after marching all night, crossed the frontier wire and reached TRIGH CAPPUZO by daylight. The force was spotted in the early morning by an enemy recon plane and by 0900 hours C Sqn were heavily engaged by 12 fighters, some B Sqn cars were also attacked. After crossing the CAPPUZO road, 1Tp 2Lt Cunningham had been sent 2 miles West down the road while 4Tp Sgt Matheson went 2 miles to the East. 1Tp was bombed. At 1000 hours these two Troops were recalled. At about 0945 hours 2 further patrols were sent out. 3Tp Sgt Cameron was sent West down the escarpment which he crossed at 473403 and proceeded northward to the second escarpment. 2Tp Sgt McCarthy went to Pt. 220 at 492403. Both these patrols returned at dusk, Sgt Cameron having been pestered by air all day. These patrols did not see anything of note all day. SHQ was troubled by rear machine gunning from enemy bombers throughout the day. RHQ. During the fighter attack on C Sqn at approx 0930 hours the Sqn was halted as the CO's AC had broken a front spring which was being changed by the driver LCpl Lee and QMS White. The CO accompanied by Lt Col Wilson (commanding the guns attached to Combe Force) had gone forward in his Ford utility and had just reached C Sqn when the fighter attack started. The CO, Colonel Wilson and the driver Tpr Field just managed to get clear of the car and they all lay on the ground which was singularly free of cover. The Ford was machine gunned and many hits were registered. The Colonel's suitcase was riddled with bullets and a brand new pair of silk pyjamas looked more like a sieve than anything else when the Colonel went to put them on that night. RHQ could see the attack on C Sqn quite plainly and the handling of the CR42's despite the very heavy SA fire, was very impressive. RHQ itself was not neglected by the enemy air, although only 2 fighters attacked once. The bombers were very persistent and one or two of their 'sticks' were dropped in amongst the Sqn. LCpl Lee and QMS White carried on with their work during continuous bombing attacks. The Sqn was also machine gunned by the rear gunners of the bombers. It is doubtful whether RHQ has ever expended so much ammunition before. The Bren gun had a real 'workout'. Lt Grant Thorold (who was doing Adjutant as Capt Wainman was away ill) manned the gun on the CO's car and Lt Robarts (OC RHQ) manned the gun on the Rear Link car. There was a certain amount of 'jealous shooting', (the cars were quite near each other), and Lt Grant Thorold in claiming a hit on one plane stated that he saw his tracer bullets go in the nose of the plane and come out of the tail. There were no casualties although the raids were continuous during the day.
15/12/40	C Sqn. At 0600 hours Sqn concentrated at 48323991 and remained there all day – NTR. A Sqn. At 0610 3Tp arrived back at SHQ. At 0800 hours a column of enemy MET was reported at 483388 moving NW. the Sqn was ordered to proceed West along the TRIGH CAPPUZO and to intercept and delay it so that tanks could be brought into action. 2Tp and 4Tp proceeded to do this task at 0805 hours. At 0810 hours 1Tp also set out on the same route and at 0815 hours SHQ started for the same job. At 0820 hours the column turned out to be camels so the orders were cancelled. 4Tp was then ordered to take up a position of observation where the TRIGH crosses the 475 Grid line. 2Tp was ordered to proceed to the Troad at Pt. 167 to see if the position was occupied and then proceed North to investigate GAMBUT and 2 miles South of the BARDIA – TOBRUK road. A report on the road was also required.



	At 1004 hours this Tp was heavily bombed but suffered no casualties. At 1045 hours 2Tp reported No movement seen area Pt. 167 but that GAMBUT appeared to be strongly held. This Tp then proceeded due South to get better observation of Pt. 167. At 1204 hours 4Tp reported that what appeared to be canvas hangars and planes appeared to fly low over the ridge and land on this ground. The location of this landing ground was given as Pt. 199 469399. On receipt of this information two Troops of 7th Hussars were sent to attack it. At 1230 hours 2Tp reported 8 MET on ridge 176 2 miles to the NE of Pt. 167 but at 1235 hours reported now clear of enemy. At 1440 hours 2Tp reported a landing ground 2 miles due South of GAMBUT with 11 planes on the ground, one of which was in flames. They also reported a camp to the East behind a ridge with some MET moving between it and the landing ground. At 1444 hours the two 7th Hussars Troops arrived at 4Tp and attacked the landing ground reported by 4Tp at Pt. 199 but found it unoccupied. At 1500 hours 3Tp was attacked by 3 fighters who drove the Tp to the South. The attack lasted for about 15 minutes and punctured 3 tyres on the RRAC and bent the steering. The Tp Ldr was ordered to take off the crew and return to the East which he did. During this attack 4Tp saw 30 enemy fighters circling the area, some of which attacked the 7th Hussars after they had left the landing ground. At 1600 hours 2Tp fetched up with 4Tp where they borrowed a run-flat tyre as theirs was punctured and left LCpl Seaman to go up with 4Tp to recover the RRAC. At 1700 hours 4Tp set out on this task but failed to find the car and after searching the area for some time they returned to SHQ. 2Tp returned at 1830 hours and 4Tp at 1930 hours. As another RRAC had to be evacuated, the Sqn was left with SHQ and 3 Troops. B Sqn. Only two patrols were sent out today, 2Tp Sgt McCarthy to his original position at Pt. 212 and 4Tp Sgt Matheson to Pt. 217. These went out at first light and remained out during the day. Between them they reported and pin-pricked a camp and aerodrome at 506401. The aerodrome had six machines on it and the adjacent camp appeared to be occupied by a few men. Sgt Matheson also reported lines of deserted vehicles totalling 30 between the road and the escarpment at 407399. Patrols returned at dusk. RHQ. Moved forward slightly to 48504000 and established by an old dry cistern with a large tree growing from it which gave quite good cover and the cistern itself was useful as a shelter from air attacks. We were again bombed and machine gunned from the air at intervals during the day but the attacks were not on such a large scale as the previous day. No casualties. The wounded Italians shot up by the 2nd RTR was brought in and attended to by Capt Justice one was dead on arrival and was buried that evening.
16/12/40	C Sqn. At 0620 hours Sqn received a warning order to move and at 0820 hours moved back towards the frontier and arrived in the area BIR KHREIGAT at 1330 hours and remained there for the day. A Sqn. At 0600 hours 1Tp was sent out to recce the landing ground South of GAMBUT but at 0700 hours the patrol was cancelled and the Tp returned to SHQ. At 0715 hours 3Tp was sent as a standing patrol to the position 4Tp was at on the 15th. At 0800 hours orders were received for the whole Sqn to proceed to Kilo 42 and the Sqn arrived at 1330 hours at concentration area 517346 where it remained for the rest of the day. B Sqn. It was decided that one troop could do the observation of the main road and therefore 4Tp Sgt Matheson proceeded at first light to Pt. 217 and remained in observation but saw nothing. At 0800 hours a warning order was received for the Regt to return across the frontier and at 1000 hours the Sqn moved and crossed the wire at Kilo 41. At this time orders were received for B Sqn to come under the orders of 7th Armd Bde and to return to the position they had vacated. Capt Lawson proceeded to see Brigadier Russell at Bde HQ and was informed that the Corps commander had stated that observation on the BARDIA – TOBRUK road was essential. It was therefore arranged that the 3rd Hussars should carry out this role until the following day, to allow the Sqn to reorganise. Major Miller visited the Sqn having returned unexpectedly from down the line and he also visited Bde HQ. It was thought that the men and vehs needed a day or two for rest and maintenance and to



	re-cross the frontier and retrace their steps would test the men and vehicles a good deal. The Sqn rested during the afternoon and replenished. The night was spent at QARET ABU FARIS. Sgt Rich took over Sgt McCarthy's Tp and as 2Lt Cunningham had to have a tooth out at the MDS Cpl Whitaker took over Cunningham's Tp during his absence. RHQ. The Sqn moved back to the Regt concentration area without incident except two large formations of enemy bombers and fighters twice flew directly overhead but fortunately they had deposited their loads elsewhere and were not interested.
17/12/40	C Sqn. Sqn remained in same area. NTR. A Sqn. Spent the day reorganising the Sqn and now had four Troops of 2 cars each with 3 cars in SHQ. B Sqn. According to the orders received on the 16th the Sqn now came under command 7th Armd Bde and proceeded to carry out the task allotted. At 0930 hours SHQ and one Tp crossed the frontier and proceeded to Bde HQ who had moved the previous night. From there they proceeded to BIRUAZEN from which place 4Tp Sgt Matheson was sent on to relieve patrol of 6th RTR and gain observation on the BARDIA – TOBRUK road. He reported that the Royal Navy was shelling the road and that MENASTIR aerodrome was being bombed. At 1630 the other three Troops under Sgt Rich joined SHQ at BIRUALEN a representative of the Sqn was ordered to meet a representative of 7th Armd Bde at 1845 hours at the SIDI AZEIZ cross track. 2Lt Halliday proceeded there and received fresh orders. The 6th RTR were to sit astride the BARDIA – TOBRUK road in the area cross tracks 481411 with the 8th Hussars in close proximity, also a Bty of RHA. B Sqn task was to maintain a patrol at Pt. 217 497402 during the day and to be responsible for protection from the West. The Sqn leaguered at BIRUAZEN 491389 and during the night the 8th Hussars and a Bty of guns passed through.
18/12/40	C & A Sqn same positions NTR. B Sqn. 4Tp Sgt Matheson remained at Pt. 217 throughout the night and at 0700 hours the Sqn moved to 491387 where they were joined by the Echelon. From there the Sqn moved to Pt. 215 483388. The task of the Sqn was then changed by 7th Armd Bde and the Sqn merely became responsible for protection from the West. 4Tp was ordered to rejoin the Sqn and two patrols were sent out to the West. 1Tp was sent to area Pt. 204 and 4Tp to area BIRELSUFAM 475391. No movement seen during the day and at dusk the patrols returned to Sqn leaguer at 483388.
19/12/40	C Sqn. At 1330 hours the Sqn moved to area Pt. 211 on the TRIGH CAPPUZO and then North to top of southern escarpment where the Sqn arrived at 1800 hours and remained until 0330 hours on the 20th. A Sqn. Sqn replenished at 1100 hours and moved at 1400 hours back across the wire to area Pt. 211 arriving at 1700 hours. The Sqn was then ordered to proceed due North up the track until meeting RHQ and C Sqn. The Sqn joined RHQ and C Sqn at 1830 hours. At about the same time as joining RHQ the fitters lorry caught fire but it was soon put out and the LAD got it on the road again in an hour. Sqn remained in this position for the night. B Sqn. At first light 1Tp and 4Tp returned to their respective areas of yesterday and again reported No movement seen during the day. At 1100 hours it was learned that the Sqn was to be relieved by D Sqn (RAF) at approx 1500 hours. At that time however we heard that we were not to return across the frontier as the Regt was moving up again. D Sqn arrived at 1930 hours and took over our patrols which had already been called in for the night. At 2030 hours we received orders to move the next morning to rejoin the Regt. Sgt Rich went back with the Echelon with a broken down MRAC.



	RHQ. After replenishing the Sqn moved off with C Sqn to a position approx 7 miles due North of Pt. 211, passing the cistern known as the 'Bomb Hole' which had stood in good stead on Dec 15th. SSM Hudson's MRAC broke a spring which was changed in the dark. It was a bitterly cold night.
20/12/40	C Sqn. At 0330 hours Sqn moved to X tracks area 481411 and then moved to area MARSA LUCCH less Sgt Scrivener 3Tp who moved East to Pt. 96 490410. This patrol broke down when it reached Pt. 126 and was relieved by 1Tp Sgt Lamb who in turn also broke down. The remainder of the Sqn arrived MARSA LUCCH area at 0610 hours and surrounded some buildings and captured 3 Italians and 3 Libyans. There was a wireless set and a telescope in the building, also some sailors caps. The building consisted of a large white main building with some out-buildings to the West. There were 8 horses in the outbuildings and the 3 Libyans were left to look after them. A large sack of sugar and some tins of tomatoes were also found (and taken) with a good deal of pleasure. Three machine guns and 12 sabres were destroyed. (See below). SHQ took up a position at 0700 hours in a wadi at 48784241. 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp searched the outbuildings while 2Lt Winlove 4Tp moved East along the coast road and at 1059 hours captured a light car and 4 Italians with a W/T set at 49404200. 2Lt Crankshaw was sent to recce the WADI EL DIN 488420 and at 1127 hours reported 1 enemy light tank abandoned at 49004227. He also found an old camp in that area and also in the WADI LUCCH 488423. He continued his recce of WADI EL DIN which he considered was a tank obstacle from the sea at 49154243 to 48854180 which is as far as he went before returning to the MARSA LUCCH area. At 1115 hours 2Lt Winlove proceeded East along the coast road to track junc 504417 where one of his RRAC seized up. Patrol continued South but the track petered out after 1½ miles and the patrol returned to the junc and took the seized RRAC on tow and started back for SHQ. After getting as far as 494421, a wadi was found impossible to get the car out and the LAD was asked for assistance. At 1730 hours however the Tp managed to get the car out of the wadi and arrived back at SHQ at 2100 hours. At 1019 hours Sgt Lamb 1Tp who had taken over from Sgt Scrivener on eastern patrol reported he was at track junc 502401 and could see some MET South of the road at 505400. He was then ordered to move NE from 495404 and endeavour to get across to the track running North/South between 503 and 504 Grid lines. This patrol moved a short way and then had a bad petrol stoppage so Sgt Scrivener, who by this time had been repaired, set out to do it but broke a dowel pin at Pt. 118 491407. He mended this and withdrew to SHQ at 1600 hours. At 1345 hours Sgt Lamb who had fixed his petrol stoppage, proceeded on recce East and NE one so called 'deserter' from ASMUT camp was sent back to SHQ by Sgt Scrivener. At 1550 hours Sgt Lamb reached Pt. 122 and reported that the track running North/South was good and well worn. He could see MENASTIR camp and also vehicles on the escarpment to the South of it. At 1615 hours Sgt Lamb withdrew to Pt. 118 and remained for the night at track junc Pt. 96 490410. 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp blocked the coast road during the night from Pt. 20. No movement seen. Rain had fallen heavily in the evening and the going was very soft in places. A Sqn. At 0345 hours 1Tp was ordered to remain behind C Sqn to do a recce to the West along the BARDIA – TOBRUK road as far as GAMBUT to find out if it was held by the enemy. The remainder of the Sqn with 3Tp leading, left at 0400 hours and proceeded North up the track to the main road and then carried on North up the track leading to 478425. The task of this Tp was to report on the track going North and to the ground on the East also. On reaching the coast it was to recce the track running to the West to see if it was suitable for MT traffic. SHQ proceeded to 476417. During the march the Sqn Ldr's car broke a back axle and had to be left so he changed into a car belonging to 2Tp thus losing a Tp. At 0630 hours the MRAC of 1Tp ran into the back of his RRAC while going West on the main road and ruined the front axle. 4Tp was sent out to take over from 1Tp and the LAD recovered the MRAC with the damaged axle. This left the SSM with only two Troops. At 0800 hours 3Tp reported he had reached the coast and was proceeding West along the coastal track, also that he had collected about 10 Libyan soldiers, some armed, who were obviously deserters. At this time SHQ had established themselves in a big wadi and had bought a lot of eggs from Bedouin and enjoyed a fine breakfast. At 0830 hours 4Tp reported that they were in possession of the Colonel's house at GAMBUT which



	showed signs of recent occupation and was fully furnished, with all his wife's (?) clothes left behind. The Tp remained there in observation to the West. At 1100 hours 3Tp reported they had been 10 miles West along the coast track and had returned to 478425 where they had met the CO. the Tp remained in this position for the rest of the day. At 1430 hours 4Tp were ordered to go into GAMBUT which they did and found it deserted. It showed signs of having been hastily evacuated as there was a lot of clothing etc left behind. The landing ground was a large one and there were 5 large bombers burnt out on it. The Tp remained in observation. At 1730 hours SHQ moved to 480415 for the night and 3Tp was recalled. 1Tp had by this time had his MRAC repaired and had rejoined SHQ. 4Tp was ordered to block the main road just to the East of GAMBUT and to move into position after dark. When 3Tp returned to SHQ they brought back with them a Fiat pick up in perfect working order which was found abandoned. B Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0615 hours and proceeded to HAQFETEL CARMUS 484399 and then received orders to join LAD and B1 Echelon at ???408. on arrival it was found that the SHQ MARC forward link would have to be evacuated which left the Sqn with SHQ and two Troops. The day was spent in maintenance and rest and all ranks shaved for the first time in 10 days. RHQ were situated North of the BARDIA – TOBRUK road and C & A Sqn were operating in that area. At 1600 hours 3Tp Sgt Cameron was sent to block the main road at 486410 for the night. A MRAC arrived with the Echelon which gave the Sqn 3 troops again. 2Lt Cunningham also arrived with the Echelon. Sqn concentrated for the night with the LAD at 482408. Appendix 1 The Garrison of MARSALUCCH was taken at 0615 hours on 20.12.40 by 4 & 5Tp and SHQ of C Sqn. No resistance was put up by the enemy, the majority of whom managed to escape by the sand dunes NW of the building. Three Italians and three Libyans were captured, also 3 machine guns and some rifles, and a quantity of stores etc, including a powerful pair of binoculars. It is estimated that the garrison was approx 25 strong consisting of Italian soldiers, Libyans and Marines. The building is a large 3 storied white square building with a square tower. There are some outbuildings which contained 8 horses and some hay and grain. The garrison was surmised to be a Coast Guard station, as a quantity of navigation and signalling equipment was found in the tower along with flags and a flagpole for hoisting same on. A quantity of stores – tea, sugar and flour was found and sent back to RHQ. Equipment Captured. 1 light tank (abandoned) at 49004227. 3 machine guns, 1 wireless set (small), 1 telescope, - in buildings 3 Libyans, 3 Italians, 1 wireless set and light car (Fiat) at 49404200 and 4 Italian soldiers.
21/12/40	C Sqn. 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp remained in area Pt. 20 488424 all day. No movement seen Sgt Lamb 1Tp was withdrawn from Pt. 96. At 0800 hours Sgt Scrivener 3Tp took up a position of observation at Pt. 82 485417 and remained there all day – No movement seen. At 1100 hours Major Payne Gallway the Sqn Ldr did a recce along the coast track to 49084235. The going was very wet and soft and the track was under water at this point. At 1715 hours 2Lt Wenlove 4Tp relieved Crankshaw at MARSALUCCH. At 1800 hours 3Tp withdrew and 4Tp remained at MARSALUCCH. No movement seen all day. A Sqn. At 0130 hours Capt Roberts arrived with the Echelon to take over the Sqn. At 0615 hours SHQ moved to day position at 476417 and 3Tp left to take over from 4Tp at GAMBUT. At 0815 hours 3Tp commenced recce of track at 465414 to see if it was possible for enemy MET to advance from coast track. At 1135 hours 3Tp reported wadi impassable around track and at 1307 hours 3Tp moved to Pt. 96 at 46704181 and took up a position of observation to the West. They moved to GAMBUT aerodrome at 1500 hours.



	At 1745 hours 3Tp moved to the Colonels house on the main BARDIA – TOBRUK road for the night. No movement seen all day. B Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Cameron moved from his night position at 486410 to the 500 Grid line and took up observation on the escarpment overlooking the main road and MENASTIR camp. He remained there until the evening and saw only slight movement in the area. At 1530 hours 1Tp 2Lt Cunningham left to do a recce of the track running North from the main road at 502402 and went along it as far as 503409. He reported No movement seen and that the track was bad and that the wadi to the West was passable in places to MT. This Tp spent the night at 486410 and 3Tp returned to SHQ. Sgt Cameron placed the camp and MENASTIR aerodrome at 510401 and reported another vehicle park at 409399 but no movement was seen in the latter and very little in the aerodrome camp. Sqn leaguered (less 1Tp) at 481408, LAD and B1 Echelon (RHQ) with them.
22/12/40	C Sqn. At 0615 Sgt Lamb 1Tp proceeded to Pt. 82 and remained there all day. 2Lt Wenlove 4Tp remained at MARSA LUCCH all day and reported the coast road impassable owing to deep water at 49154238. At 0800 hours the Sqn Ldr reced the coast track as far as 49154238 accompanied by the CO of the 60th Rifles - no movement seen all day. A Sqn. At 0615 hours 1Tp relieved 3Tp at GAMBUT. At 1200 hours Sqn Ldr accompanied the CO on a visit to GAMBUT aerodrome and returned at 1500 hours. No movement seen all day. B Sqn. At first light 1Tp moved to point of observation on escarpment at 500401. His impression of the camp areas were as follows. The aerodrome camp at 509402 with observation ladder in centre and landing ground running SW to road. Vehicle park South of the road at 510398 (18 vehicles), no sign of any man or movement. 2 planes on the landing ground. At 513399 approx 500 or 600 men in lines standing in groups of 5 or 6 apparently doing nothing. Little movement seen all day but large clouds of dust moving North to South behind the aerodrome camp. At 1400 hours Sgt Holland 4Tp left to proceed further East down the main road (with 1Tp still in observation) in order to give more details of enemy position. At 1430 hours however the orders were changed as large MET concentration was reported from the air at 510409 and Holland was sent to verify this. While proceeding on this task he saw 2 enemy DRs at 504400 observing the road. On being fired at they disappeared. This Tp then proceeded North to 505407 and was held up by a wadi and had to return. They saw no sign of movement in the aerodrome camp but were not fired at. 1Tp and 3Tp met on the main road and returned to SHQ as the Rifle Bde were astride the main road at 494405 and a night patrol was no longer required. The Sqn leaguered in the same position as the previous night. The Echelon arrived at 2130 hours which was the earliest arrival since the 'push' started. Sgt Rich with 1 MRAC and 1 RRAC rejoined the Sqn.
23/12/40	C Sqn. At 0715 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp proceeded on a recce along the coast road with a platoon of the 60th Rifles attached. He reached track junction at 509419 and got his MRAC badly stuck and did not get out until 0130 hours on the 24th. He made a recce on foot to BIRAGHILA and found the BIR empty. There were two stone Bedouin buildings there – no movement seen. A Sqn. At 0615 hours 4Tp took over GAMBUT patrol from 1Tp – no movement seen. B Sqn. 4Tp observing from the escarpment reported no movement seen all day. 3Tp Sgt Cameron did a recce from Pt. 127 on the main road to Pt. 185 reporting on the going and the wadi to the East and West. One of his cars had clutch trouble and later, returning along the main road, ran off it (the road at this point was on a high embankment). 4Tp therefore returned to



	the leaguer area while 3Tp spent the night on the road as Sgt Cameron reported that the LAD would be required to get his RRAC back on the road. Another Tp arrived with the Echelon with Sgt Matheson.
24/12/40	C Sqn. At 0800 hours 2Lt Crankshaw returned from his recce, all his men very wet and tired. At 1030 hours Sqn moved to area Pt. 114 481415. At 1310 hours Sgt Scrivener 3Tp proceeded to 500402 to take over B Sqn patrol, arriving at 1415 hours. At 1600 hours Scrivener reported a Watch Tower and camp with 19 stationary MET facing NW at 511397. There was little movement in this camp and single lorries moved in and out from the NE. Scrivener thought they came from a camp at 511402. At 1645 hours Scrivener was withdrawn to SHQ. A Sqn. At 0615 hours 2Tp Lt Friend moved out to recce tracks at 459416. 4Tp remained in GAMBUT position. At 1205 hours 2Tp reported having captured 8 Italian Naval ORs and a signal station 1 mile to the South of the track he was investigating. He reported that the tracks were good but the ground on either side was bad. At 1220 hours the prisoners were taken to the colonel's house at GAMBUT where they were collected by 4Tp. 2Tp then went back to destroy the equipment at the signal station also to investigate a lighthouse which they had seen approx 4 miles to the NW of the station. At 1240 hours they reported an unidentified destroyer manoeuvring out to sea near the lighthouse. At 1500 hours 4Tp left GAMBUT with the prisoners and on the way back picked up 9 men of the RHA who had lost their vehicle through enemy air action. At 1630 hours 2Tp reported that the lighthouse was the same sort of place as the signal station that they had captured. The lighthouse was deserted the personnel having got away in a small rowing boat. There was also a good harbour and landing ground. At 1700 hours 4Tp arrived at RHQ and left the prisoners and documents and then returned to SHQ. At 1715 hours 2Tp returned to GAMBUT for the night. B Sqn. 2Tp proceeded as usual to 500401. 3Tp returned from LAD to the Sqn at about 0830 hours. 2Tp reported the following movements during the day: at 0929 hours 10 MET on aerodrome and shells falling to the SE of the aerodrome. 1110 hours a ship moving West from BARDIA. At 1100 hours Capt Lawson went to see the CO and received orders to the effect that the Sqn was again to be under command of 7th Armd Bde and was to relieve D Sqn (RAF). Therefore at 1430 hours the Sqn began to move by Troops, at 15 min intervals, Tp area 481391. 2Tp was relieved by C Sqn and before leaving reported 19 MET halted and facing North at 509401 and another 10 moving North on track on 510 Grid. All troops were in the new area by 1800 hours and the Sqn took over from D Sqn.
25/12/40	C Sqn. At 0600 hours Christmas Greetings were sent to RHQ and other Sqns over the wireless. At 0630 hours Sgt Scrivener 3Tp proceeded on patrol to 500402 where he remained all day and withdrew at 1645 hours. No movement seen all day. The rest of the Sqn remained at Pt. 114. The officers dined with the CO and Officers of RHQ who provided a most excellent dinner with plenty of good cheer. A Sqn. 3Tp 2Lt Spickemell left to carry out recce of road 20 miles to the West of GAMBUT 481423. at 0750 hours they reported they were 2 miles short of their objective and had discovered a road-block with a large column of 20 M11 tanks and 50 large lorries well spread out in air dispersion. He also captured 3 prisoners who were apparently on guard 30 yards in front of the barrier. The Tp then retired towards GAMBUT and in doing so the MARC broke a shackle pin. At 1045 hours 2Tp sent out one car to meet some staff officers who were inspecting the aerodrome at GAMBUT. At 1145 hours the staff officers arrived and at 1150 hours 3Tp arrived at GAMBUT having repaired the MARC. At 1200 hours 3Tp reported that they were being attacked by two enemy fighters and that Cpl



	Bailey was slightly wounded in the head. At 1212 hours 2Tp reported that Tpr Firth had been badly wounded in the foot and that their MRAC had been put out of action. Tpr Firth was sent to the ADS in a staff car. At 1225 hours 2Tp left GAMBUT with Cpl Bailey the MRAC being towed by a RRAC. At 1240 hours 4Tp left for GAMBUT to relieve 3Tp and at 1340 hours reported that they had run a big-end on their MRAC therefore 3Tp were ordered to remain at GAMBUT and 4Tp transferred both their RRACs to 3Tp. At 1500 hours 4Tp MRAC was collected by LAD and at 1505 hours 3Tp RRAC brought the three prisoners in to SHQ. The Echelon arrived at 1930 hours and left again with the prisoners at 2100 hours. B Sqn. Sqn was concentrated in area 480389. On the evening of 24th orders were received from 7th Arm'd Bde for a special recce to EL ADEM 409410 to verify an air report that this place was NOT occupied by the enemy. 1Tp 2Lt Cunningham left at 0400 hours to carry out this recce but 0545 hours he was stopped owing to a broken sump plate after covering 16 miles. 4Tp Sgt Holland left at 0615 hours to take over the task of 1Tp and reached EL ADEM aerodrome at 1015 hours without meeting any opposition. Eight M/C were seen in the aerodrome area but retired after being fired at. 1Tp remained at 456403 as a link between 4Tp and SHQ. 4Tp having completed their recce returned to wadi in SIDI RESEGH area 429406 where they hid until the evening. Enemy planes flew over them twice but failed to find them. 1Tp did a recce of the escarpment North of TRIGH CAPPUZO during the afternoon. At 2000 hours 1Tp returned to SHQ having visited 4Tp. 4Tp left SIDI RESEGH at 1700 hours. Sgt Holland reported enemy sangars in area 439404, 420408 and 417408 as well as those around EL ADEM itself. Five burnt out planes were on the aerodrome and two recce planes were undamaged except for punctured tyres. One store room in the wireless building had been burnt out but five other buildings appeared to be intact. All Troops leaguered with SHQ and Capt Arkwright arrived from Cairo bringing with him some more than welcome Christmas Fare. He took over 2i/c from 2Lt Halliday. RHQ. Christmas day was identical with any other day for RHQ except that the officers from C Sqn dined with RHQ. LCpl Samsum the Mess Cook produced a really excellent dinner including chicken (it had undoubtedly led a very energetic life but nevertheless was very good) which was followed by Xmas pudding of his own making, Brandy Crème de Menthe and cigars. Songs were sung and the Colonel made a short speech which was much appreciated by the officers present. The evening was a great success.
26/12/40	C Sqn. At 0630 hours Sgt Lamb 1Tp proceeded to eastern patrol at 500402. No movement seen all day and he withdrew at 1645 hours. A Sqn. The Sqn now only had two Troops. At 0530 hours 1Tp left for GAMBUT to relieve 3Tp, which returned to SHQ at 0800 hours. The CO visited the Sqn at 1500 hours. At 1745 hours the Sqn Ldr Capt Robarts and the SSM left to visit 1Tp at GAMBUT, in the Ford, and to give orders with regard to a recce of the road for gun positions to enable the gunners to carry out a harassing shoot on the force previously reported by 3Tp on the 25th. At 1900 hours the Echelon arrived with extra food for Xmas. The Sqn Ldr returned at 1945 hours. B Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Cameron proceeded to a position North of the road on the 460 Grid line. While on the way he found a RRAC belonging to A Sqn at 465398. As the car was considered moveable the LAD was asked for and on arrival, with 5Tp as escort proceeded to bring it in during the afternoon 3Tp patrolled as far as the 450 Grid line and reported no movement seen. Sqn concentrated at 2030 hours.
27/12/40	C Sqn. At 0630 hours 2Lt Wenlove 4Tp proceeded on eastern patrol 500402. At 0730 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp proceeded on a recce to track running North/South along 504 Grid line. Patrol went as far North as SYABD EL GADER Fort 503416 and returned at 1440 hours. 2Lt Wenlove on eastern patrol saw approx 100 men in area 512399 otherwise no movement seen.



	Patrol withdrew at 1645 hours. A Sqn. At 0445 hours 1Tp left GAMBUT with a party of RHA to carry out recce. At 0600 hours 3Tp left for GAMBUT to take over from 1Tp. At 0830 hours 1Tp returned to SHQ and Sgt Hutchinson reported that the recce had not been very successful and that they had seen 15 vehicles spread out in a wadi to the North of the road. At 1245 hours the CO visited the Sqn and left at 1320 hours. At 1730 hours 3Tp left GAMBUT to destroy an enemy fighter which had forced landed approx 4 miles West of the Colonel's House. This plane was destroyed by fire. It was a CR42 mounting two .7 machine guns and the belts were loaded with incendiary, explosive and AP bullets. At 1800 hours D Sqn (RAF) took over the patrol at GAMBUT. The Echelon arrived at 2000 hours and left at 2100 hours. B Sqn. As patrols in the North were being sent as far West as 424 Grid line a dawn patrol was sent as far West as the 430 Grid line. 5Tp and 2Tp carried out this patrol, 2Tp acting as a link in the area of the 445 Grid line. After proceeding for 21 miles West the RRAC of 5Tp punctured its sump and petrol tank and then 2Tp took over the task. The patrol went to area 428406 and were in position there at 0750 hours. At 1000 hours they reported that the situation was normal and that they were about to retire. Meanwhile 5Tp reported that his MRAC was having bad petrol stoppages and 4Tp was sent out to bring him in. 4Tp brought 5Tp to the 470 Grid and then proceeded West to maintain the normal patrol on the 460 Grid. At 1030 hours he reported that the Tp was being attacked from the air and at 1055 hours reported that one man was wounded and the RRAC out of action. 3Tp was therefore ordered to take over from 4Tp and 1Tp was sent with Sqn fitter to 5Tp and to assist 4Tp. Tpr Webster who was seriously wounded was evacuated by the 3rd Hussars at 1115 hours. All this time there had been complete wireless silence from 2Tp. By 1440 hours 3Tp and 5Tp had returned to SHQ while 1Tp was in position in the area to the North of the road near the 460 Grid line. As nothing had been heard from 2Tp throughout the day 1Tp and 5Tp were ordered to proceed to a position on the TRIGH CAPPUZO near the 440 Grid line for the night in order to carry out a recce at first light in the hope of finding Sgt Rich and 2Tp. They were in the area of 441 Grid by 2335 hours where they spent the night. 3Tp and 4Tp were with RHQ.
28/12/40	C Sqn. At 0630 hours Sgt Scrivener 3Tp proceeded on eastern patrol no movement seen all day. Patrol withdrew at 1645 hours. A Sqn. Sqn now had three Troops as Lt Friend returned from LAD. At 0800 hours 3Tp returned from destroying the CR42 that had crash landed. The reported that this plane had been shot down and the pilot evidently wounded. The plane had been visited before as all valuable salvage had been removed. The Sqn were relieved for a short period by D Sqn (RAF). At 1000 hours 2Tp Lt Friend left to carry out a recce of the WADI SAHAT and the track bearing SW from it, 469418 – 468420 as 20 MET had been reported in that area. At 1130 hours Friend reported no movement seen and was ordered to return to SHQ which he did at 1730 hours. B Sqn. 1Tp moved to area 432407 arriving there at 0730 hours and at 0755 hours reported that they were being attacked by 2 enemy fighters. 5Tp was at Pt. 175 438404 the MRAC having broken a spring, the RRAC was on the TRIGH CAPPUZO at 439405. A Hurricane chased the enemy fighters away from 1Tp who seeing no sign of 2Tp started to retire. 1Tp passed 5Tp's car at Pt. 175. At 0900 hours 5Tp reported 3 enemy planes circling RESEGH and that his front spring was still being changed. After this message there was complete silence from 5Tp. Meanwhile 1Tp had reached the 470 Grid line and reported that a large column of enemy ground troops were moving towards EL ADEM from the North. This information had been dropped on him from the air. At 1130 hours 3Tp were sent to maintain the normal patrol on the 460 Grid. At 1330 hours they were attacked by 2 enemy fighters. In this action Tpr Sutton was killed, Sgt



	Cameron and Cpl Grayston wounded and a RRAC put out of action. One enemy fighter was shot down. The 3rd Hussars MO went to the aid of 3Tp and gave valuable assistance. 3Tp and 1Tp were called in at 1700 hours and SSM Kitchen and a MRAC from 4Tp went out to find and evacuate the 3Tp RRAC which they did and returned at 2030 hours. There was still no news from 2Tp or 5Tp. During the night the 3rd Hussars moved through the Sqn positions to the West, taking over the Sqn patrols and with orders to proceed as far as Pt. 175 at first light to see if our patrols were still there. At 2130 hours they reported they had found 2Lt Halliday, LCpl Stump, LCpl Rami and Tpr Frogg. 2Lt Halliday reported that he and his Tp had been attacked by 3 enemy fighters at 0915 hours and that he had considered it advisable that both crews should take cover in a blockhouse at Pt. 175 438404. During the attack his RRAC was set on fire and burnt out. His MRAC was still jacked up for changing the spring. After the air attack had ceased he saw 10 enemy M/Cs approaching from the West and decided to retire on foot and gave orders accordingly. He and his men left the blockhouse and started running towards the wadi to the East. The fighters were still circling overhead and it is thought that three men, after having run 2/3000 yards took cover on the ground, as after half an hour 2Lt Halliday had only LCpl Stump and Tpr Froggatt with him. They hid up during the day and walked East at night until they were picked up by the 3rd Hussars. LCpl Rami had walked East by himself and was also picked up. He reported having seen one man captured by the M/Cs. The names of the other three men missing from this patrol were LCpl Ramsell and Tprs Smith and Brown.
29/12/40	C Sqn. At 0630 hours Sgt Lamb 1Tp proceeded on the eastern patrol. At 1302 hours the patrol noticed that one of the 19 derelict MET had disappeared. At 1504 hours this patrol saw considerable dust between North and South camps and 3 M/Cs, 4 medium tanks and 3 lorries were seen moving West along the main road. At 1515 hours this party had reached the track junction at 502401 and at 1530 hours there were 8 medium tanks and 2 lorries North of the main road and 4 medium tanks and 11 light tanks South of the main road with 8 lorries. At 1535 hours this party retired East and at 1539 hours were on the 507 Grid line astride the road. At 1600 hours this party less 8 light tanks had disappeared from view. The 8 light tanks were 30 yards North of the road at 507400 and were trying to get into cover. No further movement was seen and the patrol withdrew at 1700 hours. A Sqn. Sqn in reserve, NTR. B Sqn. The Sqn now had only 7 cars including SHQ, and two of these were off the road. At 0645 hours 1Tp 2Lt Cunningham and the Ford Utility proceeded to 467398 to collect 2Lt Halliday and the three men from the 3rd Hussars. While they were with the 3rd Hussars they were attacked by enemy fighters but there were no casualties. The Sqn moved to 485388 and the day was spent in maintenance and rest. Tpr Sutton was buried on the night 28/29th Dec at 47703925. The 3rd Hussars patrolled as far West as Pt. 175 and only found the burnt out RRAC; there was no sign of the MRAC. Tac R reported that there were no signs of ACs in SIDI RESEGH area and therefore 2Tp was definitely "missing". The car crews of 2Tp were:-MRAC - Sgt Rich, Tpr Charman, LCpl Lowe and Tpr Wathen. RRAC - LCpl Evans, Tpr Crack and Tpr Fenn. It is presumed that this patrol was attacked by air and after being rendered immobile was captured by ground troops. Sgt Matheson came up with the Echelon to take over 3Tp. Brigadier Russell visited the Sqn at 1100 hours. [Transcriber's Note: Commonwealth War Graves Commission site was searched and it only lists Tpr Charman as being killed on 27th December and buried in Knightsbridge War Cemetery.]
30/12/40	C Sqn. At 0630 hours 2Lt Crankshaw proceeded on the eastern patrol. During the morning there was a certain amount of movement from both sides of the main road. At 0930 hours 3 lorries came into sight from WADI RAGHEB and disappeared behind the ridge on the 507 Grid. There were also 3 M/Cs and 1 staff car from the camp on the South side of the main road



	which made their way West to within 1 mile of the track junction at 502401, had a look around, then returned to South camp. At 1200 hours considerable movement was seen between the two camps North of the road. Approx 100 men were seen at one time and appeared to be walking in a northerly direction towards WADI RAGHEB. The patrol withdrew at 1700 hours. A Sqn. In reserve, NTR. Lt Turnbull went on leave, Lt Friend took over 2i/c. 2Lt Poston took over Lt Friend's Tp. B Sqn. 2Lt Halliday, LCpls Stump and Rami and Tpr Froggatt left to join B3 Echelon and 2Lt Halliday went on to Cairo. Orders were received from 7th Armd Bde to recce the area South of TRIGH CAPPUZO as far West as the 450 Grid line but owing to lack of Troops this task was given to another unit. Orders were received to rejoin the Regt on 31st Dec. a RRAC arrived with the Echelon and was allocated to 3Tp.
31/12/40	C Sqn. At 0650 hours 2Lt Wenlove 4Tp proceeded on the eastern patrol. At 1030 hours Sgt Scrivener 3Tp relieved 4Tp whose RRAC was required to replace the Sqn Ldr car. At 1700 hours the patrol withdrew. No movement seen during the day. A Sqn. In reserve NTR. 2Lt Poston evacuated sick. 2Lt Clarke took over 2Tp. B Sqn. NTR. At 1630 hours Sqn moved to 485483 1 mile East of GABR BZEI and came under command of the Regt again and was in reserve.

Activities of A Sqn from Dec 9th – 16th 1940.

On Monday December 9th A Sqn came under command of HQ Support Group. Three patrols were sent out to watch the Rabia and Sofafi camps, out task being to observe either an early evacuation of these camps or an attempt by them to reinforce the Nibeiwa or Tummar camps.

SHQ and reserve Troops moved to 586337. At 0830 hours a Blenheim bomber was shot down by a CR42 near SHQ, one of the crew being saved although wounded. During the morning a column of 15 MET left the Gabr Mahdi camp and lined up facing West from Sofafi East.

There was a certain amount of internal activity between the camps but not until dusk did any major movement become apparent, when lorries started leaving East, in pairs, for the West.

Our patrols were constantly under shellfire that day, and, after a recce by the Sqn Ldr and Major Turnbull of the RHA, our guns came up during the night and engaged the enemy batteries, leaving in the early hours of the 10th of December.

December 10th was a quiet day, the enemy camps still occupied, but the shelling had died down to one gun in Sofafi East and our own battery work was very accurate. SHQ moved up to Pt. 226 577324. In the afternoon visibility was very poor owing to a sandstorm.

December 11th at 0710 hours A Sqn moved to harass the enemy on their line of withdrawal from the Sofafi camp to Halfway House. The Hamra – Sofafi track was crossed at 0900 hours 3 miles SW of Habata.

At 1130 hours we were attacked by 9 enemy fighters at 549331. These planes did not have armour piercing bullets and only one RRAC was unluckily hit in the petrol tank. The Sqn Ldr was slightly wounded in the head.

The Sqn moved but was attacked by 12 fighters equipped with .45 explosive bullets. This was a much more damaging attack. Four ACs were put out of action and several casualties to personnel were incurred, including the Sqn Ldr, Capt DPJ Lloyd, TSM Clarke and 3 other NCOs. The Sqn withdrew to Haqfet Ramadan to reorganise and get more tyres, many of which had been punctured.

December 12th A Sqn came under orders of HQ 4th Armd Bde but it was not until 1200 hours, owing to lack of tyres, that two Troops were able to get away to KHRIGAT area to take up our role, which we shared with the RAF Sqn as advance guard to 4th Armd Bde.

At 1700 hours SHQ and reserve Troop arrived at Khreigat area where we were joined at dusk by 3Tp, who, during the afternoon had reced and reported Sdi Omar strongly held.

One Troop which had been observing Halfway House (still occupied) was sent to observe Halfaya. The RAF Sqn who were operating in the Sheferzen area, had one patrol out that night, the remainder leaguering at Khreigat.

Our task for 13th December was to watch and locate an enemy column trying to escape along the escarpment, between Halfway House and Halfaya camp. At 1047 hours 3Tp reported a camp at 52013500 and 60 MET at 52533677, with 6 large guns. By 1230 hours the area was reported clear and 7 prisoners captured.



4Tp remained in observation of Halfaya and reported at 1605 hours, the crashing of a Hurricane and the death of its pilot. At 2000 hours the Sqn with the RAF Sqn were ordered to act as advance guard to Birks Force.

Saturday December 14th at 0130 hours we met Birks Force at post 42 on the frontier. On the march, via Umm Maalif, to Pt. 211 486393, the Sqn did advance and right flank guard, with RAF Sqn on left flank. At about 0900 hours the column was heavily attacked, but without effect, just South of Pt. 211 by enemy bomber and fighter aircraft.

Our task for the day was to watch Sidi Azeiz for any enemy movement South or West. No movement seen but the Sqn was considerably hampered by hostile air activity. During the afternoon the Sqn came under command of the Regt. At 1730 hours Sqn leaguered at Bir Mikail.

On December 15th the Sqn supplied 2 patrols, one watched the Trigh Cappuzo from 475 Grid line, and the other was ordered to report on the Troad at Pt. 127 leading North to Gambut and the landing ground in the vicinity.

At 1145 hours no movement seen was reported in area Pt. 167 but Gambut appeared to be well held. The patrol worked round to the South to get closer observation on Pt. 167. At 1204 hours another patrol reported a landing ground and hangars at Pt. 199 469399, to which two Troops of the 7th Hussars light tanks were dispatched.

At 1440 hours a landing ground was reported 2 miles South of Gambut, with 11 planes on the ground and one burning. Further East, a camp with a few MET moving between it and the landing ground. The 7th Hussars at 1444 hours, found the landing ground unoccupied, and it was obvious that the information had been incorrect.

At about 1500 hours the Gambut patrol was attacked by 3 fighters, 1 RRAC was put out of action and the crew had to abandon it. The remaining vehicle retired East on orders from SHQ. At the same time 35 enemy fighters were seen over the area. The abandoned car could not be found that night.

On December 16th A Sqn patrols for the day consisted of the watch on Gambut only. All other patrols were cancelled and the Sqn withdrew to post 42 and thence to the Regimental Rest area.

In the field (sgd) JFB Combe DSO Lt Col 9.1.41 Commanding 11th Hussars PAO

Report on the Activities of 11th Hussars PAO 9th – 19th December 1940.

On December 9th the 11th Hussars less A Sqn and the RAF Sqn, having bivouacked the previous night in BIR ENBA area, started at first light to recce the area behind the line of enemy camps from a point almost 5 miles SW of SIDI BARRANI on the ALAM EL RIMTH track – ALAM QREISH – EL SENAB – EL KHOR. Places in particular were:-

DARAQ where an enemy tank group of 2 or 3 Bns were believed to be.

Wadis KAGSH and KARRABA where dumps were reported.

EL KHOR a reported enemy camp area.

The 4th Armd Bde travelled 2 or 3 miles in rear of 11th Hussars and were to follow, their task being:-

To protect the flank of 4th Indian Div who were attacking NIBEIWA and TUMMAR camps.

To destroy enemy tank formations

The Regt having accomplished their above task were:-

To put out a long screen of observation to the West.

Recce the BUQ-BUQ area and inflict as much damage to material, water, tanks, etc as possible.

It was believed that there were large numbers of enemy in the AZZAZIYA area and that it was possible that the tanks might be there or at EL KHOR if not at DARAQ. AZZAZIYA was not included in our area but being only a mile or two out of it and in a direct line of our advance and also on the BARRANI – SOLLUM road I asked if I should go into it if the opportunity arose, but I got no satisfactory answer to this either from Brigadier Caunter, Commanding the Div, but who had made up the 4th Armd Bde orders, nor from Colonel Birks who was now commanding the 4th Armd Bde and endeavouring to put into operation these orders.

In order to accomplish our task the Regt advanced from BIR ENBA at 0610 hours on a two Sqn frontage, B Sqn on the right whose main task was DARAQ and C Sqn on the left to recce the wadis and then go on to EL KHOR and finally to swing left and proceed West.

4th Armd Bde also moved, on a 2 Regt front, 7th Hussars on the left to mop up enemy and material in the wadi in C Sqn's area and 6th RTR backing up B Sqn and to engage enemy tanks believed to be at DARAQ.

The rough stony ground and camel humps were very bad for the ACs and reduced their speed considerably and the tank regts behind, especially the 7th Hussars, passed us at the beginning. Time and speed is essential for recce.

C Sqn reported the wadi clear and afterwards B Sqn reported that EL KABSH was clear and later it was reported that DARAQ was clear. The 4th Armd Bde followed on with its guns.

C Sqn then reported an enemy camp just South of EL KHOR and by working wide that SAMALUS, SW of EL KHOR, was held, also ALAM EL RIMTH, to the NE was strongly held.

B Sqn continuing past DARAQ, reported its whole area clear but seeing enemy along the BARRANI – SOLLUM road pressed on. Two Troops, 2Lt Cunningham and Sgt Taber, attacked some enemy standing about but an A/Tk trench, which being small was hidden from view, delayed their advance and enabled the enemy to man A/Tk guns and 1 car and crew were destroyed and lost, Sgt Taber and Tpr Ralstein were killed. The Troops rallied and got away without further damage.

The remainder of B Sqn came opposite the AZZAZIYA position, where no tanks were found, and many prisoners were



taken, 2Lt Halliday's Tp captured 400.

During the last 10 miles the going had got much worse, sand dunes and hummocks, which further reduced the pace and rendered recce more difficult.

C Sqn's patrols did excellent work and accurately located the enemy positions from ALAM EL RIMTH, EL KHOR and SAMALUS, also the position of his guns. 2Lt Reid Scott did the West flank and worked wide and in behind; 2Lt Crankshaw, in area ALAM EL RIMTH, did extremely well too, placing East flank position of guns and another camp behind and also working behind the enemy line towards BUQ-BUQ.

7th Hussars then came up and relieved C Sqn of NE task opposite ALAM EL RIMTH and C Sqn were withdrawn to face West but remaining in contact to their North opposite SAMALUS and EL KHOR. During the day a sand storm had blown rendering visibility very poor indeed. This together with the very bad going rendered the tasks of C and B Sqn very difficult.

The night of 9/10th December was spent in that area, with C Sqn facing West and stopping the ALAM EL RIMTH and SOFAI track, B Sqn withdrawn slightly from North were resting. RHQ had been very close up all day and remained for the night.

There had been no action by the 4th Armd Bde, though 7th Hussars and some guns had been in contact around ALAM EL RIMTH. The 6th RTR were NE of Bde on the BARRANI – ALAM EL RIMTH track for the night.

December 10th a sand storm blew all day again. B Sqn recced the area towards BUQ-BUQ and return. 6th RTR were in area EL HAMID and 7th Hussars ALAM EL RIMTH. C Sqn recced the enemy in the SW and along the ALAM EL RIMTH – SOFAI track.

C Sqn 2Lt Reid Scott found the enemy western flank at EL KATTAR and then proceeded about 11 miles due West and finding no enemy moved North and was able to report no movement in the BUQ-BUQ area, either towards SOLLUM or from SOFAI. Later, patrols of C Sqn were in observation and obtained detailed information of the enemy between SAMALUS and EL KHOR.

B Sqn penetrated beyond the enemy position at ALAM EL RIMTH and also reported no movement in the BUQ-BUQ area.

The CO who was also doing 2i/c of 4th Armd Bde, went in the morning to liaise with Major General Beresford Piersse, GOC 4th Indian Div, who were attacking SIDI BARRANI. The CO found the GOC eventually, forward and not at the appointed place, which he stated he had never heard of, nor was the GOC 7th Armd Div there. Major General Beresford Piersse explained his plan for the attack on SIDI BARRANI and asked if 2nd RTR and 6th RTR could help, or at least extricate, his left Bde, Brigadier Lomax, if they had to retire.

In the afternoon the CO took Colonel Birks, commanding 4th Armd Bde, and two wireless ACs up to 4th Indian Div, as the attack had been postponed. General Beresford Piersse, Brigadier Lomax and Colonel Gairdner, GSO 1 7th Armd Div, were all interviewed. For 7th Armd Div Colonel Gairdner gave the possible plan for the 11th December and explained that the 7th and 4th Bdes would exchange, the former going towards the BUQ-BUQ area to cut off the enemy. The CO said he hoped the 7th Bde would be onto BUQ-BUQ – SOFAI track during the night 10/11th December, if possible, as he was sure the enemy would try and slip away. Brigadier Lomax stated that he did not require the help of 2nd RTR on his left and North of BARRANI – SOLLUM road. Afterwards this was changed and 2nd RTR were used successfully.

The 11th Hussars and 4th Armd Bde bivouacked night in the same area. C Sqn again blocking the BUQ-BUQ – SOFAI track.

During the night 10/11th December orders were received that the 4th Armd Bde would withdraw, on December 11th, to the ENBA area and that 11th Hussars, less A Sqn and RAF Sqn, would come under orders 7th Armd Bde.

7th Armd Bde were ordered to 'clear up' the area ALAM EL RIMTH – SAMALUS – BUQ-BUQ. 11th Hussars were to report on enemy in that area and any enemy movement eastwards from SOLLUM towards BUQ-BUQ.

B Sqn was ordered to watch the South flank of 7th Armd Bde in SOFAI area, presumably for the enemy tanks that had been reported on 8th December, as likely to be there if not at EL DARAQ. During the whole period no movement had been reported from this direction and it seemed to me to be unnecessarily cautious to send a whole Sqn to observe there for the third day, further GOC 7th Armd Bde detailed one RTR Sqn to that area also to watch this South flank. To me there were only two courses open to the enemy:-

To fight on his present area BUQ-BUQ, or,
To retire towards SOLLUM.

The former gave me plenty of time to find him also to cut off his retreat along the SOLLUM road but I was far more apprehensive of the latter and that he would get away. Therefore to make sure of finding his western flank and to cut him off, if possible, C Sqn were ordered to send out three patrols, one to area EL SAMALUS and report the situation there, one NW towards the Winter track area EL NAAS and another further West still in the direction of the junction of the Winter and Summer tracks.

Very early on the 11th C Sqn, 2Lt Reid Scott, reported that the enemy appeared to have retired and he was soon able to state this of SAMALUS and then EL KATTAR and pushing on reported that fire was coming from EL HALFA. Two other patrols of C Sqn were moving northwards towards the Winter track. In fact none of our Troops had been in contact with the enemy during the night 10/11th and so he had retired unnoticed.



Immediately I heard the enemy had retired I asked 7th Armd Bde to relieve B Sqn from watching SOFAFI because I knew how far behind the Bde was and felt that the enemy might slip us. 7th Armd Bde replied that they could not be freed.

The enemy retired from the KATTAR area and 2Lt Reid Scott pushed on to BUQ-BUQ Xroads, here he attacked some enemy and took 4 A/Tk guns and about 40 prisoners and reported the area clear. This confirmed that the enemy had retired and had changed direction towards SOLLUM.

C Sqn's other two patrols were now approaching the Winter track and each had about 40 or 50 prisoners and I felt that the enemy were going or had gone.

The Bde was still heading for the original area, ALAM EL RIMTH – SAMALUS – BUQ-BUQ. Again I asked for B Sqn and this time I was told they would be made available when 1st RTR got into position.

Up to date I had no message or fresh plan of the 7th Armd Bde, and this message was sent – "I have no idea what your plan is but I presume you are heading NW as fast as possible to cut off the enemy".

Soon all C Sqn patrols had so many prisoners, about 70 each, that they were seriously impeded and could not move further. In one case 2Lt Reid Scott was ordered to take off their shoes and socks and let them go. This same Tp then located enemy, with arty and A/Tk guns, in the sand dunes West of BUQ-BUQ, and this gave me their East flank.

Very large numbers of enemy Infantry and arty were seen stretching East and West over a 2 mile front just South of the Summer track, and 2 or 3 guns shelled some vehicles moving up to RHQ on the Winter track. A severe sandstorm had been blowing all day which made the work of the patrols extremely difficult.

About this time B Sqn were released from SOFAFI and were ordered up on the left of C Sqn but they had a long way to go and some assistance was asked for to allow C Sqn to be freed of their prisoners, and carry on their role. The 8th Hussars and one Tp of guns were sent forward and 3rd Hussars pressed on towards BUQ-BUQ.

By this time the enemy position could be accurately located and about 1-2000 men and a row of field guns clearly visible.

The 3rd Hussars reached the BUQ-BUQ area and then moved westwards and in spite of a full warning, their leading troop attacked 2Lt Reid Scott's Troop, luckily without result.

The leading Sqn 8th Hussars, also Colonel Watson and an Artillery officer arrived about 1400 hours and were given and shown all the information by myself.

By 1430 hours Commander 4th Armd Bde had still not arrived and ordered myself to make out a plan, with Colonel Watson, to attack the enemy, such a plan to include blocking the enemy's West flank to prevent his retirement to SOLLUM. This however had been anticipated long before and was the reason why B Sqn were so urgently required, and this task had been allotted to them.

Comdr 7th Armd Bde also suggested 3rd Hussars should attack from the South or SE, but the ground there was too bare and it was decided they should advance more or less astride the Summer track. The 8th Hussars Cruiser Sqn was to attack from the SW whereby some cover could be obtained.

The guns were brought up South of the Winter track and at first had some difficulty in registering satisfactorily. This delayed the guns and the attack was also put off. 8th Hussars were able to show all their Tank Comdrs the objective and route to be taken.

At about 1530 hours Commander 7th Armd Bde arrived, his tank having performed badly, and took charge.

The 3rd Hussar had been in contact with the East flank, but I could not see their arty supporting, and were ordered by Commander 7th Armd Bde to await arty support of Troops under command of 8th Hussars on the main position.

The attack went in at about 1600 hours with excellent arty support. The 8th Hussars fired a few rounds, almost without reply, the enemy Infantry were seen to break and retire in hundreds northwards across the sand dunes.

The 3rd Hussar on East flank also attacked and were halted by enemy arty fire and were then seen to be collecting large numbers of prisoners.

B Sqn 11th Hussars who had been ordered to block West lines of retirement had extreme difficulty in getting across the intervening country, which was SABAKH. Of 2Lt Cunningham's Tp, two cars got stuck but he got his own over and into position just in time, as the enemy had begun to retire westwards. By determination and boldness he held them up but could not cover all the ground and many were passing North of him.

2Lt Halliday then arrived with his Tp and the situation improved, though Infantry were still working behind by going northwards and then southwards. There was no panic and no surrender, 2Lt Halliday's Tp only just saved themselves by killing the crews of two A/Tk guns that had been brought into action in lorries and stern measures had to be adopted. To make the block more complete 2Lt Halliday's Tp were ordered more westwards and in spite of extremely bad going he accomplished this after 5 – 7 miles and when nearing the enemy positions close to HALFA YA he succeeded in getting to the head of the retiring enemy. Here he halted, dismounted, disarmed probably 2000, including 3 light tanks, MGs and lorries and drove them towards 2Lt Cunningham's Tp, who had already about 1000 prisoners with him. They continued to carry out their tasks and by darkness had 7000 prisoners between them, which were disarmed, collected and organised and marched back 5 or 6 miles in two parties, each with only one AC in front and 1 AC behind.

The immense amount of material was left behind except for 3 or 4 little Ballila Fiat cars that the Italian officers drove in having shown extreme reluctance to walk.



These prisoners had broken northwards over the sand dunes before the 8th Hussars attacked and would all have escaped had it not been for the above two Troops of B Sqn.

The prisoners finally arrived in a very tired and waterless condition at about 1 a.m. and knowing the situation would be out of hand the next morning if there were any air attacks, the whole lot were marched further eastwards that night.

The Regiment slept the night in their positions. The LAD, which had been forward the whole time with RHQ, spent the evening and night trying to extricate 3 ACs from the Sabakh but the breakdown, with 30 yards of rope, failed and finally got itself stuck too. Cruisers had been asked for from Bde and arrived very late in the early morning, one of these also got itself hopelessly stuck trying to extricate 2 light tanks. It was not until late afternoon on the 12th that 2 of the ACs and breakdown lorry were recovered. One AC and Cruiser had to be left.

On December 12th the regiment put in a wide screen of observation to the West from the Winter track, watching HALFAYA, thence along the escarpment to Halfway House and towards SOFAFI.

A further 500 prisoners were captured. A maximum amount of rest and minimum amount of movement was the order. B Sqn found only one patrol.

Late that afternoon orders were received for the Regt to go to the South and come under orders 4th Armd Bde. Accordingly a move was made and the Regt, less A Sqn and the RAF Sqn, concentrated and slept the night at SOFAFI. Visibility had again been bad all day.

The Regiment sustained no casualties December 10th and 11th and had captured in the 3 days – 8,000 prisoners and very large numbers of guns, A/Tk, light tanks, lorries etc.

In the first 3 days the outstanding points were:-

That on Reconnaissance Regiment for the Division was insufficient.

That ACs were severely handicapped, both at the time by reason of the reduction in speed and manoeuvrability and mechanically by having to work over extremely bad going.

That ACs get opportunities, by reason of surprise, to attack successfully parties of enemy and enemy positions; if that opportunity is taken at once, but if not taken very considerable more strength is required to overcome that opposition. Against this ACs must be sure of their own ground information. See Sgt Taber's Troop on December 9th.

That it is entirely due to the accurate reports, chiefly of C Sqn on December 10th and 11th, that made the action possible.

That only one Sqn was available to carry out this large recce task, and that the other had been sent on a seemingly futile task and was not released until veritably too late.

The apparent slowness of the 7th Bde to realise the situation, i.e. that the enemy had retired and changed direction and were obviously making for SOLLUM and that 3rd Hussars were still sent to BUQ-BUQ, in spite of our reports that this area was all clear, and 1st RTR and Sqn of 11th Hussars to SOFAFI.

That it was not until 1530 hours and 1600 hours that the Comdr 7th Armd Bde, and his HQ respectively arrived on the Winter track to take control.

On the morning of the 13th December the Regt concentrated in the KHREIGAT area under orders 4th Armd Bde. This Bde was later divided into two forces, namely BIRKSFORCE, commanded by Colonel Birks, and COMBEFORCE, commanded by Colonel Combe, who came under orders of the 4th Armd Bde.

COMBEFORCE consisted of the 11th Hussars, less A Sqn and RAF Sqn, two batteries, less one Tp, of 4th RHA and 2nd RTR. A Sqn and the RAF Sqn came under orders of BIRKSFORCE.

The object of COMBEFORCE was to get astride the TOBRUK – BARDIA road, break communications and capture anything moving on the road.

Owing to the delay in replenishing the 2nd RTR, COMBEFORCE did not leave the concentration area till 0130 hours on the 14th December, although 11th Hussars had been ready to move by 1900 hours 13th December.

C Sqn led the advance, followed by B Sqn, two Batteries of 4th RHA and the 2nd RTR followed by Birksforce.

The frontier was crossed at Stone 42, but soon afterwards a halt was ordered by BIRKSFORCE, as they had lost their way and were badly organised. A very valuable 1½ hours was lost with ill results. The advance continued without incident till about 0730 hours when an enemy recce machine was seen to spot our force and quickly returned.

At about 0930 hours when the leading Sqn, C Sqn, reached 48434012 it was heavily attacked by enemy bombers and fighters. The attack by fighters was particularly heavy and lasted about 25 minutes. The Sqn Sgt Major was killed, one officer and four ORs wounded, the fitters lorry and Ford Utility were burnt out beside 5 ACs temporarily put out of action. It is interesting to note here that the Sqn were together and were thus able to bring the whole of their firepower against the fighters, of which there were 12, this fire failed in anyway to deter the fighters from their activities. After this action C Sqn moved North and I Troop was sent forward to cut the telephone wires and observe the main road.

Meanwhile RHQ had moved forward to 48504000 with B Sqn at Pt. 214 491398. One Tp 4th RHA was covering the road West of Pt. 132 481411 and 1 Battery 4th RHA was covering the road East of the same point. 2nd RTR moved to GABR BZEU 483402 and took over C Sqn role with the further object of capturing anything that came along the road and pushing patrols northwards from Pt. 132 up the tracks running NNE and NNW from Pt. 129.



During the day 2nd RTR inadvertently shot, killing some of the occupants, a lorry converted into an ambulance conveying wounded. It was only when the lorry was captured that it was discovered to be an ambulance, the Red Cross being very indistinguishable. They also captured a few more prisoners and lorries.

C Sqn had now come into reserve and A Sqn and the RAF Sqn had now come under command. A Sqn was now watching the Trigh CAPPUZO to the West of Pt. 211 486392 and the RAF Sqn was watching the SIDI AZEIZ – GABR SALEM road.

B Sqn were watching the TOBRUK – BARDIA road from BIR IUNES and actually patrolled as far West as the 475 Grid line and were also watching the road from Pt. 220 491403. Whilst B Sqn was at Pt. 214 they were attacked by enemy fighters but received no casualties.

Lessons brought on this day were:-

That the force should have left the concentration area earlier and been in position by daylight.

That if a force of this description moves by daylight it must have air protection.

The total incapacity of ACs to protect themselves against low flying attacks.

The dispositions on the 15th of December were the same except that B Sqn patrol was withdrawn from BIR IUNES and they had a patrol as far East as Pt. 217 497302.

The air attacks diminished and one section 4/106 RHA came under command. The 2nd RTR continued their role and captured a few more prisoners and lorries.

During the night 15/16th December orders were received for the Regt, less the RAF Sqn, to return to KHREIGAT area.

The remainder of COMBEFORCE to revert to its normal command. The Regt, less RAF Sqn came under command 7th Armd Div, the RAF Sqn coming under command 7th Armd Bde.

On the morning 16th December the Regt, less the RAF Sqn, concentrated in the KHREIGAT area.

On 17th December B Sqn came under command 7th Armd Bde and the RAF Sqn rejoined the Regt in the KHREIGAT area. The situation was the same on the 18th of December.

On December 19th the RAF Sqn relieved B Sqn and that evening the Regt moved to the area 484403, with a view to moving North of the TOBRUK – BARDIA road, blocking that road and the coast road, which was done by first light on December 29th.

In the field (sgd) JFB Combe DSO Lt Col

8.1.41 Commanding 11th Hussars PAO

January 1941	CO: Lt Col JFB Combe
Jan 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/1/41	C Sqn. A Happy New Year to all. At 0630 hours Sgt Lamb proceeded on eastern patrol but was delayed for 15 mins through engine trouble. At 0815 hours Lamb reported was bad. No movement seen. There was spasmodic enemy shelling during the day, but believed to be mostly 'registering' as there was no target in the area. An enemy Bty of 3 guns located ½° due South of the Watchtower at Pt. 177 511397. Patrol withdrew at 1700 hours. A Sqn. In reserve NTR. Sgt Hutchinson went "Out of Battle", 1Tp taken over by Sgt Beedham. B Sqn. 2Lt Cunningham and Cpl Wittaker arrived with RRAC from LAD. Orders were received during the day for the Sqn to move next into a position to observe the battle for BARDIA.
2/1/41	C Sqn. 2Lt Crankshaw proceeded on Eastern patrol at 0630 hours. At 0745 hours the Sqn Ldr proceeded on a recce Xtracks 502401 and liaised with CO of the Rifle Bde. At 1615 hours Sqn moved to area 50054045 where Crankshaw joined SHQ. A Sqn. In reserve NTR. B Sqn. The Sqn Ldr did recce in the early afternoon and the Sqn moved to Pt. 217 497402 with 1Tp 2Lt Cunningham at Pt. 225 502399. RHQ.



	The 4 ACs plus the MO and his vehicle and the colonel's Ford moved forward down the main road towards BARDIA and tucked themselves in under the escarpment at approx Kilo 17. Support Group HQ was just above on the top of the escarpment.
3/1/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours a heavy bombardment heard in the direction of BARDIA. At 0630 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp moved East to observe the movement of the Rifle Bde's Carrier Platoon and any enemy movement in the area of the road and West of the defences of BARDIA. This patrol worked its way eastwards, crossed the wadi to the West of CARMUSEL MENASTIR 506401 and remained in the area Pt. 158 for the rest of the day withdrawing to SHQ at 1700 hours. The patrol was shelled several times and very heavily on withdrawing. SHQ with 1Tp and 3Tp moved forward at 0930 hours to area 50524019 and remained there until withdrawing to 50224028 at 1700 hours where the night was spent. A Sqn. Sqn in reserve NTR. B Sqn. The Battle of BARDIA commenced at 0530 hours. At 1200 hours 1Tp 2Lt Cunningham moved forward to Pt. 216 505399 as observation from Pt. 225 was bad. From Pt. 216 it was difficult to see very much or to report anything of any significance as the battle was taking place on the other side of the MENASTIR ridge. A new ??? arrived with the Echelon but as it had to be towed most of the way it was sent back the next morning. Leave having started again, Sgt Matheson went back and was replaced by Sgt Hoyland. RHQ. By climbing to the top of the escarpment, shells (15 inch) from the navy could be seen bursting inside the BARDIA defences. Terrific columns of smoke and dirt were thrown up and it made one even feel a little sorry for the Italians.
4/1/41	C Sqn. Heavy MG fire was heard during the night. At 0930 hours Sgt Lamb 1Tp moved East and took up a position of observation at Pt. 158 508402 and at 0730 hours was heavily shelled and therefore moved South and took up a new position near the road at 50724002 arriving there at approx 0900 hours. From this position the barrier across the main road at the defences could be plainly seen although visibility East of the barrier was bad owing to dust. No MET other than 4 derelict lorries could be seen. At 0925 hours SHQ were shelled and 3 shells landed within 100 yards of the Ford Utility. At 1500 hours the patrol on the road reported they could see large parties of men walking NW from the Southern camp and more on the ridge at Pt. 177. This movement went on for 1½ hours and was believed to be prisoners (taken by the Australians) being escorted to various places. At 1700 hours the patrol withdrew. Sqn withdrew for the night which was spent at 50224028. A Sqn. Sqn in reserve, NTR. B Sqn. 4Tp Sgt Holland left for Pt. 216 at first light. At 1030 hours SHQ moved up to Pt. 216 but saw nothing to report except what appeared to be the rounding up of thousands of prisoners. A warning order of a probable move the next day was received from RHQ. Sqn spent the night at 497402.
5/1/41	C Sqn. At 0615 hours Sgt Scrivener 3Tp patrolled down the track running North from Xtracks at 502401. He captured 7 prisoners in area 503413. Patrol then reported that the area was clear of the enemy. The patrol then returned with the prisoners at 1100 hours. At 0640 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 1Tp patrolled East and at 1000 hours was North of the road, 500 yards to the West of the Landing Ground. The patrol could see prisoners being marched about inside the defences and withdrew to SHQ at 1200 hours. At 1345 hours Sqn moved Pt. 211 on the TRIGH CAPUZZO, replenished and then moved on to HAQFET NADURA 431382 arriving there at 2000 hours. A Sqn. Sqn still in reserve and at 1300 hours received orders to move to HAQFET NADURA replenishing on the



	way. Two Breda AA guns were attached to the Sqn. At 1815 hours Sqn took over left flank guard to RHQ for night march. At 1945 hours halted for the night approx 1 mile South of HAQFETNADURA having done 32 miles since 1715 hours. B Sqn. 1Tp 2Lt Cunningham proceeded to Pt. 225 at first light and at 0830 hours were ordered to move forward to Pt. 216. However, after proceeding 400 yards they ran into a field of Thermobombs and the MRAC ran over one and damaged the offside front, there were no injuries. Capt Lawson visited RHQ and received orders to move at 1300 hours to replenishing area 480389. At 1330 hours the Sqn moved, the LAD having taken over 1Tp's damaged MRAC. The Sqn arrived at replenishing area at 1515 hours and were there joined by the remainder of the Regt. At 1630 hours Sqn moved with the Regt to area HAQFETNADURA which was reached at approx 1930 hours. RHQ. The Regt concentrated at the replenishing area Pt. 211 on the TRIGH CAPUZZO, and after replenishing moved off to area HAQFETNADURA arriving there at approx 1930 hours. During the move to Pt. 211 from the BARDIA area we had fighter protection (Hurricanes) which was reassuring and an unaccustomed luxury.
6/1/41	C Sqn. Sqn remained in the same position. At 1700 hours moved forward to BIR GUBI and remained there for the night. A Sqn. The Sqn was ordered to recce BIR GUBI aerodrome and defences and to occupy it if possible. At 0430 hours 1Tp and 2Tp were sent on this task. 1Tp to approach from the NE and 2Tp from the South. At 0530 the remainder of the Sqn moved forward towards GUBI. At 0625 hours 1Tp reported that they were on the landing ground which was deserted, and at 0700 hours 2Tp confirmed this report. At 0715 hours SHQ and the remainder of the Sqn arrived at GUBI. At 0720 hours 1Tp was sent to observe the track leading from GUBI to BIR HACHEM and 2Tp proceeded for 6 miles along the GIARRABUB track and 3Tp took up a position of observation on the GUBI – TOBRUK track. 4Tp remained in reserve with SHQ who took up a position 2 miles to the South of the aerodrome. At 1115 hours the Colonel visited SHQ and carried out an inspection of the buildings etc, with the Sqn Ldr Capt Roberts. It appeared as though the place had been evacuated for at least a fortnight and no equipment had been left behind. At 1715 hours the Sqn moved another 2 miles further South and all Troops were withdrawn into SHQ. B Sqn. Sqn in reserve moved with the Regt to BIR EL GUBI at 1545 hours.
7/1/41	All Sqns in same position. NTR
8/1/41	All Sqns same position. NTR. Capt Lawson and 3Tp B Sqn carried out a recce of area to the North of BIR EL GUBI towards EL ADEM.
9/1/41	At 1315 hours the Regt moved to MTEIFEL EL CHEBIR arriving at approx 1800 hours and remained there for the night.
10/1/41	C Sqn. Remained in same position. NTR. A Sqn. The Sqn moved 7 miles to the West along the Trigh ENVER BEY, no patrols were detached as the Sqn was acting as a patrol in observation. At 1100 hours the Colonel visited SHQ. At 1605 hours the Sqn was attacked by 6 dive bombers (Bredas) who dropped HE and incendiary bombs from about 300 ft. the bombers were escorted by 9 fighters which flew above them and dropped anti-personnel bombs. The attack lasted for about 10 minutes. Two attacks were made and



	the second one was mainly machine gunning. LCpl Jones of 4Tp was hit in the left shoulder. The two Breda AA guns attached to the Sqn fired approx 150 rounds and one gun jammed. It was believed that one bomber was hit as he made off with smoke pouring from his tail. LCpl Seaman took LCpl Jones back in a RRAC and met Capt Justice, the MO, on the track about ¾ mile from SHQ. Lt Turnbull returned and took over from Lt Friend, who took over 3Tp. B Sqn. Sqn in reserve. At 1615 hours 4Tp did a recce to the North to U9372 and returned at 1930 hours.
11/141	C Sqn. NTR. Sqn still in same position. Cpl Harding arrived from Cairo with new fitters 3-ton lorry. He had covered over 800 miles to reach the Regt. A Sqn. Sqn in same position. At 1640 hours 1Tp Sgt Beedham proceeded on recce of track running South of BIR ENVER BEY in a westerly direction. At 1810 hours the Sqn moved West along the track for 17 miles and at 1950 hours halted for the night. At 2100 hours 1Tp returned from recce. B Sqn. Same position. NTR.
12/1/41	C & B Sqn in same position. NTR. A Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0615 hours and took up a position 2 miles to the South of track. At 1245 hours the Colonel visited SHQ and at 1400 hours the Colonel and Sqn Ldr carried out a recce of the ground 4 miles West of the present position. At 1445 hours they returned and the Colonel left for RHQ. At 1600 hours 3Tp Lt Friend proceeded on a recce of the Trigh ENVER BEY to the West and SW for 10 miles. He reported an enemy recce plane flying East towards SHQ. The plane had machine gunned them without effect. It arrived over SHQ at 1610 hours flying at about 3000 ft. Breda AA and Bren guns opened fire and the plane after circling once flew away to the West. Several bursts from the Breda appeared to hit or be very near and one engine appeared to be out of action. No bombs were dropped. At 1750 hours the Echelon arrived with 2 more Breda guns. Aircraft were heard overhead during the night, but there were no untoward incidents.
13/1/41	C & B Sqn in same position. NTR. A Sqn. Sqn in same position. At 1110 hours Sgt Moore, Royal Signals, arrived to fit a Noll Wireless in the Guy Armd Car. At 1120 hours enemy recce bomber flew over SHQ at about 3000 ft. he was fired on and flew away to the West apparently undamaged. At 1600 hours 4Tp Sgt Parry proceeded on a recce of the country SW of Trigh ENVER BEY and at 1630 hours 5Tp proceeded on a recce of Trigh ENVER BEY for a distance of 25 miles to the West and NW. 4Tp returned at 1900 hours and 5Tp at 1930 hours. The Sqn was rearranged as follows:- 1Tp Sgt Beedham -1 MRAC, 2 RRAC, 2Tp 2Lt Clarke -1 MRAC, 2 RRAC, 3Tp Lt Friend -1 MRAC, 1 RRAC, 4Tp Sgt Parry -1 MRAC, 1 RRAC, 4Tp Cpl Thomas -2 Guy ACs, SHQ Capt Robarts -2 MRA C. The wireless set fitted in one of the Guy cars worked satisfactorily.



14/1/41	C & B Sqns in same position. NTR. A Sqn. At 0700 hours 1Tp proceeded on a recce of ground towards the South and West of the Sqn position to find out what the going was like. At the same time 2Tp went on a similar recce to the West and NW. the latter Tp returned at 0900 hours. At 1110 hours a twin engined Caproni flew over SHQ at 2000 feet and was heavily fired at. He circled and came back at 5000 feet and dropped six 50lb bombs. No damage was done except to the Ford Utility which had the petrol tank punctured by a splinter. At 1130 hours 1Tp returned. At 1600 hours Major Leetham accompanied by the colonel 106th Regt AA RHA, (2 sections of which were attached to the Sqn 0 4 guns) and the MO Capt Justice visited SHQ and left again at 1700 hours.
15/1/41	C & B Sqns in same position. NTR. A Sqn. At 0630 hours 2Tp proceeded on a recce of the ground to the North of SIGNALI and returned at 0900 hours. At 2030 hours Lt Friend and Cpl Thomas with 2 Guys, Sgt Parry in a MRAC and 2 Breda AA left to carry out a recce of EL MECHILI. At 2300 hours W/T comms with this party failed and they were still out of touch at 2400 hours.
16/1/41	C Sqn NTR. B Sqn No patrols. 2Lt Halliday returned from Cairo and took over 1Tp whose MRAC rejoined the Sqn. 2Lt Cunningham left for Cairo. Cpl Cobley with a Guy joined 1Tp. A Sqn. At 0001 hours still no comms with 2Lt Friend's party. At 0520 hours Cpl Thomas, LCpl Burge and Tpr Murphy arrived at SHQ on foot. Cpl Thomas reported that his Guy had broken a side steering arm and that under orders he had walked back with his crew, a distance of 15 miles. They were all in good condition on arrival. Lt Friend and the remainder of the party had continued with the recce. He also reported that all messages had been received from SHQ but they had been unable to put anything back. At 0830 hours communication was re-established and Lt Friend reported that he was in position 30 miles along the Trigh ENVER BEY and 1 mile to the South of it. At 1000 hours a report was received to the effect that they had been chased out of their position by the enemy. Following is the chronological sequence of events:- At 0845 hours an enemy recce plane spotted them and after making a thorough search of the area for other Troops, flew off towards MECHILI. At 0915 hours two enemy fighters appeared, searched the area but failed to spot this party and returned to MECHILI. At 1000 hours the recce plane reappeared and machine gunned bushes etc about ¾ of a mile away. At the same time the sentry reported that more or less the party was surrounded by enemy ground troops and a considerable number of M/Cs appeared about 250 yards away and opened fire with light MGs. At the same time the patrol was engaged by arty and A/Tk fire. Lt Friend and Sgt Parry engaged the enemy, thereby enabling our AA gunners to get their guns onto the trucks and to withdraw with their other lorries. This was carried out without casualties and the patrol withdrew to the SE where it remained until 1600 hours. At 1600 hours 1Tp Sgt Beedham with Cpl Thomas and LCpl Stanford left to recover the broken Guy. At 1900 hours Lt friend and his party returned, followed by 1Tp with the Guy. The Guy was evacuated by LAD at 2100 hours.
17/1/41	C & B Sqns in same position. NTR. A Sqn. At 0800 hours the Sqn moved 1 mile to the West so as to be able to observe the Trigh ENVER BEY. At 1600 hours 2Tp 2Lt Clarke left to carry out a recce of ground and going to the South and SW for a distance of 30 miles. At 1900 hours 2Tp reported that the MRAC had broken down and that they had done 26 miles of their recce. They were ordered to remain in that position for the night. W/T comms between this Tp and SHQ again failed.



18/1/41	C Sqn. At 1600 hours Sqn moved to a position 3 miles South of SIDI BREGHISE arriving there at 1730 hours and remained there for the night. A Sqn. At 0530 hours 8cwt truck met D Sqn (RAF) at SEGNAU in order to pass on information regarding the ground to the North of the track. At 0830 hours 2Tp returned from their recce. At 1245 hours the Sqn Ldr left for a conference at RHQ. At 1600 hours 3Tp Lt Friend left to look for a position for the Sqn approx 7 miles to the West along the Trigh ENVER BEY. This Tp returned at 1725 hours. B Sqn. 4Tp, 2Lt Gape who had rejoined the Regt after a long period of illness in Cairo, did a recce to SIDI BREGHISE thence to BIR TEMRAD where the night was spent. RHQ. The Sqn moved with C Sqn and spent the night in the SIDI BREGHISE area.
19/1/41	C Sqn. At 1445 hours Sqn moved to SIDI BREGHISE, replenished and at 1645 hours moved West to area GHOT AFFRAG 4 miles to the West of BIR ALEIMA and remained there for the night. A Sqn. At 0700 hours 5Tp Cpl Thomas with 2 Guys left to take up a position of observation on the Trigh ENVER BEY and of the ground to the West and North. At 0745 hours 2Tp with 2 AA guns left to take up a position of observation approx 12 miles to the West of SEGNAU. At 0830 hours the remainder of the Sqn with 2 AA guns moved to a position 7 miles to the West along the Trigh ENVER BEY and 1½ miles to the North of it. At 0900 hours 2Tp and 5 Tp were in position. At 0945 hours SHQ arrived in new position and at 1100 hours the 8cwt left to go back to the old position to pick up the remainder of the petrol. At 1245 hours the 8cwt returned (Tprs Anderson and Katz) and reported they had been attacked by 4 enemy fighters firing incendiary bullets, but no damage had been done. These men showed no trace of nerves from this experience. At 1330 hours the Sqn Ldr accompanied by 2Lt Luya (RHA) and the SSM left to visit patrols, escorted by Sgt Parry in a MRAC. At 1415 hours Sqn Ldr arrived at 2Lt Clarke who reported that enemy fighters had been over and looked as though they were about to attack his vehicle, but directly the AA guns opened up they flew off without having opened fire. The Sqn Ldr left 2tpm at 1430 hours and went North for 14 miles to visit 5Tp which he failed to find and therefore returned to SHQ arriving back at 1750 hours. No movement seen reported all day from all patrols. B Sqn. At 0700 hours the Sqn moved to the WADI SCEGGA which was reached at 1130 hours. In the afternoon two recces were made. 4Tp 2Lt Gape due East from SHQ to main BOMBA – TOBRUK road over fairly good going. He then went South on main road to track junction MECHILI – BOMBA where a patrol from support group was seen. They then crossed the BOMBA aerodrome and proceeded SW down the track to SHQ arriving at 1830 hours. 3Tp Sgt Hoyland went in the direction of EL CHAULET but failed to find this place. He reported the country to his North as being impassable and returned to SHQ at 1820 hours.
20/1/41	C & A Sqns in same position. NTR B Sqn. Sqn in same position. 1Tp 2Lt Halliday recce'd ground to P3311 thence due West to P3510 and from there to EL EZZEDT returning via the MECHILI track to SHQ. He reported the main track running North from MECHILI at P5694. This track was similar to the Trigh ENVER BEY and was probably a main track to MARTUBA and DERNA. 1Tp returned at 1350 hours. At 1500 hours 4Tp went due North from SHQ and reported that after 8 miles the country became impassable. 4Tp returned at 1735 hours. A MRAC, a RRAC and a Guy arrived with the Echelon. The RRAC broke down at P6998 and 2Tp Sgt McCarthy stayed with it.



21/1/41	C Sqn. NTR A Sqn. Sqn in same position. Two patrols in observation, no movement seen all day. At 0830 hours Sqn leader left for RHQ with a Guy W/T car as escort. Two Breda AA guns also went as they were to be reallocated. At 1230 hours 15 German planes, thought to be bombers, flew over SHQ with an escort of 6 fighters. They were flying East. The Sqn Ldr returned at 1900 hours. B Sqn. The LAD collected the RRAC which had broken down the previous day and Sgt McCarthy rejoined the Sqn. Capt Arkwright (2i/c) and 4Tp 2Lt Gape left for RHQ at 0815 hours, 4Tp returned at 1420 hours. There was some air activity during the day and Thermos bombs were dropped in the area. One plane flying near SHQ was identified as a German. SSM Kitchen was taken ill during the night and was evacuated to RHQ in the morning from where he was subsequently sent back and operated on for appendicitis at MDS near SOLLUM. RHQ. German planes flew over RHQ and were heavily engaged by AA fire. They dropped no bombs and sheared off as soon as fired at.
22/1/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours the Sqn and one section Breda AA guns moved to U3084. At 1130 hours 3 CR42 flew low over the Sqn and were driven off by AA fire. At 1630 hours 3Tp Sgt Scrivener moved off to recce area North of MECHILI and at the same time 5Tp 2Lt Crankshaw moved to recce the area to the North of 3Tp area. Both Troops carried out a ground recce and remained for the night in square U09. At 1700 hours the Sqn moved to HAQFETSI EL TAIEB. At 2000 hours 3 & 5Tp reported no movement seen. A Sqn. The Sqn moved to U2764 (Bengasi map). At 1740 hours 2Tp left to carry out a recce of area U0476 and 4Tp left to recce area U0868. At 1815 hours 2Tp broke a sump of their MRAC and were towed back to SHQ by the RRAC. The recce was therefore not completed. At 2000 hours 4Tp reached their objective but could not do anything further owing to bad ground and failing light. They halted for the night and were ordered to complete the recce at first light. B Sqn. At 1500 hours the Sqn was ordered to join RHQ in the BIRALEIMA area. On arrival at 1650 hours the Sqn replenished and moved on again behind RHQ to area U3888 where the night was spent. RHQ. Moved to area U3888 for the night. News was received that TOBRUK fell at 1300 hours.
23/1/41	C Sqn. At 0400 hours 3 & 5Tp started to move back to SHQ and arrived at 0750 hours. At 1030 hours 3Tp Sgt Scrivener moved off to patrol to AURIET EL HAMMAMA. 5Tp and SHQ moved behind 3Tp. 3Tp and the Sqn were held up by a very deep wadi running NW & SE at U0394. 2Lt Crankshaw recced this wadi to the North for 7 miles and Sgt Scrivener South for 6 miles. No way over was found and the Sqn less 3Tp moved back to HAQFETSI EL TAIEB. 3Tp remained in observation of MECHILI and the track running North from it. 2Lt Crankshaw recced the track running from MECHILI to DERNA for 15 miles, no movement seen, track good. 3Tp in observation of MECHILI could not see more than 6 MET to the SW and 4 MET to the East of the Fort. He could see an OP on the high hill to the NW of the fort and a DR kept going back and forth from this hill to the fort. At 1730 hours Scrivener 3Tp withdrew to SHQ and Crankshaw returned from his recce of the track. At 1735 hours Sgt Beard with 2 RRAC was sent to the track corner at U2680 to meet the Echelon. He reached there just as darkness fell but found no sign of the Echelon so remained there for the night and returned to SHQ in the morning. A Sqn. At 0830 hours 4Tp returned to SHQ after completing recce. At 1130 hours 3Tp left to take up observation at BIR EL BETOR T5668, at the same time 1Tp left to take up



	observation at U2232. These patrols were 50 miles apart. At 1500 hours orders were received to withdraw 1Tp and to take over area AURIETEL HAMMAMA. 4Tp were given this task. At 1515 hours Sqn moved to T9565. At 1630 hours 3Tp who were very near their objective were ordered to proceed to EL HAMAMA at T5080 and 4Tp were ordered to take over area BIR EL BETOR. At 1715 hours 5Tp left SHQ for RHQ to lead the Echelon to the Sqn. At 1745 hours Sqn reached T9565 and halted for the night. At 1930 hours 1Tp halted for the night 4 miles SE of SHQ. B Sqn. At 1200 hours the Sqn moved off in front of RHQ to BIR EL HAMARIN area which was reached at 1600 hours. 3Tp were sent 7 miles South but returned before dark. Both vehicles of 1Tp blew cylinder head gaskets and one of them had to be evacuated. Another Guy came up with the Echelon but broke down 4 miles from SHQ and had to be brought in by LAD. The country around the Sqn position was very undulating and rocky.
24/1/41	C Sqn. At 0800 hours a CR42 flew low over the Sqn but was driven off by AA fire. 5 dive bombers with an escort of 4 fighters attacked troops within 2 miles of the Sqn. At 0825 hours the Sqn moved to join RHQ in area BIR HAMARIN. After difficulty the Sqn reached RHQ at 1315 hours and remained for the rest of the day and that night. NTR. A Sqn. At 0630 hours 4Tp reported that they had arrived with RHQ and that their MRAC had a badly bent track rod. They were ordered to stay there and repair the damage. At 0730 hours 1Tp who were trying to join SHQ reported not verify their position. At 0800 hours 5Tp left with the Echelon for RHQ who were at U0863. 1Tp was still missing. At 0920 hours 2Tp left to take up a position of observation at the T tracks at T7086. At 1000 hours ?Tp reported that their MARC had broken a push rod and their RRAC had broken a rear spring shackle and main leaf. This RRAC was left at T6879 with the crew but the MRAC was repaired sufficiently to enable it to return to SHQ. At 1100 hours 5Tp arrived at SHQ and then left to take up their position at T7865. 1Tp and 3Tp had not rejoined SHQ by 1300 hours. At 1430 hours the 8cwt and Sqn fitter left to search the area for 1 & 3Tp and at 1600 hours found them at T8570. They eventually arrived at SHQ at 1700 hours. B Sqn. At 0950 hours 4Tp 2Lt Gape moved 10 miles to the South of BIR HAMARIN where they remained in observation all day and returned to SHQ at 1935 hours. The Sqn was still with RHQ in the BIR EL HAMARIN area.
25/1/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 3Tp Sgt Scrivener proceeded on a recce to BIR TENGEDER (U23) arriving there at approx 1300 hours having had mechanical trouble with the front suspension of their MRAC. This patrol contacted B Sqn who were 3 miles to the North of the Bir. The patrol returned at 1530 hours having patrolled 15 miles East, no movement seen. A Sqn. Sqn still in same position, although not very sure of what the actual position is! The map was known to be very inaccurate and there were no good landmarks from which the position could be checked. No movement seen all day. The Echelon had to cross very bad going to reach the Sqn and was accordingly kept for the night as the risk of damaging the vehicles over such bad ground at night was not worthwhile. B Sqn. At 0715 hours the Sqn with one section of Breda AA guns moved to T9141 arriving at 1025 hours. A vehicle of 1Tp punctured his petrol tank and had to be evacuated by the LAD. At 1600 hours three 'ground' recce patrols were sent out all of which returned between 1800 and 1830 hours. A C Sqn patrol operating to the East of the Sqn spent the night with the Sqn.
26/1/41	C Sqn.



	Sgt Scrivener 3Tp left to relieve 2Tp at 0645 hours and to take up observation at BIR TENGEDER. No movement seen except an enemy recce plane circled the area at about 0900 hours and again at 1200 hours. A Sqn. Sgt Beedham 1Tp left to relieve 2Tp at 0645 hours and to take up a position of observation of the track from MECHILI at T7087. At the same time Lt Friend 3Tp left to relieve 4Tp at T7765. At 0900 hours 4Tp returned to SHQ. At 1800 hours 2Tp broke down 10 miles to the West of SHQ and were ordered to remain there for the night. B Sqn. At 0645 hours 1 & 3Tp with 4Tp went out to recce the ground for a distance of 30 miles to the West and 20 miles to the NW. At 1400 hours the Sqn less 4Tp was ordered to join the Regt but at 1600 hours this order was changed and the Sqn spent the night 7 miles due South of BIR HAMARIN.												
27/1/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours Sgt Scrivener came into SHQ. At 1100 hours the Sqn moved to area BALTETHAMLA, replenished and then moved North skirting to the East of MECHILI and bivouacked for the night on the track running North at U0595. A Sqn. At 0645 4Tp left to relieve 1Tp, taking the Sqn fitter with them and dropping him at 2Tp en route. At 0650 hours the Sqn Ldr and the Echelon left for RHQ escorted by 5Tp. At 0830 hours 4Tp reported they were in position. At 0900 hours 1Tp moved North to a position of observation of track at O6908. 3Tp returned to SHQ at 0930 hours. At 1200 hours the Sqn came under orders of 7th Armd Bde and at 1205 hours moved to T8992. At 1400 hours 1Tp reached their objective after very rough going and at 1600 hours, reported clouds of dust moving in a NW direction toward them. However no vehicles could be seen. At 1030 hours 2Tp and 4Tp rejoined SHQ on the march. Sqn halted for the night at T7085 at 1745 hours. At 1800 hours the Echelon arrived escorted by 5Tp. Lt Friend was given one of RHQ's MRAC in place of his own. The Sqn was organised as follows:- <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1Tp Sgt Beedham</td><td>1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,</td></tr> <tr> <td>2Tp 2Lt Clarke</td><td>1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,</td></tr> <tr> <td>3Tp Lt Friend</td><td>1 MRAC, (the RRAC was still with LAD)</td></tr> <tr> <td>4Tp Sgt Parry</td><td>1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,</td></tr> <tr> <td>5Tp Cpl Thomas</td><td>2 Guy ACs,</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">SHQ Capt Robarts, Lt Tumbull 2 MRAC.</td></tr> </table> At 1900 hours the Sqn came under orders of the Support Group. B Sqn. At 0800 hours the Sqn moved and joined RHQ at BIR EL HAMARIN. 1Tp MRAC cracked its sump and was handed over to the LAD. 1Tp's RRAC went to 2Tp. At 1145 hours the Sqn moved behind RHQ to O9785 where the Sqn replenished. At 1650 hours the Sqn moved off again behind RHQ in a very bad sandstorm, skirting the enemy position at MECHILI which had been evacuated by them on the night of 26/27th January. The Sqn leaguered with RHQ and C Sqn on the MECHILI – GIOVANNI BERTA track at U0494.	1Tp Sgt Beedham	1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,	2Tp 2Lt Clarke	1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,	3Tp Lt Friend	1 MRAC, (the RRAC was still with LAD)	4Tp Sgt Parry	1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,	5Tp Cpl Thomas	2 Guy ACs,	SHQ Capt Robarts, Lt Tumbull 2 MRAC.	
1Tp Sgt Beedham	1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,												
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4Tp Sgt Parry	1 MRAC, 1 RRAC,												
5Tp Cpl Thomas	2 Guy ACs,												
SHQ Capt Robarts, Lt Tumbull 2 MRAC.													
28/1/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp moved North to the track junction at O9736 and Sgt Scrivener 3Tp to track junction at J9128. SHQ moved up behind these Troops. At 0900 hours Crankshaw reported that from his position he could see three M13 tanks and one lorry moving South down the track towards him. The tanks opened fire and he was forced to withdraw to a position ½ mile South of the track junction. SHQ also came under fire and retired to a position 2 miles to the South of Crankshaw. At 1000 hours Sgt Scrivener reached his position and patrolled to the West and gained touch with a B Sqn patrol and then returned to his position at the track junction. This patrol returned to SHQ at 1700 hours.												



	2Lt Crankshaw remained in observation of the 3 enemy tanks and later the 3rd Hussars and one Troop of RHA arrived to dislodge the tanks. The tanks had already withdrawn. It is thought that they took advantage of a heavy rain squall when visibility was nil to slip away. At 1600 hours Crankshaw pushed forward and observed to the North from high ground 3 miles NW of Xtracks at O9736. He could see some movement to his North in the distance but only men walking about. The patrol returned to the Xtracks at O9736 at 1730 hours and remained there for the night. During the afternoon 2 enemy lorries were seen to be approaching 2 derelict M13 tanks 1 mile SW from track junction O0028. Cpl Macey who was in observation at the track junction saw two men dropped off from the lorries by the tanks and the lorries moved off to the East. Crankshaw captured the two lorries which were then flying RED CROSS flags although there was no First Aid or wounded in the lorries. Crankshaw sent one of his RRAC to capture the two men who had been dropped by the lorries. They turned out to be mechanics who were trying to get the tanks away. The lorries and prisoners were sent back to RHQ. The Sqn remained for the night in the wadi at GABRALI O0028. A Sqn. At 0800 hours 4Tp proceeded to a ground recce. At 0815 hours the Sqn moved to a position 7 miles to the West of T5889. 4Tp returned from their recce at 1700 hours. B Sqn. At 0645 hours the Sqn moved behind C Sqn due West. From 9619 4Tp and 2Tp were sent out to gain contact with the enemy who appeared to be retiring to the main road SLONTA – GIOVANNI BERTA. 4Tp reached the area 9516 and liaised with 2nd RTR who had been ordered to attack enemy concentration of MET in the 8015 area. 4Tp took up a position in the 7924 area and observed the tank attack and withdrawal. 4Tp remained in position all day and was occasionally shelled. They had to move back slightly a little later owing to enemy MCs and light cars with Breda guns. During the whole of the day this Tp reported that the enemy were retiring towards SLONTA, also that there was a certain amount of movement on the track running NE to CHAULAN at 7528. 2Tp who were operating to the North of 4Tp in area 8427 confirmed the information given by 4Tp. The enemy continued to retire all day but appeared to leave a rear guard along the 76 Grid line. At 1730 hours SHQ moved up to 9122 with the Echelon, 1Tp and a section of Breda AA guns. 3Tp with the 8cwt bug and the fitters lorry were held up by bad going and remained out all night. 2Tp remained at 8727 during the night and 4Tp rejoined SHQ at 1930 hours.
29/1/41	C Sqn. 2Lt Crankshaw reported MG fire to the North during the night and at 0700 hours he moved to Pt. 590 O9339 and observed an enemy camp at Pt. 639 O9345 where he could see approx 40 men and 2 MET. At 0700 hours Sgt Scrivener moved to Xtracks at O9636 and then moved West to track junction at O8836 which he reached at 0935 hours. There was a small tank obstacle at the Xtracks but the patrol easily got through and turned SW towards CHAULAN. A lot of men were seen in the area between the track junction and CHAULAN. This Tp captured 1 officer and 50 ORs and 2 lorries and 3 miles further on killed one officer and approx 20 ORs who threw hand grenades at the patrol after first having put up their hands. The patrol moved further down the track and 3 miles from the Troads at O8836 came across what appeared to be a repair section. There was a breakdown lorry, 4 other lorries and a staff car. The Fort of CHAULAN was ½ mile further down the track and a lot of men could be seen in the fort and in a deep wadi NW of the fort. The patrol was NOT fired on. At 0934 hours Crankshaw observed 2 MET moving SW from the northern camp. He could not tell what these MET were but suspected them of mounting Breda guns. A few minutes later these vehicles were followed by 2 MCs and 2 other lorries. At 0937 hours Sgt Scrivener was recalled from CHAULAN to the Troads at O8836 as CHAULAN appeared to be a dead end. The patrol took up a position at the Troads ready to engage the enemy lorries moving SW towards him. The enemy however did not come on and must have halted in the wadi at O8932 as they never turned up until 1342 hours. Meanwhile Sgt Scrivener on his arrival at the Troads found that Sgt Nash's RRAC had broken a spring which had to be changed at once. This job took nearly 5 hours owing to difficulty in fitting the spring. At 1302 hours 2 enemy MCs appeared at the Troads but hastily retreated when fired at. At 1342 2 enemy lorries mounting Breda guns and another lorry appeared at the Troads. Scrivener engaged this column who returned fire with the Breda and another heavier gun firing HE. The patrol was also engaged by SA fire from the East at the same time. The patrol knocked out and silenced one Breda and killed the entire gun crew as well as scoring a direct hit on the engine of the lorry. The patrol then withdrew eastwards into the cover of a hill. The enemy did not follow and the patrol remained in



	observation at Pt. 615. From this position the Troads were not visible but the patrol could see for 1½ miles West along the track. During all this time Sgt Nash's RRAC was still being repaired at Pt. 617 which prevented the patrol from retiring further. The job was finally completed at 1531 hours. At 1600 hours Scrivener moved slowly forward to see if the enemy were still at the Troads. As Sgt Nash's reached the Troads he was shelled and a few minutes later he ran over a mine. The car was badly damaged but the crew unharmed. Cpl Macey who was moving to the left rear of Nash's car moved over thinking the crew were injured and ran over a mine himself badly damaging his RRAC but again the crew were uninjured. Scrivener managed to collect both crews, guns, maps etc and retired eastwards without further damage, although still under shellfire. At 1745 hours Crankshaw withdrew to Xtracks at O9636 and remained there for the night. Sgt Scrivener with all the crews returned to SHQ. At 1805 hours D Sqn arrived at SHQ and remained for that night and the next day. A Sqn. Sqn still under command Support Grp. At 1100 hours 2Tp 2Lt Clarke left to carry out recce of track in area T2088 and returned at 1500 hours. At 1800 hours the Echelon arrived escorted by Lt Friend, who had picked up Cpl Thomas who had been out of W/Touch. 3Tp had to leave one Guy at MECHILL owing to a big knock. Cpl Bailey and a RRAC also rejoined from the LAD and another RRAC driven by Tpr Crosby arrived from AD Workshops. B Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp (2Lt Halliday and 2Lt Gape) were sent out on patrol at 0700 hours in a NW direction with the main BARDIA – SLONTA road as the objective. SHQ at 915224 and patrols moved out from that position. At 0900 hours 3Tp Sgt Hoyland was sent out West towards Pt. 595. This patrol was shelled when only a few miles out and was able to pin prick the guns at 7627. There were 4 guns firing. These guns were kept under observation. 1Tp and 4Tp were ordered into the CHAULAN area to observe any movement to the South. However the track junction at 8330 was heavily mined and movement was restricted. 4Tp moved up the track going NW from 9626 and found two enemy light tanks which had broken down and were being repaired by their crews. The crews escaped into a wadi and the patrol destroyed the tanks. 3Tp took up a night position astride the track at 8622 and 1Tp took up a position at 9425.
30/1/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours Crankshaw moved forward to Pt. 590 and observed the North camp. Sgt Scrivener with one RRAC of 1Tp (Sgt Beard) moved to Pt. 596 and observed to the West. During the day 7 lorries, 3 Breda guns and 4 MCs moved SW from northern camp and appeared to go to area Troads at O8836 or CHAULAN. An enemy OP was established at Pt. 682. A party of approx 30 men with 1 tank as escort were working for 3 hours on what appeared to be an A/Tk obstacle ½ mile South of northern camp at Pt. 639. Colonel Gairdner and the CO visited Sgt Scrivener's patrol at Pt. 596 and did a recce of the area. At 1745 hours Crankshaw withdrew to SHQ and Scrivener to Xtracks at O9636 for the night. At 2000 hours Sgt Lamb with a MRAC arrived with the Echelon thereby giving the Sqn 3 patrols. A Sqn. At 1000 hours the Sqn again came under command of the Regt. At 1045 hours 3Tp left to take up a position of observation of the ground to the South and West of the track at T6387. At 1200 hours 1Tp left to take up a position of observation at O6607 and at 1215 hours the Sqn moved for new position at T7680 arriving there at 1430 hours. The Echelon failed to arrive as 4Tp MRAC broke a dumb iron on bad ground. B Sqn. At 0700 hours 2Tp Sgt McCarthy relieved 3Tp and 4Tp 2Lt Gape relieved 1Tp. The role of these two Troops was to observe enemy positions and movement. Both patrols were shelled at intervals whenever they came in sight of the guns but no damage was done. During the afternoon Colonel Gairdner and the CO visited the Sqn and went with Sgt Hoyland to see the enemy gun positions. They were shelled when they were out of their car and on foot but no damage was done except a piece of shrapnel punctured Colonel Gairdner's AC.
31/1/41	C Sqn.



	At 0700 hours Scrivener moved back to his position from where he could observe to the West and the northern camp. Visibility was bad owing to rain and cloud. At 1100 hours Sgt Scrivener was relieved by Sgt Nash and returned to SHQ. At 1600 hours Australian Bren Carriers arrived in the Sqn area. At 1730 hours Sgt Lamb was suspicious of movement from the East, although it was thought to be Australians. Sgt Beard was sent to investigate and reported them as enemy. Lamb accordingly withdrew to Xtracks at 09636. At 1830 hours D Sqn (RAF) took over the patrol at the Xtracks for the night and Lamb returned to SHQ. A Sqn. At 0700 hours the 8cwt was sent off to try and find the Echelon but failed to do so. The Echelon were eventually found at 1100 hours 6 miles to the North of SHQ. The MRAC with the broken dumb iron had to be abandoned. At 1630 hours a CR42 was shot down by AA fire from 4th Armd Bde who were about 5 miles to the NE. At 1815 hours 3 enemy bombers circled over SHQ after having bombed the 4th Armd Bde. The attached Breda AA opened fire and the bombers sheared off. B Sqn. At 0700 hours 3Tp relieved 2Tp and 1Tp relieved 4Tp. The northern patrol reported 3 M13's and MCs advancing East and the patrol withdrew in front of them while keeping them under observation. The tanks came on as far as Pt. 581 but returned to the West in the evening.
February 1941	CO: Lt Col JFB Combe
Feb 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/2/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 2Lt Crankshaw moved NE to observe the column reported on the previous evening approx 7 miles East of Xtracks at 09636. The patrol contacted the column which turned out to be Australians after all. Crankshaw had an interview with the Australian Brigadier, Brigadier Savage, and returned to SHQ at 1100 hours with the Australian plan and other information. At 0705 hours Sgt Lamb 1Tp moved to Xtracks at 09636 and at 0900 hours moved to Pt. 596 and remained there all day. Very little to report except a little movement in northern camp and at an OP. The camp was ground strafed by 3 Hurricanes at 0830 hours. Sgt Lamb withdrew to Xtracks for the night at 1800 hours. A Sqn. A very quiet day. Normal patrols but no movement seen. A certain amount of enemy air activity over patrols but no incidents. B Sqn. At 0700 hours 1Tp and 4Tp relieved 2Tp and 3Tp. 1Tp 2Lt Halliday reported shelling to his North and that he could hear MCs. His position was Pt. 593 and he was relieved at 1200 hours by 2Tp. At 1330 hours 2Tp reported a long line of dust moving in a NW direction but could not see any vehs. He moved forward 2 miles at 1500 hours and reported some MCs in area Pt. 595. 4Tp Lt Gape was in a position at 8423 and reported shelling to the North and heavy AA fire East of SLONTA at 1135 hours. He also reported enemy position extending from 7728 to Pt. 629 7622. Sgt Matheson arrived with the Echelon and took over 3Tp from Sgt Hoyland who took over the duties of SSM.
2/2/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours Sgt Lamb 1Tp took over patrol at Pt. 596. At 0900 hours the Australians moved up and worked to the NW. At 1300 hours Sgt Lamb withdrew to SHQ and at 1330 hours the Sqn moved to area 12½ miles South of MECHIL replenishing en route. At 1800 hours the Sqn arrived at U0367 and remained there for the night. A Sqn. Normal patrols, no movement seen all day. B Sqn. During the night 4Tp heard enemy vehicles in what they thought was a NW direction between 0100 and 0300 hours.



	3Tp Sgt Matheson and 1Tp 2Lt Halliday relieved the other two Troops at first light. At 1120 hours patrols reported that the enemy position was unoccupied except for a few MET and MCs who were retiring West. Patrols were ordered to move slowly West and to pay particular attention to tracks on account of mines. At 1500 hours the Sqn received orders to push on to SLONTA via the Xtracks at 5524 and thence via the TRIGH AZZA. At 1530 hours the Sqn moved to the Xtracks at 7724. 3Tp arrived there first and the RRAC struck a mine. The crew were not hurt but the car was badly damaged. 1Tp was at Xtracks 7528 and Sgt Matheson reced from 7724 to the North to try and find a way round the minefield and to contact 1Tp which he succeeded in doing at 1640 hours. He remained with 1Tp in that position for the night. SHQ and the remainder of the Sqn stayed at 7724. At 1700 hours Major Miller arrived from Cairo and took over the Sqn from Capt Lawson who returned to RHQ prior to going to Cairo. He had been in the field commanding the Sqn for a long time without a break. RHQ. Major Miller who returned from Cairo brought with him Major Pepys of the Royals who was attached to the Regt to get an idea how we worked. Major Crossley of the Kings Dragoon Guards also arrived with one Sqn KDG who were in leaguer a few miles to the South.
3/2/41	C Sqn. Major Payne Gallway called at 7th Armd Div HQ for orders and at 1500 hours the Sqn moved to a position at I9342 and remained there for the night. A Sqn. At 0645 hours 3Tp proceeded on a recce of the TECMI track the plan being to get into a good concealed position during the day and to carry out the actual recce during the late afternoon and evening. The 8cwt bug with 10 crates of petrol and a Guy AC belonging to 5Tp left with 2Tp and went as far as ??? where they filled up 2Tp and then set out to return to SHQ. At 1115 hours 3Tp left to take up a position of observation at GHOT??? T3386. At 1130 hours the 8cwt and Guy returned to SHQ and reported that there were thermos bombs along the track. At 1300 hours the Sqn moved forward to T8067 arriving there at 1515 hours. At 1530 hours troops were sent forward to clear the track of bombs, which they did by exploding 20 bombs with Bren gun fire, rifle fire would not explode them. They returned to SHQ at 1700 hours and reported the track clear. At 1715 hours 2Tp commenced recce of tracks. At 1830 hours 2Tp and 3Tp moved back along the track for 7 miles and halted for the night. B Sqn. At 0700 hours 3Tp Sgt Matheson was ordered to proceed West down the track from 7429 and 1Tp 2Lt Halliday remained there to await the arrival of the remainder of the Sqn. The LAD and 2Lt Caldwell RE with a sub-section were attached to the Sqn. 4Tp 2Lt Gape remained behind to show the REs the location of the mines and to bring them on when they had cleared the minefield. SHQ led by 2Tp Sgt McCarthy joined 1Tp and proceeded West down the track. At 0830 hours 3Tp found another minefield at 7228. Sgt McCarthy moved two mines off the track and the Sqn was able to proceed. At 1130 hours at 5926 3Tp ran into an A/Tk trench with adjacent minefield. 2Lt Caldwell RE who had by this time cleared the other two minefields and removed over 600 mines was sent up to clear the latest discovered, which he did and led the way over it in his truck followed by Cpl Early in his RRAC. 2Lt Caldwell got over alright but the RRAC struck a mine which badly damaged it but again the crew were unhurt. It was thought that this mine had been buried deeper than the rest and had been missed. At 1400 hours the Sqn received orders to proceed North to EL FARDIA area and to come under orders of the 8th Australian Div. The Sqn retraced its steps and then proceeded North along the track from 7429, 1Tp in front and 3Tp going back to pick up the Echelon and to escort it to the Sqn. At 1545 hours 1Tp 2Lt Halliday reported another minefield and A/Tk trench at 739817. This was cleared by the REs and the Sqn proceeded until reaching Fort EL RIDATTA 7139 where there was another trench and more mines. The Sqn arrived at the fort at 1800 hours and a detour was made around the trench and the mines. It was raining hard and the going was very bad. On reaching the track again the Sqn pushed on to EL FARDIA arriving at 1910 hours and received a rousing welcome from the local inhabitants. The night was spent there. RHQ. In the early afternoon the Sqn followed by B Sqn moved to a position South



	of MECHILL and replenished en route.
4/2/41	C Sqn. At 0730 hours the Sqn received orders to move to MSUS and to recce the BIR GERRABI on the way. At 0745 hours the Sqn moved and arrived at MSUS at 1500 hours. There was a small fort with a garrison of approx 20 native troops. Sgt Scrivener 3Tp engaged the fort from the East while 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp moved round to the West in an attempt to cut-off the garrison. The enemy opened fire with MG and SA fire which was returned. As 5Tp came up on the West (about 2 miles from the fort) the garrison came out in two lorries and moved NW. the patrol were unable to stop them as a deep wadi was in the way. At 1700 hours the Sqn moved SW from MSUS for 30 miles, arriving X6184 at 2100 hours and remained there for the night. The Sqn had covered 110 miles during the day and were now 30 miles to the SW of RHQ who had arrived at MSUS just prior to the escape of the garrison. A Sqn. At 0645 hours 1Tp left to take up a position of observation at S9521. At 0800 hours the Sqn moved forward to GHOTDERVA. At 0815 hours 1Tp who were halted with a petrol stoppage were attacked by two CR42. The crews were unhurt but the rear petrol tank of the RRAC was punctured. At 0845 hours 3Tp was sent forward to take over from 1Tp. At 0900 hours the Sqn moved forward again. At 1030 hours Sgt Beedham and a MRAC was sent back to try and find the Echelon which the Sqn Ldr was rather worried about as they had a difficult job to find the Sqn without much data to work on. At 1130 hours the sound of aircraft was heard, but no planes could be seen. A loud explosion was heard and clouds of smoke could be seen. 3Tp was sent to investigate but could find no craters or any sign of a target. At 1300 hours the Sqn received orders to rejoin the Regt at MSUS and the Sqn moved at 1430 leaving Sgt Beedham to continue his search for the Echelon. At 1700 hours the Sqn was still on the move over extremely difficult broken ground and wadis. At this time Sgt Beedham reported that he had not met the Echelon so he was ordered to proceed to BIR BETOR to re-fill at the RASC dump there. At 1730 hours W/T communication failed with Beedham. At 2300 hours the Sqn halted for the night having done 34 miles on very tiring country. Still out of touch with Beedham and accordingly without news of the Echelon. B Sqn. At 0715 hours having contacted the leading Australian patrols coming from the East the Sqn proceeded West down the main road towards SLONTA. 4Tp 2Lt Gape was in front followed by 1Tp 2Lt Halliday and 2Tp Sgt McCarthy. 3Tp Sgt Matheson was sent back to GIOVANNI – BERTA to contact SQMS Dyson and his Echelon. At 0850 hours 4Tp reported a large road block and mines at 3829. The REs had been temporarily lost in the morning mist, so 4Tp were told to do their best to get round the block. At 1015 hours Sgt Holland 4Tp was killed by a mine from which he was removing the fuse. The mines were cleared by 1200 hours and 2Tp took the lead. At 1345 hours 2Tp struck another minefield which 2Lt Caldwell RE cleared by 1415 hours. At 1500 hours the Sqn reached GARUA and 4Tp investigated the aerodrome but found nothing except a few burnt out planes. Approx 1 mile West 2Tp captured a Fiat car, 2 lorries, 2 officers and 12 ORs. 2Lt Caldwell and SHQ also captured 1 officer and 18 ORs who were hiding in a culvert. At 1800 hours at 882174, 2Tp caught a party of enemy laying mines, some of which were already in place across the road. 2Lt Caldwell and his two trucks went forward and when the mines had been cleared 2Tp went on followed by 1Tp. At this moment an enemy ambush party opened fire on the vehicles and Tpr Potter and Tpr Froggatt were killed and Sgt Whittaker wounded. A MRAC and a RRAC were badly damaged also a Guy AC of 1Tp and both the RE trucks. During a lull in the firing 4Tp 2Lt Gape was sent forward to try and give covering fire for the withdrawal of the other vehicles but the firing started again more fiercely than ever and 4Tp were forced to withdraw into cover of bushes by the side of the road. Sgt Whittaker was badly wounded in the leg but Sgt McCarthy, LCpl Stump and Tpr Naylor managed to get him out of his car and carry him out of danger. All this was carried out under very heavy fire. The enemy were firing shells, A/Tk guns and MGs at a range of about 3/400 yards. Major Miller was in his Ford utility amongst the damaged vehicles but managed to get it off the road and retired on foot. The whole action lasted for about 10 minutes. Having collected as many vehicles as possible the Sqn withdrew to 960160 and remained there for the night.



5/2/41	C Sqn. The Sqn moved SW to ANTELAT and from there sent out patrols West and SW. Sgt Lamb 1Tp went to BEDA FOMM and 4 enemy lorries moved East towards him but soon turned around and went back. Sgt Scrivener 3Tp moved to SIDI SALEH but the patrol had mechanical trouble so he was relieved by 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp who pushed SW to within sight of the BENGHAZI – AGEDABIA road and chose a position for cutting the road. Sgt Lamb 1Tp moved West and was in observation of the road at X1079. At 1200 hours the Rifle Bde (Col Renton) and RHA (Lt Col Campbell) took up positions and 5Tp was withdrawn and sent to BEDA FOMM to watch for any enemy movement to the SE. 1Tp at X1079 reported enemy moving South on the road. This MET was dealt with by the Rifle Bde. At 1730 hours the 4th Armd Bde arrived in the BEDA FOMM area so 1Tp and 5Tp withdrew to SHQ at SIDI SALEH for the night. A Sqn. At 0700 hours the Sqn moved forward towards the track at BIR MELEZ and came under orders of Support Grp. At 1000 hours the Sqn met the B2 Echelon of RHQ who supplied the Sqn with hard rations and petrol. At 1200 hours the Sqn moved again with the task of recceing ESC SCELEIDIMA which was believed to be held. 5Tp was given the job and moved forward as advance guard to the Sqn. At 1330 hours the Sqn halted at S5315 and 5Tp went on to carry out the recce. At 1500 hours 5Tp reported that their objective was strongly held by guns and Infantry and that they could see a strongly built fort on the top of a hill which commanded all approaches. At 1530 2Tp 2Lt Clarke was sent forward to recce an enemy position at SIDI BRAMM. At 1600 hours Support Grp were in position 2 miles South of the Sqn. At 1615 hours 5Tp Cpl Thomas reported that he had met a patrol of D Sqn (RAF) who were going to be attached to the Sqn and at 1630 hours D Sqn HQ arrived at SHQ. At 1635 hours the B2 Echelon arrived. This Echelon was doing a double job as there was still no news of Sgt Beedham or the B2a Echelon. At 1645 hours Brigadier Gott of Support Grp arrived at SHQ and escorted by 3Tp left to carry out a recce of ESC SCELEIDIMA. At 1730 hours a patrol of D Sqn took over from 2Tp. At 1800 hours 3Tp arrived at SHQ and confirmed 5Tp report. 2Tp also arrived at SHQ. At 2230 hours 5Tp returned having been delayed by mechanical trouble. ESC SCELEIDIMA was shelled during the night by our artillery. B Sqn. After having been threatened by the Australians the enemy withdrew during the night and at 0830 hours 4Tp again took the lead towards BARCE followed by 1Tp. At the top of the escarpment at Kilo 8 the road was badly blown and further down the hill the enemy had blown a 120 ft span bridge. No movement seen in BARCE but an explosion was heard. Sometime was spent while the damaged road was surveyed but at 1355 hours the Sqn turned back and with 4Tp leading turned off the main road at 8116 and moved down the track to the station at 6610. There were two A/Tk trenches dug across this track but they were soon filled in. Sqn halted for the night in area 5905. RHQ. While at MSUS another "Force" was formed consisting of 11th Hussars, less A & B Sqns, plus one Sqn of the KDGs, the Rifle Bde and guns under Lt Col Campbell, the whole force under command of Lt Col Combe. RHQ left MSUS at first light in the tracks of C Sqn. The remainder of the Force followed a little later. On reaching ANTELAT, the B vehicles were left there and the 4 ACs plus Col Campbell in an 8cwt truck went on towards the main road. On arrival at SIDI SALEH the Colonel and Colonel Campbell carried out a recce. A suitable position for RHQ was found and the rest of the Sqn sent for. They eventually arrived with the rest of the Force. The guns were positioned and the Rifle Bde took up positions on the road.
6/2/41	C Sqn. At 0800 hours 2Lt Crankshaw 5Tp moved to X1876 to contact 4th Armd Bde and to observe any enemy movement to the SE. At 1000 hours the Sqn moved to the White Mosque on the road and on the way contacted Cols Renton and Campbell as the Sqn task was to protect the right flank of the Rifle Bde and the guns while they blocked the road. Sgt Lamb captured 1 Italian officer and 13 ORs. At 1800 hours the Sqn concentrated with SHQ at the Windmill. A Sqn. At 0645 hours the Sqn Ldr left with Brigadier Gott escorted by 3Tp for ESC SCELEIDIMA.



	At 1030 hours the Sqn received orders to move forward to SCELEIDIMA as it had now been evacuated by the enemy. At 1100 hours 2Tp reached the objective and were ordered to recce SIDI BRAMM. At 1130 hours the remainder of the Sqn arrived at the fort but were held up by a huge A/Tk trench across which the Sappers had made a temporary bridge but it was not strong enough to hold the fitters lorry. Accordingly the trench had to be filled in to carry the weight across. This work took about an hour and the lorry crossed successfully. At 1140 hours 3Tp was ordered to recce SOLOCH which was shown on the map as the terminus of the BENGHAZI railway. The patrol entered at 1230 hours and were warmly welcomed by the inhabitants many of whom appeared to be of Turkish origin. At 1235 hours the Sqn moved off as an advance guard to Support Grp the objective being SOLUCH. At 1300 hours 2Tp reported that SIDI BRAMM was unoccupied and that they had captured 1 Italian officer and 4 ORs. At 1330 hours 3Tp were pushed on to recce NW towards GARDINA. At 1430 hours the Sqn arrived at SOLUCH and then moved 1 mile to the West of the town. In the town the fitters lorry broke down and had to be towed. This vehicle was affectionately known as JEMIMA and had been right through the campaign from June to February and had only failed to reach BENGHAZI by 25 miles. At 1445 hours 3Tp entered GARDINA where they received a civic welcome by the Mayor. One Trooper was given some Italian money by one of the inhabitants and he immediately spent it in a shop on much needed milk and sugar. At 1500 hours a troop of D Sqn (who were still attached to the Sqn) was sent to recce GHEMINES. In the meantime 3Tp had pushed on another 7 miles and was well on the way to BENGHAZI having met no resistance. At 1530 3Tp were ordered to return to SHQ and 2Tp were recalled from SIDI BRAMM. At 1800 hours 2Tp arrived at SHQ with their prisoners who were handed over to Support Grp. At 1805 hours a Carrier Platoon of the Rifle Bde was sent out to assist D Sqn patrol with their prisoners. Still no news of Sgt Beedham and the lost B2a Echelon. B Sqn. The advance continued, 4Tp in the lead and followed by 1Tp and moving towards REGINA and ??? the first obstacle to be encountered was an A/Tk trench at REGINA which was reached at 1330 hours. The weather was very wet and the track very sticky. From REGINA it was possible to see right across to BEMINA and BENGHAZI. The Sqn stayed at REGINA (while the Australians marched into BEMINA) until 1700 hours and then moved down to leaguer position on BEMINA aerodrome. At 1900 hours Sqn received orders to proceed South to ??? at first light as 7th Armd Div required assistance. For the first time for nearly two months the Echelon failed to find the Sqn.
7/2/41	C Sqn. At dawn one diesel lorry with 4 officers and 180 ORs were captured. At 0730 hours 2Lt Crankshaw and Sgt Lamb patrolled NW to see if the area between the Rifle Bde and 4th Armd Bde was clear of enemy and at 0830 hours reported no movement seen. At 0900 hours these patrols withdrew and moved South to contact the KDG Sqn who were 14 miles to the South of the White Mosque. At 1100 hours contact was gained and 2Lt Crankshaw was sent further South to a position of observation 7 miles to the North of AGEDABIA. At 1700 hours Sgt Lamb joined Crankshaw and both patrols moved South to recce AGEDABIA. Sgt Lamb moved round to the South of the town and blocked the western exits and Crankshaw entered and took possession of the town. There were approx 200 Italians there one of whom was the Colonel of a Light Tank Regt. He spoke very good English and was a friend of Major Carr 12th Royal Lancers. At 1800 hours the Sqn moved 3 miles to the West of AGEDABIA and leaguered for the night. A Coy of the Rifle Bde took over the town and prisoners. A Sqn. The Sqn received orders to act as an advance guard to Support Grp and D Sqn were ordered to recce along the coast track whilst the Sqn and Support Grp moved along the main road. At 0700 hours the Sqn moved across country towards ANTELUCH, 2Tp leading. At 0800 hours the Sqn reached the main road and turned West. From here on Italian soldiers waving white flags were met continuously. For the most part they seemed only too glad to surrender. At 1400 hours the Sqn came under command of the Regt again. 2Lt Clarke was evacuated to an ADS with an injured hand.



	At 1500 hours the Sqn reached Kilo 18 (from AGEDABIA) where the remainder of the Regt, less B Sqn, was. Cpl Thomas and 2Lt Poston rejoined the Sqn. At 1600 hours the Sqn moved with the Regt towards AGEDABIA, where Lt Friend's Tp was left to assist in guarding the prisoners. The Sqn leaguered for the night 2 miles to the West of the town. At 1815 hours the long lost B2a Echelon arrived. Cpl Wood who was in charge of it had put up a very good show as the Regt had moved very fast and whenever he asked for information as to its whereabouts he always received the answer "Oh, the 11th have gone on". Cpl Wood reported that Sgt Beedham was just SW of the BIR BETOR waiting to be recovered by the RASC as his car had gone into a ditch and bent the front axle as well as damaging the wireless. B Sqn. At 0700 hours the Sqn left to lead the 4th Bn of the 6th Australian Div southwards to try and catch up with the enemy column and deal it a blow to the rear. 4Tp took the lead until 1015 hours when 1Tp took over. At 1030 hours the Sqn arrived at GHEMINES and went on to about 3 kilos short of MAGRUM. After halting there for sometime it was discovered that the 7th Armd Div had finished their battle very successfully and that the Sqn was to revert to the Regt who were then in AGEDABIA. The Sqn halted for the night at MAGRUM.
8/2/41	C Sqn. At 0800 hours the Sqn moved West along the road towards AGHEILA, A Sqn leading. AGHEILA was reached at approx 1200 hours and the Sqn remained there for the night. A Sqn. At 0700 hours the Sqn moved West along the road acting as an advance guard for the Regt, 3Tp leading. At 0800 hours 3Tp reported that they had captured 30 prisoners and at 0830 hours they reported that they had captured and disarmed a Libyan Cavalry patrol consisting of 12 men. At 0930 hours 3Tp reached the fork road MARSA – BREGA – AGHEILA and reported that there were 50 Italian soldiers on the MARSA – BREGA road. They were ordered to proceed on the main road to AGHEILA and 2Tp moved along the road to MERSA BREGA. The 50 Italian soldiers were captured and sent back along the road to SHQ where they were ordered to march East along the main road. At 1200 hours 3Tp reported that AGHEILA fort and aerodrome were unoccupied. The Sqn occupied the fort at 1230 hours and at 1300 hours moved 2 miles West and halted for the night. The weather during the day had been very rainy and stormy but the Sqn spirits were not dampened. B Sqn. At 0730 hours the Sqn received orders to rejoin the Regt, which was leaving AGEDABIA and proceeding to AGHEILA. The Sqn left MAGRUM at 0900 hours and joined the Regt at 1530 hours. The Sqn leaguered in the White House South of the road about 4 kilos from AGHEILA. RHQ. The Officers Mess was established in the old Officers Mess of the CARABINIERE who had previously occupied the fort. A good fire was lit and clothes and bedding dried. Later that night two Libyans arrived, one of whom was a Sgt Major. He stated that there were approx 300 men with camels and horses in the sand dunes a few kilos to the East of the fort and that they wanted to give themselves up. The CO did not want them in that night as it would have been difficult to disarm and sort them out in the dark. The Sgt Major was therefore told to bring his men in the next morning and that if they behaved themselves they would be well treated and given food. If however they attempted to escape they would all be shot by our patrols. This seemed to be understood and the Sgt Major rode off back to his men.
9/2/41	C Sqn. The Sqn remained in the same position and the day was spent in drying clothing and bedding and maintenance of the vehicles. NTR. A Sqn. At 0900 hours the Sqn moved forward to the TRIPOLITANEAN frontier, 3Tp doing advance guard. At 1000 hours 3Tp were held up by minefields which had been laid along the sides of the road; there was also an Italian lorry blown up, presumably by their own mines. At 1030 hours a detachment of Sappers arrived and proceeded with 3Tp clearing the mines as they went along. At 1200 hours the Sqn halted at RASEL AALI which had been the Italian Cavalry Depot. Many horses had been left and they were very thirsty and hungry and in many cases were suffering from bullet



	wounds. At 1210 hours 5Tp moved forward to act as forward patrol 4 miles West of SHQ. At 1430 hours 2Tp relieved 5Tp. The remainder of the Sqn set to work to water the horses at a well in the Depot. At 1500 hours 2Tp carried out a patrol for 20 miles West along the main road. At 1630 hours 2Tp reported that 3 CR42's flew over them at 100 ft but did not take any action. At 1730 hours 2Tp returned and took up a position 4 miles West of SHQ. B Sqn. Sqn in same position. Abandoned enemy vehicles inspected. RHQ. At about 1000 hours the Libyans were sighted coming across the dunes towards the fort. They numbered about 400 camels, 20 to 30 horses and approx 340 men. There were also 20 Italians amongst them including an Air Force officer and some sailors. These men were all disarmed and marched to their allotted lines. The Italian prisoners were sent back with the Echelon. Major General Creagh visited the Regt and had luncheon in the officers mess. He inspected the Libyan Camel Corps and the fort. Unfortunately he did not have time to visit the Sqns but he wrote out and sent a long and most complementary signal to HM the King as Colonel in Chief of the Regt.
10/2/41	C Sqn. Still in same position. At 1515 hours Major General O'Conner visited the Sqn and spoke to the men. At 1545 hours Sqn moved to Troad 8 miles West of AGHEILA. 1Tp Sgt Lamb in observation 3 miles to the West until 1845 hours. No movement seen. A Sqn. 3Tp relieved 2Tp at 0645 hours. At 1100 hours the CO visited the Sqn also Capt AMESRAOC who took away some of the abandoned vehicles. At 1200 hours the Colonel left and on checking the Sqn position it was found to be 10 miles inside TRIPOLITANIA and not on the frontier! At 1430 hours the Sqn moved back to AGHEILA. At 1630 hours the Sqn leaguered 2 miles West of AGHEILA. B Sqn. The Sqn attended Regt church parade in the hanger otherwise NTR. RHQ. Padre Woodhouse conducted a service in the hanger. There was a good attendance and the singing was excellent and sounded very well in the hanger. The turnout of the men, considering what they had been through, was very good. The KDG Sqn who had not been in the field for long, looked particularly smart. General O'Conner with some of his staff, visited the Regt and was entertained in the Mess.
11/2/41	C, A & B Sqns NTR. RHQ. Capt Wainman, the Adjutant, arrived after a long spell of illness and shooting accident in Cairo. He made a record journey by air to TOBRUK and then by road to AGHEILA.
12/2/41	C Sqn. NTR A Sqn. Same position. At 0635 hours two enemy bombers flew over AGHEILA and dropped bombs, no damage done. B Sqn. At 0655 hours an enemy reconnaissance bomber flew over the house in which the Sqn were billeted and dropped 4 bombs which made large craters about 200 yards to the North. The plane then circled and machine gunned the house and dropped 2 more bombs which fell about 200 yards to the East. No damage was done. Later the Sqn evacuated the house and moved 3 miles to the South into the desert. RHQ. The same bomber that attacked B Sqn flew over the fort and machine gunned the forward and rear link cars. There was no damage to them. A bullet embedded itself in a wall of the building in which Major Leatham, Lt Roberts, Capt Ames and Capt Justice were sleeping. Another few inches to the left



	and it would have gone straight through the door. Lt Col "Flash" Kellett MP who spent the night with us was sleeping in the next room. He left after breakfast to return to Cairo.
13/2/41	C Sqn. At 0650 hours Sgt Lamb moved to a position of observation 3 miles to the West of SHQ. Nothing to report during the day except the recapture of 24 camels and 41 Libyans who had escaped from the main party at RHQ and were moving West. Sgt Lamb withdrew at 1840 hours. A Sqn. Still in same position. All hands doing maintenance in readiness for the much looked forward to move back to Cairo. B Sqn. Sqn in same position. One enemy recce plane flew over during the day and was fired on without visible effect. No British planes seen throughout the day. RHQ. Major Baird (chief liaison officer between the British forces and Arabs) who had been sent to deal with the Libyan Camel Corps, made arrangements for these Libyans to be marched back to BENGHAZI. He stated that they were not proper fighting troops but a sort of ASC lifting Coy, and not a very good type of Arab. These men started off under escort of some trucks of the 60th Rifles and 2Lt Goschen. Before leaving, the Sgt Major reported that some of his men with their camels had escaped to the West. These were intercepted and recaptured by C Sqn. However they had apparently joined up with some civilian Arabs as C Sqn sent in more men and camels than were reported missing. Amongst them was also a BINT that we had never seen before. It was impossible to sort the civilians from the soldiers so Lt Roberts who, as OC RHQ, was responsible for them, locked them all in a large room for the night. The Bint was included in this party. It was the intention to march them off the next day to catch up with the main body. During the night the officers mess area was bombed, luckily without causing any casualties.
14/2/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night except that enemy planes flew over SHQ at 2330 hours and dropped 2 bombs. Later 6 bombs were dropped 2 miles West of SHQ astride the road but no damage done. At 0650 hours 2Lt Crankshaw moved to a position of observation West of SHQ. At 1200 hours an attack by approx 8 Me 110's was made from the East. The attack lasted about 3 minutes and there were two casualties. One MARC and the fitters lorry were put out of action (this was the 3rd fitters lorry put out of action since the campaign began). 2Lt Crankshaw saw a Me 110 force land about a mile to the West of his position and captured the crew. This attack appeared to be launched with much more ferocity and dash than any Italian attack. At 1615 hours 17 enemy aircraft flew over SHQ which had moved 2 miles to the North, but did not attack. They were returning from an attack on RHQ at the fort. At 1830 hours the Sqn moved on to the road for the night. 5Tp remained in observation of the enemy plane all night. A Sqn. The night bombing attack on RHQ was plainly heard and fortunately the Sqn was not spotted. At 1000 hours 17 Me 110's flew down the road very low, machine gunning everything in sight. It was miraculous that no damage was done to the Sqn other than a few bullets in 1Tp bedding. They were flying at a altitude of about 50 feet. At 1615 hours the fort was savagely attacked by Ju 87's – dive bombing and machine gunning – luckily the Sqn was again unmolested. B Sqn. At 1200 hours 12 Me 110's, having approached with engines shut off, suddenly attacked the Sqn heavily machine gunning from a low altitude. They came over more or less in turn, singled out a vehicle, attacked it and then flew off towards the fort and the other Sqns. The attached AA and Bren gunners returned the fire but owing to a sand storm at the time, the guns did not work well. The AA gunners ammunition lorry and the Sqn charging lorry were hit and set on fire. 2Lt Halliday's MARC was hit through the radiator and was evacuated by the LAD. The 8cwt had both petrol tanks punctured but these were repaired by the Sqn fitter. All personnel were unharmed. At 1615 hours a number of enemy planes circled over the Sqn and made a heavy attack on AGHELA fort – dive bombing and machine gunning. One dive bomber was seen to have its tail shot off and to



	crash. No British planes seen throughout the day. At 1900 hours Sqn moved another 2 miles South for the night. RHQ. For full details of the air attack on RHQ see Appendix.
15/2/41	C Sqn. At 1600 hours the Sqn moved on the way back to Cairo. The night was spent in the area MARSА BREGA 40 miles East of EL AGHELA. A Sqn. At 1200 hours another air attack was made on the fort, using very heavy bombs. The fort and buildings were enveloped in clouds of smoke and dust and it seemed impossible that anyone could survive such an attack. It was a most interesting spectacle and it was a relief to know that RHQ had moved out into the desert on the previous evening. At 1600 hours the Sqn moved with the Regt to MARSА BREGA. On the way the KDG's were passed going West and given a cheer. B Sqn. The Sqn moved with the Regt to MARSА BREGA. RHQ. The Regt moved off at 1600 hours, b Sqn moved in advance as their position was the most easterly. With reference to the air attack on the fort as described by A Sqn; Capt Ames, three of his men and 2Lt Halliday were in the fort taking the radiator off the burnt out MARC. Luckily no one was hurt and Capt Ames who had been in the raid on the previous day said that he thought the first one was the worst.
16/2/41	C Sqn. At 0605 hours enemy planes bombed and machine gunned an area just to the West (it turned out to be the KDG receiving greetings from the Germans). At 0800 hours the Sqn moved off with the Regt to ANTELAT covering 80 miles during the day. A Sqn. At 0915 hours the Sqn moved off a rear guard to the Regt and at 1030 hours the rear link car (Lt Turnbull, LCpl Foord RCS, LCpl Fitzpatrick and LCpl Gullick) ran off the road whilst overtaking another vehicle. The car overturned and the occupants were shaken up and bruised. Capt Ames and his LAD were soon on the job and eventually got the car back on the road. At 1300 hours the Sqn arrived at Kilo 24 AGEDABIA – GHEMINES – BENGHAZI road where the B2a Echelon was met. The delay caused by the rear link car turning over proved to be fortunate as ½ hour previously 17 Heinkel had bombed and machine gunned an RASC convoy. The Sqn turned East off the road and proceeded for 6 miles, joined up with the rest of the Regt, replenished and had lunch. At 1630 hours the Sqn moved again as rear guard reaching ANTELAT that evening where the rear link car also rejoined the Sqn. B Sqn. Sqn moved with the Regt for ANTELAT which was reached at 1900 hours. On the way the fitters lorry and Sgt Matheson's MARC both ran big ends and were evacuated with only their drivers. During the morning Major Miller had received orders to remain with the KDG for a few days so Capt Arkwright took over the Sqn.
17/2/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours the Sqn moved with the Regt to GHOTDERNA arriving at 1700 hours. Mileage for the day was 110 miles. A Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0700 hours as advance guard to the Regt. On the way a Caproni bomber (with a full load of bombs) was passed, apparently been brought down earlier in the day by SA fire. GHOTDERNA was reached at 1700 hours. B Sqn. Sqn moved with the Regt and arrived at GHOTDERNA without incident except that 4Tp MARC broke a spring when crossing a bad wadi. This Tp eventually arrived at 1830 hours. RHQ. The Colonel and Lt Grant Thorold with the Colonel's Ford and the rear link car (LCpl Dawson and Sgm Smith) left at 0700 hours to visit BENGHAZI and other points of interest. Major Leetham took over command.



	Many thermosbombs were seen on the march to GHOTDERNA but luckily none were struck.
18/2/41	C Sqn. The Sqn moved with the Regt to an area 20 miles West of TOBRUK covering 120 miles during the day. A Sqn. The Sqn moved with the Regt via TIMINI and AIN EL GAZALA aerodromes which were littered with burnt out enemy planes. During the march a MARC broke a steering arm which was the first mechanical trouble in the Sqn since leaving AGHEILA. The night was spent at Kilo 45 from TOBRUK and it was here that we caught one of our few glimpses of a KUMANGETI van. It was very welcome and a good 'haul' was obtained from it including a good supply of eggs. B Sqn. Moved with the Regt and arrived in night leaguer position without incident. RHQ. The KUMANGETI van produced some very much appreciated "comforts" for the whole Regt. The Colonel and Lt Grant Thorold rejoined soon after we had gone into our leaguer position, after a very interesting trip.
19/2/41	C Sqn. The Sqn moved with the Regt to a position 10 miles South of BARDIA covering 110 miles during the day. A Sqn. Sqn moved off behind RHQ and arrived in the leaguer area without incident with the possible exception of 4 punctures. B Sqn. The Sqn moved with the Regt behind A Sqn, nothing to report during the journey. RHQ. At 1000 hours the Regt moved – order of march C, RHQ, A & B Sqn. The Echelons which were now amalgamated brought up the rear. The colonel with Lt HC Roberts moved off before the Regt to make arrangements for handing over the captured Italian vehicles we had been using in the Regt. These arrangements having been made, a personal recce of TOBRUK was made including the docks and Naval Barracks. The Colonel took some interesting photographs and a beautiful piece (about 12 lbs) of fresh beef was 'scrounged' from a very charming RASC Sgt Major. The Regt arrived outside TOBRUK at 1220 hours. The road was almost completely blocked by a convoy of vehicles commanded by a young gunner officer who was waiting for his stragglers to come up. The Colonel asked him to put his vehicles off the road to allow the Regt through. He replied that if he did he might lose his convoy. The Colonel replied that if he didn't he'd lose his commission! He moved and the Regt passed through and reached BARDIA at 1700 hours, passed through and leaguered 8 miles to the South. It was here that Lt Grant Thorold and Lt Roberts decided that the time had come to drink a bottle of champagne that a friend in Cairo had sent them sometime before. This was duly done at dinner and a toast drunk to our last night in Libya and may we never return.
20/2/41	C Sqn. The Sqn moved with the Regt and covered 160 miles to a position 7 miles East of MERSA MATRUH where the night was spent. A Sqn. The Sqn acted as an advance guard to the Regt and moved off at 0630 hours. A few anxious moments were experienced going down SOLLUM hill as 2 MARCs had no foot brakes. MERSA MATRUH was reached at 1615 hours, where the Regt refilled with petrol and moved on to Kilo 12 where the night was spent. B Sqn & RHQ. NTR
21/2/41	C Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0630 hours and covered 216 miles during the day and halted for the night at "Halfway House" on the CAIRO – ALEX road, arriving there at 1730 hours. A Sqn. Sqn arrived at Halfway House without incident. Lt Friend's Tp remained behind to bring on the LAD. B Sqn. NTR



	RHQ. The Regt left at 0630 hours and Halfway House was reached at 1730 hours where a halt for the night was made. The Colonel took photographs of the officers and the entire Regt.
22/2/41	C Sqn. The Sqn moved with the Regt at 0700 hours and arrived at Polygon Barracks, ABBASSIA at 1100 hours, mileage for the day was 75 miles. A Sqn. NTR. The total breakdowns for the Sqn from AGHEILA to ABBASSIA, a distance of 922 miles were as follows:- 6 punctures, 1 RRAC dowel pin, 1 RRAC radiator leak, 1 MARC swivel pin and 1 MARC steering arm. B Sqn. NTR. RHQ. The Regt left for CAIRO at 0700 hours. The journey of approx 920 miles had taken 6 ½ days. The barracks were very comfortable and the whole Regt had the unique experience of once again having a roof over its head. The officers mess was in Woolwich House Rome Gardens. The officers quarters were in married officers quarters (less the married officers and their wives) and were very comfortable. Saffragis were already waiting and all officer's kits had been taken out of stores and were in their respective rooms. The bath water was boiling and a very good luncheon ready and waiting. It was a glorious homecoming. No leave was granted to ORs that night and none of the officers went out as everyone was very tired and an early night between real sheets was enjoyed by everyone.
23/2/41	Spent in getting sorted out and general cleaning up etc.
24/2/41	B Sqn fitters lorry arrived having taken out a piston. Journey from BENGHAZI to ABBASSIA was made on 5 cylinders.

Air Attacks on EL AGHEILA 13/14th Feb 1941.

RHQ had made their HQ in the Carabinieri barracks at El Agheila. These barracks consisted of a long building divided into several rooms (on the North side of the fort proper) and a smaller building still further North which was the old Officers Mess and was used as such by RHQ. The whole was surrounded by a low wall forming a square.

Everything had been quiet since we moved into Agheila and various visitors arrived including the Corps Commander and the Divisional General who were entertained to luncheon in the Officers Mess. On the night of February 13th at approximately 2350 hours, enemy planes were heard flying from East to West and were believed to be S79's from the familiar droning noises of the engines. Two bombs were heard to drop about 1 mile East of the fort. The noise of the planes then grew louder and a bomb was dropped in the square about 20 yards from the officers mess. Another stick of 4 bombs was dropped just over the wall to the North of the Mess and a further 3 were dropped in the square. It was thought there were two planes operating.

The noise of the bombs dropping through the air could be plainly heard. The CO, Adjutant and Lt Grant Thorold were sleeping in the Mess and had a narrow escape from the first bomb which dropped outside the Mess. Splinters shattered the door and fetched up in the walls inside the room in which they were sleeping. One fragment went straight through Lt Grant Thorold's trousers which were hanging on a chair beside his bed. Windows were broken and plaster shaken from the walls and ceiling.

The remainder of the officers and crews of the forward and rear link ACs were sleeping in the building on the South side of the square; which shook in a most alarming manner.

The planes, after having dropped their bombs, continued to fly over the area for some time and did not leave until approx 0040 hours, after having dropped another stick of bombs about 5 miles to the West of the fort, the road presumably being the target. It was not hit.

This night attack was a new and unpleasant experience for us and it was therefore decided that perhaps the desert was the best place after all, despite the unaccustomed comfort of having a roof over our heads. RHQ was ordered to move out on the afternoon of February 14th so as to be right clear of the fort by night. Accordingly Major WI Leetham and Lt HC Roberts went off the next morning accompanied by Major O'Brien Butler RHA and Capt Temple RHA to reconnoitre a suitable spot in the desert to the South of the road. There was a bad dust storm that morning and visibility was bad.

B Sqn; whose position was 3 miles SE of the fort, were, at about 1200 hours, suddenly dived on and machine gunned by 15 Me 110's which succeeded in setting two B vehicles on fire – one belonging to B Sqn and one to the section of Breda AA Guns attached to them. However there were no casualties of personnel.

The attack was very sudden and unexpected, especially in view of the bad weather. Owing to the dust it was



difficult to see where the planes came from.

After having dealt with B Sqn the planes then flew over the fort and the aerodrome, machine gunning everything in sight including the concrete hanger. The RMO (Lt Hartnell) and the OME (Capt Ames) were in the hanger at the time and said it was most unpleasant as the bullets not only came through the roof but that the planes were "front gunning" through the open doors of the hanger. At the time there was a lot of Italian SA ammunition stored in the hanger. The planes were flying at an altitude of 150 – 200 feet.

The Sqn of KDG had 4 men wounded when lying under their ACs and the RAF Sqn one man wounded, none of them seriously. A & C Sqns, who were also South of the road were not neglected and several cars of C Sqn were hit and the armour pierced on one car in many places. "Cannon Guns" were used by some of the planes but failed to penetrate the armour plating, only making large dents.

The Officers Mess square also received its share of attention and the rear link received a bullet in the spare tyre and a nasty dent in the back. The Adjutant and Lt Grant Thorold were in the mess at the time (reading the Tatler) and were forced to find some better cover than a very thin plaster roof. These planes were engaged by 4/106 Bty RHA's Breda guns, SA fire and the three Bofors guns. One plane was shot down and two others reported damaged. The plane shot down forced landed about 12 miles to the West of the fort and about ¾ mile to the West of a patrol of C Sqn commanded by 2Lt Crankshaw. 2Lt Crankshaw's Troop had not been left out of the fun and some of his tyres were punctured.

He watched the plane on the ground and said that the other planes machine gunned it on their way home. As soon as he was mobile he proceeded to the plane to collect the crew, which consisted of a WO pilot, and a wireless operator LCpl, both of whom were unhurt. The pilot spoke some English and explained his desire to be taken to the Commandant. Lt Crankshaw sent Cpl Chamber to investigate the plane and see if there was anyone else in it and to collect any documents there might be. The pilot showed considerable agitation at this move and by word and gesture intimated that the plane might explode. The plane was not badly damaged, except for a burst petrol tank on the near side and a Breda shell through the near side engine cowling which had severed some oil pipes.

The pilot was carrying various paper, the most interesting of which was a large map on which a course was marked in pencil. The starting point was MUNICH and the finish was a circle on the map at a point South of MISURATA. The route was via VENICE, NAPLES, SICILY and TRIPOLI. He also had some hotel labels of a hotel in NAPLES and various snapshots obviously taken somewhere in Italy as the girls appearing in the various groups were quite definitely not of a pure Nordic type.

Both the pilot and the operator were inclined to be surly and would not talk, the pilot denying any knowledge of English. He asked QMS White (who speaks a little German) how long he was going to be kept at AGHEILA and on being told "about a week" his face dropped quite a long way, which is not surprising in view of subsequent events. On the afternoon of Feb 14th, at about 1615 hours, the Adjutant was busy in the orderly room writing the report of the previous raids when a message came through from C Sqn over the wireless to the effect that 20 unidentified planes were flying from West to East, South of the road. All guns were manned and everyone possible warned. It was not possible to warn other Sqns as CW was not being kept.

Within a very few minutes of the warning being received the attack on the fort commenced and the fort received their undivided attention, the other Sqns not being favoured. The formation consisted of Ju 87 dive bombers and they attacked from the East. The attack was very heavy and consisted of dive bombing and then machine gunning; and lasted for 10 minutes. One of RHQ's ACs was hit and set on fire. The crew, consisting of Sgt Lucy, Tpr Buckler and Tpr Vivier being instantly killed.

A RAF Officer who witnessed the attack from the South of the road stated that the planes approached in echelon to starboard formation at approx 8,000 feet; taking full advantage of the sun. When over the target the leader broke formation, dived and released his bomb at approx 1,500 feet. He then pulled out and did a steep climbing turn into the sun. This procedure was adopted in turn by the remainder of the formation and when the last plane had pulled out the leader did a shallow dive out of the sun and front gunned the target from 1,000 feet, followed by the remainder of the formation. Our guns did very good work – not only the Breda but the Brens as well. LCpl Dawson and LCpl Lee were manning their guns and firing during the whole attack. The RAF Officer also stated that he thought the pilots were forced to carry out their front gunning attack from 1,000 feet because of the hot resistance in the form of AA from the ground. He also stated that the drill was extremely good, well executed and polished, which would seem to indicate that they were first line pilots, probably as good as our own.

During this action one Ju 87 had its tail shot off by a Breda gun and crashed just South of the hanger. The pilot attempted to jump as his parachute was open, but he was too low and was killed. The rear gunner, however, landed safely and was captured. He was a 1st Class WO and had the Iron Cross.

Sgt Moore of X Troop Royal Signals, who was in a good position from which to watch the attack, saw the wings fall off another plane and black smoke pouring from it. It is believed that this plane fell into the sea as the SSM of C Sqn saw the same plane with the smoke coming from it go down over the dunes in the direction of the sea.

The bombs which were dropped appeared to be heavier (judging from the noise) than those dropped the previous night, but on examining the places where they were seen to fall, there was not a sign of any crater and the fragmentation appeared very good. Fragments could be heard and seen kicking up the sand which had drifted



against the wall and appeared to travel about 2 feet above the ground. RHQ moved very shortly after this attack to a position about 1 ½ miles to the SW of the fort. Slit trenches were dug and one of the most willing and enthusiastic workers was the captured German. On February 15th a further attack was made on the fort at 1200 hours by 12 planes – Messerschmidts and Junkers. They approached from the West, flying much higher than previously, circled the fort and then dive bombed and machine gunned it. They appeared to be using heavier bombs than the previous evening although eye witnesses from other Sqns state that the attack was very similar to the previous one and was, if anything, not quite so savage. However; those who were there on the previous day and who were watching this attack with considerable satisfaction from deep slit trenches could hardly credit that anyone could have lived through such a hellish inferno. There were 3 men from LAD in the fort during this last attack but they were all unhurt. One plane was reported as having been shot down and one damaged during this raid, but they were not found.

March 1941	CO: Lt Col JFB Combe
Mar 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
9/3/41	Major K Alexander and Lt HLF Ward arrived as advance party to the draft from England.
10/3/41	Major AT Smail, Lt H Petch DCM. 2Lt L Jacobson, 2Lt GK Burness, 2Lt AJL Smithers 2Lt RA Rapp and 129 ORs joined the Regt from England. Of the 129 ORs, 43 were 11th Hussars reservists who had been serving with various other regiments since the outbreak of war. Many of them had previously served with the Regt in Egypt.
Since the return of the Regt on February 22nd, training started with a vengeance on Feb 24th. There were Regt classes for Diver Mechanics, Driver Operators and Breda Gun, and drill etc. owing to the arrival of 8 extra officers, various changes in organisation were made on the basis of the new War Establishment. Major Smail took over A Sqn and Capt AVC Roberts became 2i/c. Major K Alexander took over RHQ Sqn from Lt HC Roberts with Lt DPJ Lloyd MC as 2i/c. Lt HC Roberts became Intelligence Officer and Lt JEM Trayner was also attached to the Sqn. Capt HLF Ward took over as 2i/c C Sqn in lieu of Capt HSCayzer who reverted to the rank of Lt. Lt JAN Crankshaw MC became Technical Officer in lieu of Capt Grant Thorold. Training progressed favourably and all ranks enjoyed cricket and football and the amenities of Cairo when on the 31-3-41 orders came through for the Regt to take over a number of guard duties in the Cairo Sub-area from the 1st KRRC who were ordered into the field at short notice. This seriously interfered with training as the various guards and garrison employed personnel was over 200. However, a certain amount was still carried on. The Regt also had to find a permanent guard consisting of 1 Sgt and 16 ORs for the POW camp at Warren Camp Abbassia where there were approx 120 Italian prisoners. Lt HSCayzer was Commandant of this camp and an officer commanded the guard which changed ever 24 hours. This officer was permanently on duty and only left the camp for meals. A fatigue party of 20 prisoners worked in barracks every day and did their work cheerfully and well. This guard as well as all the Cairo guards and garrison duties were taken over by the Royals when the Regt received orders to move. The Regt then received orders to move and left for Cyrenaica on April 5th. Major Smail remained behind as OC "Details" with Capt DPJ Lloyd MC as Adjutant (he was still on light duties owing to his wounds). Lt JEM Trayner (who had a back injury and was graded unfit for the Field) took over RHQ Details. Capt HLF Ward took over C Sqn Details. Capt P Arkwright (awaiting passage to Home Establishment) PMC and A Sqn Details. Lt HC Roberts (awaiting transfer to Trans-Jordan Frontier Force) was employed writing the War Diary. Capt W Wainman and B Sqn officers – less Lt WVH Gape MC who had been lent to RHQ and 2Lt AJL Smithers C Sqn and 2Lt L Jacobson A Sqn were left out of battle.	
April 1941	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
Apr 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)



3/4/41	Lt Col Combe DSO was suddenly called to Libya and accompanied Major General Sir Richard O'Connor owing to the easterly advance of a mixed German – Italian force. Lt Col Combe had already been promoted Brigadier (March 3rd) so Major Leetham assumed command as Lt Col. Capt Grant Thorold became Adjutant (he was actually appointed on October 14th 1940 but the appointment was not officially notified to the Regt until March 5th 1941 and since that date Capt Wainman had been carrying on as Adjutant to help Capt Grant Thorold with training etc). On this date Capt Wainman took over command of B Sqn from Major AG Miller who had been posted to the Home Establishment. Capt AVC Robarts took over A Sqn from Major Smail who became 2i/c of the Regt. On the same date, about 1400 hours, the Regt was ordered to be ready to move and was placed on 4 hours notice wef midnight. This came as a great shock to us all. The vehicles had been handed in to Ordnance. A certain number of Marmon Harrington ACs were taken over from the 1st Royal Dragoons (who were being trained as an Armoured Car Regt) and the rest of the ACs sufficient to give the Sqn 4 troops of 3 cars each plus 2 for SHQ and 4 for RHQ. Transport were also drawn up. The work of fitting out the vehicles was carried out at high speed. Fresh orders were received putting the Regt on 4 hours notice from 1400 hours on 4th April.
4/4/41	The whole day and most of the night was spent in loading and fitting out the vehicles.
5/4/41	The Regt moved (destination TOBRUK) at 0600 hours (less B Sqn who remained behind) and was organised as follows:- Commanding Officer Lt Col WI Leetham Adjutant Capt RMHM Grant Thorold RHQ Sqn Major K Alexander – commanding Lt JAN Crankshaw – Tech Officer Lt WVH Gape – Int Officer C Sqn Major P Payne Gallwey DSO – commanding Lt SCayzer – 2i/c Sgt Lamb – 1Tp TSM Scrivener – 2Tp Lt WV Burdon – 3Tp Sgt Peacock – 4Tp A Sqn Capt AVC Robarts – Commanding Lt J Turnbull – 2i/c Lt H Petch DCM – 1Tp Lt JA Friend – 3Tp Lt MMC Clarke – 2Tp Lt CJ Spickernell – 4Tp B2 Echelon Lt JW Poston – Commanding B2a Echelon 2Lt RA Rapp – Commanding
7/4/41	Major AG Miller left by air for England.
May 1941	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
May 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
4/5/41	C Sqn. TSM Scrivener relieved Lt Burdon on western patrol. 5Tp Sgt Smedley was shelled from BIR SLWAYAT and forced to withdraw. Enemy then stopped shelling and the patrol returned to its original position. Sqn Ldr and Major Christopher RHA made a recce of ALAM BATTUMA at 1130 hours, but could not locate the guns.



	At 1730 hours on of our columns arrived in the ALAM BATTUMA area. At 2010 hours 3 MET appeared at 522358 and a few minutes later 2 MET appeared at 519358. The 3 MET then moved West and joined the 2 MET. As it got dark the 5 MET were seen moving slowly northwards. At 2030 hours 5Tp Sgt Smedley was again shelled in the ALAM BATTUMA area. A Sqn. Nil Reports B Sqn. 5Tp Lt Dier was relieved at GHOTO GREIN 548354 by 1Tp Sgt Beard at 1130 hours. 3Tp Lt Halliday was in position at ILWET EL ANSUL 547358, with SHQ at 562364. Sqn Ldr visited 7th Hussars patrols with Major Younger, as he did not consider the patrol on the Southern Road to be far enough forward to give our patrols warning of any enemy movements. The 7th Hussars patrols were then moved up North and South, level with the Sqn patrols. No movement seen during the day. RHQ. A quiet day.
v5/5/41	C Sqn. At 0610 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock relieved 5Tp Sgt Smedley at ALAM BATTUMA. At 0831 hours TSM Scrivener at ALAM EL ARAD reported 5 AFVs, 1 gun and 4 ACs at 522352 making West. One large tank was also seen making down the track towards KHREIGAT. SHQ moved to 538228. At 0902 hours 4 AFVs and one gun moving down 521 Grid line. Position at 0910 hours 521348. TSM Scrivener forced to withdraw to QUARET REMLIYAT area. At 0912 hours the 4 AFVs and 1 gun reported stationary were due East of KHREIGAT and at 0921 hours they turned and chased 2Tp, making him withdraw further to the SE. At 0940 hours they were reported stationary at 527345 and some MET at BIR KHREIGAT. At 1000 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock at ALAM BATTUMA withdrew ALAM MADAN with a column. His position was 536345. He passed all information to Major Goschen and remained with him until the column moved West at approx 1200 hours. At 1035 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener reported 5 MET at RUWEBIT with 1 AFV. One mile South of these, 5 MET, which were joined by 6 more MET at 1101 hours. At 1427 hours the column shelled the enemy in QUARET EL REMLIYAT area and forced them to withdraw. 2Tp pushed North again to QUARET EL RAMLIYAT and at 1709 hours took Major Goschen over to A Sqn patrol. 2Tp then moved to Pt. 207 530347, arriving there at 1810 hours. He reported 6 MET in area 525352, otherwise no movement seen. At 1730 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock moved to area HAQFET MADAN and took up position of observation at Pt. 200, no movement seen. At 2000 hours Western patrol remained the night in area Pt. 207 530347 and Eastern patrol at Pt. 200 537350. A Sqn. At 0749 hours 1Tp reported 5 vehicles moving South from QUARET ABU SAYED. These were joined by 3 AFVs. Later this force was joined by 6 more AFVs. They remained in position a short while and then continued to advance. 1Tp retired, keeping contact, in a southerly direction. At 0833 hours the vehicles were reported moving in the direction of KHREIGAT and at 0909 hours they were beyond KHREIGAT. At 0916 hours 4Tp reported 6 MET and trailer in the SHEFERZEN area. At 0933 hours 1Tp reported 3 AFVs 4 miles South of KHREIGAT, still keeping contact. At this time 5Tp were forced to withdraw, due to the advance of the other column. These vehicles continued to move South until they reached a point short of Pt. 207. The two troops (5th & 7th) were subjected to a considerable amount of shelling whilst keeping the force under observation. At 1203 hours 1Tp reported 3 vehicles NE of his position in the SHEFERZEN area, and at 1221 hours this Tp was pursued by 4 large fast vehicles. The 4 vehicles split into 2 groups of 2 and attempted to attack from both flanks, but thanks to the superior speed of our cars this was avoided and after a chase of 10 miles the enemy were left well behind and the Tp returned to SHQ for replenishing. At 1230 hours SHQ moved 5 miles ESE. At 1455 hours Troops reported that the enemy were being engaged by our guns and were retiring towards SULEIMAN.



	At 1706 hours enemy again shelled 1Tp who were in close contact, and they retired slightly. At 1930 hours all Troops reported that the enemy had retired to the SULEIMAN area, no movement seen. B Sqn. SHQ at 562364. 1Tp Sgt Beard at GHOTOGREIN area 548354 and 3Tp Lt Halliday at ILWETEL ANSUL 547358 until he was relieved by 2Tp Sgt Cameron at 1315 hours. 1Tp reported some movement on the HALFAYA track at 0956 hours, otherwise no movement seen by the patrols during the day. Major Wainman visited both patrols at 1800 hours and returned at 2030 hours. RHQ. Lt Burrell returned to Cairo. Major Smail and Lt Crankshaw went down to Echelon. A Lysander dropped a message that we were being advanced on from 3 sides so we moved to a place 3 miles SW of BIR HABATA. A sandstorm during the night.
6/5/41	C Sqn. At 0550 hours SHQ moved to 536333. No movement seen during the night except for the odd Verrey lights at KHREIGAT and SULEIMAN. At 0610 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon relieved 2Tp TSM Scrivener at Pt. 207. At 0800 hours no movement seen by all patrol area except for 2 MET at V tracks 522357. At 0905 hours bad sandstorm started which continued all day, visibility limited to 25 yards at times. NTR all day. At 1800 hours Eastern patrol went forward to ALAM BATTUMA and reported no movement seen. Western patrol moved forward to Pt. 205 and reported no movement seen. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. Usual patrols only, no movement seen. B Sqn. SHQ at 562634. 2Tp Sgt Cameron in ILWETEL ANSUL area. 1Tp Sgt Beard at GHOTOGREIN until relieved at 1750 hours by 5Tp Lt Dier. Visibility bad all day. 2Tp had moved about 2 miles during the day to conform to the position of the 7th Hussars. No movement seen by our patrols.
7/5/41	C Sqn. At 0555 hours SHQ moved to 530331. No movement seen during the night. During the day there was little movement to report except for 3 AFVs at Pt. 205 522356 which were forced to withdraw by shellfire from a column. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. Usual patrols, no movement seen. B Sqn. Position as for 6-5-41. 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ILWETEL ANSUL. No movement seen by our patrols.
8/5/41	C Sqn. At 0605 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock attached to Lt Col Campbell's HQ as communication between our patrols and Lt Col Campbell's. Sgt Peacock remained at QUARET EL RUWEIBI all day and returned to SHQ which moved to QUARET RAMLIYAT at 2200 hours. At 0610 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon moved forward to 523359 and remained in observation all day. He reported very little movement all day and at 2200 hours withdrew 2 miles SE on report from A Sqn that there were 7 enemy tanks at SIDI SULEIMAN. At 1000 hours 5Tp Sgt Smedley in ALAM BATTUMA area was shelled from HALFAYA area. At 1330 hours OP went up to Sgt Smedley and patrol, and pushed on to BIR SILWEIYAT which was not occupied. The enemy ACs at 528362 withdrew. The patrol remained at BIR SILWEIYAT while the column put a barrage on to HALFAYA and then attacked it with four 2pdrs and 11 Carriers. They suffered 4 casualties and it appeared that HALFAYA was stronger held than previously thought. At 1200 hours the Sqn Ldr visited Lt Col Campbell and owing to wireless communications being very bad at HQ, Sgt Saunders and the 3rd car of SHQ was attached to a column.



	At 1945 hours Lt Col Campbell reported 3 enemy tanks in BIR KHREIGAT area and 7 enemy tanks moving NE along SHEFERZEN – SIDI SULEIMAN track. A confused two hours followed, not improved by Lt Col Campbell's own wireless set breaking down. However by 2200 hours the situation was quite normal, and although 3Tp was fired on by some MET, at 2245 hours, at 100 yards range, there were fortunately no casualties. The MET were probably a party of 2pdrs on their way to V track 522358 which had been warned of 3Tp position. At 2330 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 0620 hours SHQ moved to Pt. 203 514344. 1Tp took up a position at SIDI OMAR and 4Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN. 3Tp were co-operating with the Gunners in area SIDI SULEIMAN. At 1030 hours 1Tp reported 4 vehicles coming through the gap at BP 47 and moving South still keeping contact. These vehicles retired in a northerly direction. At 1149 hours 1Tp and 3Tp were bombed and machine gunned by two Me 110's and suffered no casualties. At 1230 hours 5Tp did a recce West of SHQ and encountered 2 Bofors who opened fire at 300 yards, fortunately they missed and Lt Spickernell retired slightly ruffled by whole. At 1700 hours 5Tp left to relieve 3Tp. No movement seen. B Sqn. SHQ as previously. 3Tp Lt Halliday at ILWETEL ANSUL, and 5Tp Lt Dier at GHOTOGREN until relieved by 1Tp Sgt Beard. Owing to our activities on top of escarpment, 7th Hussars patrols on the North and South roads were pushed forward to the 532 Grid line. 3Tp conformed and was pushed forward to the ILWETEL SHISH line to watch the left flank while 5Tp were also ordered to pay special attention to the escarpment. No movement seen was seen by our patrols who remained in day positions for the night. 7th Hussars were still on the 532 Grid line on the North and South road. A second Breda car arrived with the Echelon.
9/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock moved to contact Lt Col Campbell's HQ for wireless comms purposes at BIR KHREIGAT. At 0605 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved to relieve 3Tp at 523356. A Sqn reported an enemy column had crossed the wire at EGYPTIAN SIDI OMAR consisting of 6 ACs, 11 AFVs, 1 lorry, 1 MC and 1 staff car. This column moved East along the 357 Grid line. At 0930 hours a bad sandstorm started and orders were received to withdraw and hold a line of observation ALAM BATTUMA – KHREIGAT. At the same time 4Tp Sgt Peacock came back under command and moved forward to V track 519354. He was relieved at this position at 1100 hours by a patrol of A Sqn and he then returned to SHQ. Meanwhile 2Tp had been withdrawn to Pt. 205 522357 and picked up a small party of the column who were walking. They informed TSM Scrivener that a 25pdr and its tractor unit were 1 mile West of his position. 2Tp went forward and towed them out and also recovered an ammunition limber which was found abandoned. They towed them away and eventually arrived at SHQ where a RA officer picked them up. At 1505 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved back to ALAM EL ARAD and was relieved by 4Tp at 1820 hours as one of his MHACs was giving trouble. At 1800 hours visibility still very bad owing to sandstorm, and at 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 0735 hours 1Tp reported two 8 wheel ACs and two small ACs heading towards him. At 0737 hours 5Tp reported 2 tanks on track 7 miles North of SULEIMAN. At 0754 hours 9 tanks were on the East side of the wire, approx position at BP 46. This force was increased by ACs and was kept under observation by 1Tp, who later reported one 8 wheeler at SIDI OMAR and 2 small AFVs at Gap 46. 2Tp went to assist in this area. At 0929 hours 5Tp reported 2 tanks and 1 AC at 510367. At 0834 hours 2Tp reported 20 vehicles now at SIDI OMAR. This column came through the wire and came East. At 0913 hours 5Tp reported 7 Cruiser tanks in a disorganised formation being engaged by our artillery North of his position. At 0914 hours 2Tp reported their column 1 mile East of SIDI OMAR. This column consisted of six 8 wheeled ACs, 1 staff car, 1 MC, 1 lorry with gun and 16 smaller AFVs. Head of column 2 ½ miles East of



	SIDI OMAR. At 0940 hours a bad sandstorm developed and visibility was reduced to 50 yards. 1 & 2Tp had great difficulty in keeping the column under observation. When the column reached QARET ABU FARIS GHARBIYA, visibility became so bad that both Troops lost touch and had great difficulty in locating themselves. 5Tp was now ordered to withdraw 8 miles South from X tracks and warned not to be cut off. Visibility remained bad until 1700 hours when 5Tp reported 7 tanks in SIDI SULEIMAN area. All Troops now on a line of observation of the track SIDI SULEIMAN – BIR SHEFERZEN. Just after dark 5Tp who were still in observation of tanks at SIDI SULEIMAN, reported that they were being fired on by enemy tanks from the North and our own guns from the South. They were withdrawn out of the danger zone with great difficulty. This had been a very trying day for everyone owing to the sandstorm and a very hot wind. B Sqn. SHQ at 562364. 1Tp and 3Tp in position as for yesterday. 1Tp reported having heard movement from the West during the night, but nothing was seen. Sqn Ldr went up to 7th Hussars HQ at 0815 hours and they reported that HALFAYA PASS had been occupied top and bottom by the enemy after the activities on top of the escarpment on 8th May. 7th Hussars therefore moved back to normal position as did our patrols at 1100 hours. At 1730 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron relieved 3Tp Lt Halliday. 1Tp Sgt Beard reported hearing machine gun fire to his North at 1935 hours, and five minutes later 3Tp reported the same thing. Apparently firing was from the Australians who thought they saw things in the half-light. No movement seen.
10/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night except for a white Verrey light seen in Halfaya area at 0145 hours. At 0605 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener left to relieve 5Tp Sgt Smedley at ALAM BATTUMA. Sgt Gander had repaired 2Tp's car during the night. At 0805 hours 5Tp at ALAM BATTUMA was shelled from HALFAYA for 10 minutes by guns – approx 25 pdrs. Three ACs appeared at SILWEYAT area and remained there all day. At 0900 hours Sgt Peacock at ALAM ARAD reported no movement seen. At 1715 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock patrolled to V tracks North of RUWEIBIT WARRANI to look for any men of the RHA who might be in that area. The patrol encountered 3 enemy ACs and engaged them with Breda, Bren and Boyes guns, driving them away. 4Tp then returned to ALAM EL ARAD at 1905 hours. At 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At dawn 5Tp recovered three RHA vehicles in the SIDI SULEIMAN area. 2Tp then escorted a Gunner party up to recover some more of their vehicles. During this operation they were heavily shelled from the North. A quiet day, but still very hot. B Sqn. SHQ at 562364. 1Tp at GHOTO GREIN and 2Tp at ILWET EL ANSUL until relieved by 5Tp Lt Dier at 1655 hours. At 1335 hours 7th Hussars on South road reported 2 AFVs at 540 Grid line. These came South of ALAM BARGHUT 538364 to see what was to their South. They were engaged by our artillery and retired. At 1630 hours 2Tp and 6Tp mistook each other for the enemy and at 1630 hours 5Tp was being shelled by friends – this was stopped. Tac R reported large MET concentration at CAPUZZO and on the BARDIA – TOBRUK road. Special orders were given to patrols to keep especial watch for movement but none was seen or heard.
11/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon relieved 4Tp Sgt Peacock at ALAM EL ARAD. At 0800 hours no movement seen by both patrols. Major Pepys and A Sqn of the Royals arrived at 1200 hours. At 1330 hours 2Tp of the Royals Sqn went to ALAM BATTUMA and took over from 2Tp. TSM Scrivener himself remained with the Royals Tp and instructed them. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn.



	Whilst 1Tp was relieving 3Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN 2 enemy vehicles approached them from the North. These were engaged with small arms fire and the Breda gun which resulted in the capture of a small recce car. The crew escaped on the AC escort which withdrew very fast in a northerly direction. A very quiet day. B Sqn. 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ILWET EL ANSUL and 5Tp at GHOTO GREIN. 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 2Tp during the afternoon. There was no movement seen throughout the day. 7th Hussars who have been doing the North and South coast road patrols were relieved at 0900 hours by the 3rd Hussars who were given the same task. 7th Hussars moved back to Cairo to re-equip.
12/5/41	C Sqn. Movement of tracked vehicles heard during the night by both patrols. At 0557 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon reported 20 MET at ALAM EL ARAD stationary. This was confirmed by TSM Scrivener at ALAM BATTUMA, who could also see 40 MET in SDI SULEIMAN area at 0615 hours. At 0619 hours Lt Burdon reported that 10 MET of the 20 at ALAM EL ARAD were moving SSE. He could see about 30 MET stationary behind the 10 moving MET, which were AFVs. He thought they were medium tanks. The remainder of the MET then appeared to start moving, and the whole column led by 10 tanks moved slowly SE after 10 minutes the column halted but the advance guard of 10 tanks moved on ESE and at 0700 hours were 1 mile East of QUARET RAMLIYA. At 0820 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon reported the whole column moving SE again and kept in touch with the column until 0947 hours when he reported it was being led by 30 tanks and moving East – head 1 mile North of BIR ZAGDIN EL ABIYAD 539337. At 1020 hours touch was lost with the column and never regained. Column appeared to turn North and then NW and Lt Burdon was engaged by what he thought to be an enemy rearguard and was forced to withdraw. Meanwhile TSM Scrivener had withdrawn SE along the line of the escarpment and took up a position of observation at Pt. 221 565335. 5Tp Sgt Chambers was at BIR KHREIGAT when enemy started advancing at 0619 hours and this patrol withdrew along the line of the KHREIGAT – HAMRA – HABATA track. SHQ was eventually established 7 miles East of BIR HABATA. At 1650 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon patrolled West to ILWET MAWI 543343 and reported no movement seen, returning at 2000 hours. At 2015 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon at Pt. 221 555335 and 5Tp Sgt Chambers at 557330 remained there for the night. 2Tp Royals and 4Tp with SHQ 7 miles East of BIR HABATA. 2100 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 0415 hours 3Tp at ABU SAYID reported the movement of vehicles to his North. At 0520 hours 1Tp at SHEFERZEN reported 20 vehicles moving South. At dawn when the visibility improved, 1Tp found they were following a column of 50 vehicles. 2Tp on the KHREIGAT track reported a column (enemy) moving SE to ALAM ARAD. 1Tp reported their column to be moving down the wire but at 0800 hours an ominous rumbling was heard in the vicinity of SHQ. Simultaneously two 4 wheeled ACs appeared about 400 yards to the North of SHQ who beat a somewhat hasty retreat to the SE. 2Tp having been relieved by C Sqn on the KHREIGAT track, were withdrawn South and ordered to rejoin the Sqn South of HAMRA. 1Tp and 4Tp were still in touch with the column which had so rudely moved SHQ and which was now approaching the track just North of HAMRA. 3Tp who had been in the centre were now completely cut-off to their East and SE they were ordered to move South and make a detour as wide as was considered necessary. They succeeded in doing this and rejoined the Sqn late in the afternoon 6 miles South of SOFAFI. In the meantime the enemy column which was moving towards HAMRA had reached BIR DIGNAISH very quickly. Considering that they were only 2 miles behind SHQ over a distance of 17 miles, it is curious they did not shell or attack. The Sqn was in observation of the HABATA – DIGNAISH track for the remainder of the day. The column at DIGNAISH slowly moved away West and NW. Cpl Cornish was badly wounded in the hand by shrapnel. This was our only casualty, although 1Tp and 4Tp were shelled at frequent intervals by the HAMRA column. B Sqn. 3Tp Lt Halliday in position at ILWET EL ANSUL and 5Tp Lt Dier at GHOTO GREIN.



	At 0817 hours 3Tp reported a column of 36 MET consisting of tanks, ACs, guns and MCs in area BIR HAGIB 544359, shortly after 5Tp reported 9 MET to his West and 5 MET to his SW. all the MET were moving East and the two patrols withdrew keeping touch. SHQ moved to ALAM SAMULUS 568361. 2Tp proceeded to ILWET ABU MAG HUD 565350 to watch the southern flank. At 1000 hours all enemy vehicles appeared to be concentrated in the ILWET EL KURSI area 546360, but a ridge to the East of them prevented good observation. 3Tp was in contact the whole day with the enemy patrols that were pushed forward to the East of the main enemy position, and at one time 3Tp was shelled by 8th Field Regt RA who were positioned further East along the main road. At 1500 hours 1 enemy tank and 3 ACs were seen stationary in the GHOTOGREIN area. 5Tp kept these under observation. At 1800 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy proceeded with water and rations to 3Tp and then relieved 5Tp. During the afternoon a column under Major Tuck RHA, consisting of guns and one Coy of the Rifle Bde moved into position near SHQ with a view to harassing and further advance of the enemy. Situation at last light – enemy still in occupation of line BIR GIB – GHOTOGREIN. The 3rd Hussars had been operating to the road to the North all day. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Troops took up night positions on the 560 Grid line between the main road and the escarpment. Many Verey lights were seen during the night, which it transpired later, must have been the enemy retiring. RHQ. When the enemy advanced at first light, RHQ retired up the HAMRA – HABATA track. Lt Col Campbell had stayed the previous night and directed the movements of our own troops from the Rear link AC. On arrival in the HABATA area with the enemy not far behind a good deal of time was spent looking for the 4th RTR who had arrived the night before. Eventually they were found in the wadis, and were completely ignorant of the situation. They were galvanised into action, but as it happened the enemy did not come on. RHQ went to RABIA, and spent the rest of the day and night there.
13/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0605 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock relieved 3Tp Lt Burdon at Pt. 221. At 0610 hours 5Tp Sgt Chambers patrolled forward to ALAM EL ARAD and 4Tp to ALAM BATTUMA. At 1210 hours 4Tp went forward to BIR SILWEIYAT. No movement seen until after 30 minutes when he was engaged by 2 ACs and had to move slightly. At 1535 hours 3 more MET, possibly tanks joined the two MET already in position at 527364 and engaged Sgt Peacock again and he was forced to withdraw to ALAM BATTUMA. No movement seen both patrols at 1600 hours. SHQ moved to QUARETRAMLIYAT and withdrew to ALAM FAKHRI and remained there for the night. A Sqn. During the night orders were received to the effect that patrols were to be pushed forward to the line we had been on before yesterday's withdrawal. There was no news of the enemy occupying any position South of the line SHEFERZEN – SIDI SULEIMAN – BIR SUWEIYAT. 1Tp and 3Tp were ordered to recce North. 1Tp up the KHREIGAT track and 3Tp to SHEFERZEN. This was done without any enemy being seen and 2Tp were sent forward to the centre position at ABU SAYID. On their arrival they were unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned by two Me 110's who later flew over SHQ who were on the move. They were not attacked. At 1400 hours 3Tp reported 1 enemy AC and 1 small staff car SW of KHREIGAT. 3Tp engaged them, but they fled to the West. 2Tp from the centre pursued them but they were too fast and got away. Unfortunately they got through the wire South of SHEFERZEN and escaped. SHQ returned to their old position at 516329. B Sqn. 1Tp and 3Tp moved forward from their high position on to the 560 Grid line to ILWET EL ANSUL and GHOTOGREIN. They were held up by thick fog and it was not until 0830 hours that they could report that the enemy had retired during the night. 2Tp returned to SHQ at 0830 hours and relieved 3Tp in the afternoon. No movement seen all day. SHQ at ALAM SAMULUS 568361. The C Sqn patrol under Sgt Beard returned to C Sqn. RHQ. Moved at first light to HABATA, the enemy having retired, and then back to HAMRA,



14/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 1Tp Sgt Beard relieved Sgt Chambers 5Tp at ALAM EL ARAD. No movement seen all day except for 2 ACs at BIR SILWEYAT which observed 4Tp Sgt Peacock all day, and 4 AFVs in V tracks North of KHREIGAT. At 1930 hours 2Tp Lt Burdon moved to ALAM EL ARAD in readiness for a recce at 0530 hours on the 15th. 2000 hours – nothing further to report. B Sqn. SHQ at ALAM SAMULUS. 1Tp Sgt McCarthy in position at GHOTO GREIN and 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ILWET EL ANSUL. 3rd Hussars patrols on the main road pushed forward West at approx 0900 hours. 2Tp pushed forward 4 miles to cover their left. At 1200 hours Lt Dier 5Tp relieved 1Tp. At 1230 hours the Sqn Ldr was ordered to RHQ at HAMRA. The Sqn was ordered to move to HABATA at 1800 hours where it spent the night, less 5Tp and 2Tp who spent it at SOFAFI. Lt Cunningham rejoined from CCS and took over command of 1Tp. 5Tp was under the command of 2Lt Burness during the day, at Lt Dier was sick. RHQ. The Colonel went off to BIR HABATA in the morning. A Me 110 came over at 1300 hours and dropped 4 bombs in our area but hit nothing.
15/5/41	C Sqn. At 0530 hours SHQ moved to ALAM EL ARAD and were joined by Sgt Peacock who had been relieved by the Guards Bde at ALAM BATTUMA. At 0555 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon and 1Tp Sgt Beard moved to report on SIDI SULEIMAN and Italian camp area respectively. Lt Burdon kept touch with an enemy column retiring North towards CAPUZZO and Sgt Beard after reporting several small parties of MET between QUARET SHARQAN 520359 and the Italian camp, reported the area clear of the enemy. Both patrols pushed forward after the enemy and by 1030 hours had reached the wire. SHQ was moving up behind and at 1200 hours had reached BP 40, with Sgt Chambers patrolling to QABR MEDUAR 501376 and Lt Burdon patrolling to BIR HAFID and on to HAQFETUAR. Both patrols reported no movement seen in their area by 1300 hours. SHQ moved to BIR HAFID and by 1300 hours both patrols moved forward again to SIDI AZEIZ area. 1Tp Sgt Beard was at BP 38 and was rather mixed up with the enemy and friendly tanks. He was withdrawn to SHQ at 1330 hours. At 1340 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon patrolled to BIR BEDR and then East to QABR ARMAR and on to 50736 and remained there in observation of SIDI AZEIZ – BARDIA road. Patrols reported various MET moving in SIDI AZEIZ area and on the SIDI AZEIZ – BARDIA road. 5Tp Sgt Chambers patrolled to BIR BU TABIL and reported MET moving West along TRIGH CAPUZZO and at 1650 hours reported SIDI AZEIZ clear of enemy and took up a position of observation at 500357. At 1703 hours Sgt Chambers reported that he had been attacked by a Hurricane – Sgt Chambers, Tpr Fidler, Tpr Shrobury and LCpl Strong wounded. LCpl Strong wounded in the ankle and Tpr Fidler in the leg. Tpr Shrobury had splinters in his forehead. All three were evacuated to ADS. Sgt Chambers was dressed by the MO and returned to the Sqn the same night. At 1705 hours TSM Scrivener 2Tp moved out to relieve 5Tp. At 1720 hours Lt Burdon reported that one MHAC was not charging and 1 broken spring. Permission asked to withdraw this patrol. At 1845 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener and 3Tp Lt Burdon withdrew to SHQ. The whole Sqn moved to area BP 40 and remained there for the night. A Sqn. We again advanced over the wire and took up position with SHQ at QABR EL GARAR and 5Tp and 3Tp in observation well forward in the QABR EL LACHEM and BIR EL HAMARIN areas. The Sqn remained in this position all day and withdrew East of the wire for the night. This is the first time the whole Sqn had been together for 6 weeks. B Sqn. Sqn moved at 0600 hours to BIR KHREIGAT where it arrived at 0830 hours, and came into reserve with RHQ. Sqn remained with RHQ the whole day and at 1200 hours moved up to a position 2 miles SE of BP 40.



	At 1900 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday went on patrol to BP 44 and 5Tp to QABR EL GARRARI. The remainder of the Sqn leaguered for the night at 513362. RHQ. We got up at the crack of dawn and moved to position 1 mile East of BP 40 and had a display of Me 109's and 110's most of the day. A Hurricane was shot down about 5 miles South of us. Three He 111's bombed one of the columns just NW of us. Spent the night there.
16/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0920 hours Sqn moved to ALAM EL ARAD and remained there concentrated until 1900 hours when the enemy were reported to be advancing South from BP 38. At 1915 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved to X tracks 518356 and contacted 2nd RTR. Patrol remained in this area for the night, but reported no movement seen. At 1918 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock moved to HAQFET NAAS and contacted 60th Rifles. No movement seen and patrol remained 2 miles North of HAQFET NAAS for the night. 2100 hours nothing to report, SHQ at QARETRAMLIYAT. A Sqn. At dawn 1Tp and 4Tp were sent out to the line of observation. At 0700 hours the Sqn was ordered to withdraw its southern patrol and to concentrate at SIDI OMAR. Later orders were received for a troop to be left in observation of SIDI OMAR. SHQ and 3 reserve Troops were moved 8 miles SE of SIDI OMAR. At 1800 hours 90 tanks reported moving South from CAPUZZO and the Sqn withdrew observing the line from SIDI OMAR eastwards to SIDI SULEMAN. At 2100 hours the Troop on the line of observation were withdrawn to observe a line inclusive BIR SHEFERZEN inclusive southern X tracks South of BIR EL KHREIGAT. B Sqn. Sqn moved at 0600 hours with the object of patrolling the area SIDI AZEZ – BIR HAFID. At first light 3Tp and 5Tp proceeded into that area. At 0730 hours when the Sqn stopped at RHQ the orders were changed and 3Tp was ordered to proceed to BIR BEDER 502383 and observe the TRIGH CAPUZZO. The remainder of the Sqn proceeded to 510358. At 0830 hours 5Tp rejoined SHQ. At 1006 hours 3Tp reported 20 MET moving SE along the TRIGH CAPUZZO. On reaching QABR EL AHMAR 507384, they turned South. 3Tp remained in contact and reported that 10 of these MET were medium or large tanks. At 1100 hours this enemy party was engaged by our artillery from the BIR GIRBA area. At about the same time 3 enemy ACs were seen moving SW towards QABR EL MEDUAR and 3Tp broke off contact with the 20 MET in order to cover the left flank of the guns. By this time the 20 MET having been engaged retired North followed by the 3 ACs from QABR EL MEDUAR. At 1345 hours 3Tp had again pushed North and reported 30 MET stationary in the area QABR EL AHMAR 507384. At 1515 hours 3Tp was pushed back by 3 ACs moving from 507384 to QABR EL MEDUAR, and therefore 2Tp proceeded out in an endeavour to observe the QABR EL AHMAR MET. At 1533 hours 3Tp reported 8 MET stationary in the QABR EL MEDUAR area. At 1700 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron reached BIR GHIRBA and after liaising with Major Withers in charge of the column there, proceeded to BIR HAFID to get in touch with a Sqn of 2nd RTR. On arrival he reported 100 MET moving SE along the TRIGH CAPUZZO, head of column on the 510 Grid line. This was at 1810 hours. Cruiser tank Sqn then engaged the tail of this column. At 1855 hours information was received that 40 tanks were moving South from CAPUZZO and in view of this 2Tp was withdrawn to area Beacon 40. In the meantime the MET at QABR EL MEDUAR, which now totalled 14, were moving South with 3Tp in contact. At 1903 hours information was received that 80 enemy tanks were leaving CAPUZZO. At 1923 hours orders were received from RHQ to break contact with the enemy and take up a line of observation at X tracks 517361 to 510361. 3Tp was therefore ordered to rejoin the Sqn. SHQ and 5Tp together with the Echelon which had just arrived, withdrew southwards as the head of the column was reported 2 miles South of Beacon 38.



	At 1930 hours a change of orders was received from RHQ and B Sqn was ordered to take up a line of observation from SIDI SULEIMAN X tracks inclusive to 510353. 1Tp was therefore ordered to these X tracks and 2Tp to 510353. At 1949 hours all previous orders were cancelled and the Sqn was informed that no patrols would be required. Sqn therefore proceeded to 512342 where it spent the night. RHQ. Moved from BP 40 to QARETEL ABD where we had a quiet day. The Echelon arrived at the same time as the completion of the Mess and the advance of a large enemy column. Beat a hasty retreat to DAREL BRUG where we spent the night.
17/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night, but 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported movement heard in BIR SILQIYA area 520369 at 0500 hours. 2Tp TSM Scrivener reported white Verrey lights fired North of his position about 6 miles away. At 0600 hours 4Tp moved North to HALFAYA PASS and contacted 60th Rifles, and patrolled NW to HAQFET EL ASFAR 523368. From this position he reported 30 MET consisting mostly of large AFVs stationary at BP 35 at 0720 hours. At 0610 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved NW to Pt. 208 QABREL SHARGAN and reported no movement seen in the Italian camp area 518364. He also reported 2 Cruiser tanks of 2nd RTR derelict 2 miles West of QABREL SHARGAN. At 0731 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported 30 MET mostly AFVs at BIR WAIR. At 0732 hours SHQ moved to 529346. At 0912 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported 10 AFVs moving down the wire from BP 35 to BP 38. At 0915 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener who had moved to the Italian camp reported 40 MET at BP 38. He saw the 10 AFVs join them from BP 35. At 0921 hours he reported 3 tanks moving South from BP 38 and he was forced to withdraw. A further 2 tanks and 3 MET were seen to follow these tanks. At 1200 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener still in observation at the Italian camp and 4Tp Sgt Peacock at HAQFET EL ASFAR. No eastern movement of MET except for a patrol of 3 AFVs SE from BP 38. These were engaged and they withdrew. 4Tp were shelled by our own guns for 5 minutes and the same thing happened at 1600 hours. At 1800 hours – no change in the situation. Odd enemy MET were seen moving between BIR WAIR and BP 38. 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. Our Troops still in line of observation of yesterday, with 1Tp on the West and 5Tp on the East. At 1000 hours 4Tp who were returning to SHQ were chased for 9 miles by 8 wheeled ACs. 1Tp were sent out with the Breda and located the 5 enemy ACs by 1200 hours. He engaged them with the Breda gun and they withdrew rapidly, and were last seen going NW at full throttle. At 1712 hours 1Tp again came into the limelight and reported that they had captured a MC Combination and 2 prisoners on the Libyan side of the wire. He destroyed the vehicle and returned to his position on the Egyptian side of the wire. 2Tp went out to collect the prisoners, one of whom was badly wounded. A very exciting day. B Sqn. Sqn at 512342. Morning was spent in maintenance. C and A Sqn were patrolling the area to the North, and it appeared that the enemy had withdrawn during the night. At 1900 hours 1Tp Lt Cunningham took over northern patrol 516361 from A Sqn and 5Tp Lt Dier took over the A Sqn patrol at Pt. 204 508364. No movement seen was seen by our patrols during the night. RHQ. Moved to Pt. 204 at QARET REMLIYAT. Enemy withdrew in the morning.
18/5/41	C Sqn. SHQ same position 529346, no movement seen during the night. 3Tp Lt Burdon relieved 2Tp TSM Scrivener at Pt. 204 Italian camp and 5Tp Sgt Chambers relieved 4Tp Sgt Peacock at HAQFET ASFAR. At 0800 hours no change in the situation. 30 MET were seen stationary in the BP 38 area, 12 MET were



stationary in the area BIR WAIR. During the morning there was movement between BIR WAIR and BP 38 and further movement between BP 38 and CAPUZZO.

At 1305 hours 6 enemy ACs appeared at MUSAID. They turned South and moved down the track towards HALFAYA. 5Tp Sgt Chambers engaged the enemy ACs but was forced to withdraw. The enemy were then shelled and withdrew to BIR SHALUT and on to MUSAID.

At 1345 hours Lt Burdon reported that the enemy at BP 38 appeared to be in larger numbers and Sgt Chambers confirmed this 5 minutes later, 30 MET including the 6 ACs had joined them from the North. At 1420 Lt Burdon reported the column at BP 38 starting to move South. It moved South for about a mile and then SW for 2 miles and then South again. The advance guard getting within 1,000 yards of SIDI SULEIMAN.

The column was engaged by 2nd RTR and guns and was halted. The advance guard consisted of 20 AFVs at 518358 at 1715 hours.

Meanwhile 5 ACs had moved from BIR WAIR to BIR SHALUT and moved on South down the track towards HALFAYA. 5Tp withdrew keeping the party under observation.

At 1645 hours the 5 ACs halted at 525368 and at 1730 hours moved on East for ½ mile. They were then engaged by guns and Breda from our patrol and withdrew in disorder and at 1800 hours were stationary there.

At 1800 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon at 52053572 in observation of enemy at 518358.

At 1855 hours the enemy appeared to be withdrawing North with rearguard remaining just North of SIDI SULEIMAN. The 5 ACs at HAQ FETEL AS FAR moved North at 1830 hours and Sgt Chambers followed up.

At 1856 hours the 5 tanks were reported stationary at Pt. 191 520372. They saw 5Tp and advanced towards them and forced them to retire. At the same time our own guns fired at Sgt Chambers (the third time in 24 hours.) 1930 hours the 5 tanks withdrew and Sgt Chambers went forward again.

At 2000 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon withdrew to V tracks at 522358 and remained there for the night.

5Tp Sgt Chambers withdrew to BIR SILWEIYAT and remained there for the night.

A Sqn.

Sqn in reserve, but plenty of sorting out to do.

B Sqn.

1Tp Lt Cunningham at 516362, 5Tp Lt Dier at Pt. 204 507364. A very foggy morning and it was not until 0830 hours that the patrols could see their areas.

At 0915 hours 1Tp reported 6 tanks and 30 MET in the area South of CAPUZZO and 5Tp reported no movement seen.

During the morning there were reports from 5Tp of vehicles moving in twos and threes up and down the wire in the GHIRBA area.

At 1420 hours 1Tp reported 40 to 50 MET dispersed in the BP 38 area 513371 and considerable activity amongst them.

At 1439 hours 5Tp reported 50 to 100 MET moving South from BP 38 with 12 tanks at their head. 5Tp was therefore brought across to watch the West, with 1Tp keeping touch with its head.

At 1445 hours 1Tp withdrew under shellfire, the head of the column then being on the 365 Grid line.

At 1506 hours the head of the column now counted as 80 MET was now at the 360 Grid line. This was reported by 1Tp and confirmed by 5Tp.

At 1553 hours 1Tp reported the head of the column in the SIDI SULEIMAN area and 5Tp got into an excellent position on the QARET ABU FARIS area and gave some very good information on the formation and types of vehicles in the column.

At 1640 hours 5Tp was spotted and came under very heavy fire indeed, from a range of 3,000 yards. During all this time 1Tp was liaising with a Sqn of 2nd RTR (Cruisers) who were awaiting orders to attack and 1Tp was being shelled at the rate of 4 rounds per minute.

At 1706 hours 1Tp withdrew slightly from the RTR as the shelling became more intense.

At 1100 hours 5Tp located 20 tanks at 515358, stationary. A report was then received from an OP to the effect that the main column was withdrawing. 5Tp moved North to confirm this and again came under heavy shell fire and was unable to get on, as both the B Sqn patrols were held up, it was asked if C Sqn could tap in from the East which it did and reported 12 MET in a hollow 2,000 yards NW of SIDI SULEIMAN.

At 1929 hours 5Tp who had again got into position reported a column of approx 8 MET moving North from SIDI SULEIMAN. It was thought that the area was clear. 1Tp went forward therefore to confirm this and on topping the rise encountered 4 enemy tanks at approx 600 yards range. These opened fire and 1Tp withdrew.

At 2000 hours 3Tp reported the last of the MET moving North and 2Tp proceeded to SIDI SULEIMAN and reported it and the area 3 miles North of it clear of the enemy.



	From 1435 hours until the enemy retired a column of guns and Infantry under Colonel de Salis was continually engaging the enemy and 5Tp was the whole time locating targets and able to direct and observe the fire of our own artillery. Lt Dier and Lt Cunningham carried out their most difficult task in a most able manner, while under intermittent and accurate fire. During the morning two A/Tk guns were attached to 5Tp with the object of ambushing enemy ACs in the GHIRBA area. 5Tp succeeded in leading 3 tanks into the ambush, but the enemy escaped under a smoke screen. These guns were under command of 2Lt Burness during the afternoon and he was responsible for covering the West flank of 5Tp. RHQ. Activity in the morning but the rest of the day quiet.
19/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 5Tp Sgt Chambers moved to position at HALFAYA PASS 3Tp Lt Burdon was in position ½ mile NW of V tracks 552358. At 0820 hours Sgt Chambers reported seeing tanks moving South from MUSAID. They halted at HAQFET EL ASFAR and were joined by three more. At 0840 hours the 6 tanks were stationary at 52473686. A column of 18 MET were seen moving NE from BP 38 to BIR WAIR. This column turned East and moved towards SOLLUM passing MUSAID at 0844 and going out of sight. At 1200 hours nothing to report except for odd movement of ACs and tanks at BP 38 and HAQFET ASLAN areas. At 1730 hours movement South of approx 3 miles by enemy column from BP 38 but they went back. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. Still in reserve. B Sqn. 2Tp at 520354 and 3Tp at 510354 with orders not to go North as a Sqn of 2nd RTR was making a sweep of the area to the North. At 0730 hours 3Tp proceeded to BP 40 accompanied by two 2pdr A/Tk guns. At 0815 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs in the FORT GHIRBA area. They retired before coming into range. At 0850 hours 2Tp was ordered to investigate area North of X tracks 518355 which was reported clear at 0928 hours. 2Tp proceeded NW for 3 miles and rejoined the track at the 365 Grid line from where he reported 6 MET in the BIR WAIR area. He then reported enemy artillery coming into action from 517371 against a patrol of C Sqn and a patrol of 2nd RTR in the QABREL QAHAR area. Shortly after 2Tp came under fire and withdrew. At 1108 hours 2Tp reported 4 enemy tanks advancing South towards QABREL QAHAR but apparently these turned East before reaching that position. 2Tp again advanced and at 1155 hours were again shelled and forced to retire. At 1340 hours 2Tp reported 4 tanks advancing South from Pt. 206 and retired in front of them and at 1430 hours he engaged them with the Breda gun (Cpl Scott). The tanks halted and returned the fire and caused the Tp to retire further. At 1600 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs going NE up the wire in area GHIRBA and for the next hour, the odd ACs were seen moving North and South along the wire in that area. At 1900 hours 2Tp engaged an AC in the area North of X tracks, both sides withdrew. At 1930 hours 5Tp and 1Tp relieved 3Tp and 2Tp and at 1945 hours 1Tp reported 12 – 14 MET spread out in the GHIRBA area. These were still in position when the light went. 2000 hours – troops withdrawn to night positions. RHQ. No excitement. Lt Ward came to us from the Echelon. Colonel Heyworth and Major Scott (Royals) came up to us and went to the Royals Sqn in the evening.
20/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0700 hours patrol taken over by A Sqn and Sqn went into reserve in area QARET RAMLIYAT and remained there all day. A Sqn.



	We have now taken over from C Sqn, moving into position at 0630 hours. 3Tp went to fort MADDELENA and met no signs of the enemy or recent occupation. 1Tp and 2Tp on standing patrols. Very little of importance occurred. The movement of enemy tanks in the area fort MUSAID and the cultivation East of HALFAYA pass was the only enemy movement during the day. B Sqn. 1Tp Lt Cunningham 2 miles North of X tracks at 516361 and 5Tp Lt Dier joined up with OP from Major Christopher's column at QARETABU FARIS 515356 at 0515 hours and escorted him forward to a position SW of BP 38 514371. At 0810 hours a party of MET were located in BP 38 area and were successfully engaged and retired northwards. At 0830 hours the guns retired and 5Tp adopted his normal role of watching the GHIRBA area from Pt. 204 507361. At 0930 hours 3Tp reported 30 MET moving South from Pt. 206 514368. The column halted 1 mile from Pt. 206 and 1Tp came under shellfire and was forced to withdraw. At 1033 hours 5Tp reported enemy ACs moving SW down the wire in the GHIRBA area. At 1110 hours 5Tp reported 3 ACs at 512367 and retired in contact. At 1222 hours these ACs had reached 511362. A message was therefore sent through 1Tp to 2nd RTR who were in his area to send a patrol of Cruisers. This was done, the ACs were engaged and driven off. On being engaged the ACs threw out smoke screen and escaped. At 1900 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron and 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 1Tp and 5Tp respectively. At 2010 hours 2Tp which had pushed further North for a last look before dark, reported 30 MET in leaguer position at Pt. 206 and 11 MET at 512360. RHQ. An uneventful day. Colonel Heyworth returned from the Royals Sqn and spent the night with us.
21/5/41	C Sqn. Sqn moved to area BUQ-BUQ arriving there at 1030 hours. Found nice place close to the sea, where 7th Armd Div were during summer 1940. Two Troops remained at 10 minutes notice. At 1615 hours Sgt Gore and B2 and B3 Echelons arrived. At 2000 hours – nothing to report. Brigadier Erskine visited us during the afternoon. Sqn Ldr contacted Bde HQ and Sammulus column. A Sqn. At 0630 hours 4Tp left to relieve 1Tp. The usual patrol activity took place and 1Tp was shelled a couple of times. A little enemy movement of MET and tanks around Pt. 207 was reported, but never developed, as the enemy withdrew on being engaged by our tanks. The Sqn Ldr visited the forward Troops and arrived back at SHQ at 1310 hours. Nothing was reported for the remainder of the day. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday reported 6 ACs at GHIRBA fort. At this time 2Tp was with the Sqn of 2nd RTR in the Pt. 207 area and at 0630 reported them in action with enemy tanks but could not see the result of the engagement. At 0640 hours 2Tp came under shellfire from the Pt. 206 area and was forced to withdraw. These guns were then engaged by ours. At 0745 hours 2Tp reported 5 enemy tanks at 520365 moving South. Shortly afterwards these tanks retired north. At 0830 hours orders were received to watch for any movement between Pt. 207 and Pt. 206. 3Tp therefore moved slightly East into a position of observation. At 1000 hours 3Tp reported 3 enemy ACs moving South from BP 44 and at 1030 hours they were at 505362 with 3Tp in contact. At 1040 hours they had reached 504355 and at 1055 hours 3Tp had lost touch, having as he thought, last seen them at 503355. He thought he saw them again at 502356 at 11 44 hours, moving East. A Troop of 2pdrs was sent from Major Hobbs's column but owing to touch being lost they were recalled. It is thought the 3 ACs recrossed the wire at BP 47. At 1339 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs stationary at BP 42. At 1708 hours 2Tp reported 5 MET moving South from Pt. 207. These were engaged by artillery fire and retired. 2Tp did some useful spotting for the guns. At 1900 hours 1Tp Lt Burness and 5Tp Lt Dier relieved 2Tp and 3Tp respectively. Lt Burness had taken over from Lt Cunningham who had retired to Cairo, sick. At 1844 hours 1Tp reported 28 MET stationary at Pt. 206 with numerous men dismounted.



	At 2015 hours 1Tp reported 6 MCs, 2 ACs and 1 staff car moving SW, just to the West of the Pt. 206 party. RHQ. The enemy made a demonstration early but were halted by 0900 hours. Major Smail and Lt Cunningham who had returned sick from B Sqn, went down to the Echelon.
22/5/41	C Sqn. At 0545 hours NTR. At 0600 hours Sgt Gore and B2 went to replenish. The Sqn remained at BUQ-BUQ until 0630 hours Monday 26th May 1941, good bathing was had by all. Inspections and checks were held. A Sqn. A very quiet day – nothing important occurred. B Sqn. 5Tp in position at Pt. 204 and 1Tp in area Pt. 205 513363. At 0625 hours 5Tp reported 3 ACs moving SW from GHIRBA. At 0844 hours 5Tp picked up two men from the KRR's who had been lost from SIDI OMAR night patrol. 1Tp was in observation of the Pt. 206 position all day, and observed at different times, some action between ours and the enemy's tanks and artillery. 3Tp and 2Tp relieved 5Tp and 1Tp at 1800 hours. RHQ. Colonel Heyworth and Major Scott after several mishaps to one of their cars, left at 1130 hours with Lt Cunningham for Cairo. The Colonel and Major Alexander went to SHEFERZEN with some 2pdr guns to trap enemy ACs which had been observed to go there daily. Unfortunately our gunners missed the cars but had quite a good shoot. A very hot day
23/5/41	A Sqn. Considerable amount of shelling was heard during the night from the direction of SOLLUM. At 0830 hours Sgt Beedham's Tp was heavily shelled and one car was hit, but not seriously. SHQ did a patrol round the forward Troops who were very surprised to see us. We saw about 11 tanks and a few MET 2 miles to the North of us, but no action was witnessed. A very quiet day. B Sqn. 2Tp in position at Pt. 205 and 3Tp at Pt. 204. At 0710 hours 3Tp reported a column of 11 MET moving SW from BP 38. This column halted SE of GHIRBA. At 0750 hours 6 ACs moved SW from GHIRBA and forced 3Tp to retire. At 0815 hours they had halted at 508366. At 0850 hours 3 of the ACs had come as far South as QARET ABU FARIS 510358 while the other 3 had halted at QABR EL SHAHISHI 510362. At 1000 hours the southern 3 ACs moved North, joined the 3 at SHAHISHI and then retired North. At 1157 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs at 505365. At 1340 hours these were joined by a further 3 and very soon after they all retired North. 2Tp was unable to observe if there were any enemy in his area owing to bad visibility. At 1900 hours 3Tp was relieved by an A Sqn patrol and 3Tp relieved 5Tp. RHQ. A lot of AC activity. Wind went round to the SE and the sand started blowing. There was no activity in the evening, and Brigadier Russell came in on his way back. A very hot night.
24/5/41	A Sqn. 1Tp relieved 5Tp. Nothing of importance was noted throughout the day. A very quiet day. B Sqn. 5Tp in position at Pt. 204 and at 0630 hours reported 7 MET in the GHIRBA area, followed by a further 4 at 0720 hours. At 0800 hours 1Tp Lt Burness relieved a Troop of the Royals at SIDI OMAR and we took over that patrol. When nearing SIDI OMAR 1Tp was engaged by 3 ACs in area 498359. At 0930 hours a Tp of A/Tk guns under Lt Colt-Williams RHA came under the command of the Sqn with



	a view of bagging an enemy AC. After a recce of the whole area it was decided to station a section at 510358 while the other section had a roving commission in area Pt. 204 507369. At 1235 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs entering SIDI OMAR fort from the SW. At 1311 hours 1Tp reported 3 ACs moving NE from SIDI OMAR. At 1635 hours 5Tp reported 6 ACs in the GHIRBA area. At 1800 hours 1Tp reported 5 ACs proceeding NE up the wire from SIDI OMAR. At 1900 hours 2Tp and 3Tp relieved 1Tp and 5Tp. RHQ. ACs on the move again. Major Smail went down to C Sqn at BUQ-BUQ with Padre Rogers. Bad day with sand blowing and SW wind.
25/5/41	C Sqn. At BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn. 2Tp relieved 3Tp. Very quiet day, nothing of importance occurred. B Sqn. 2Tp in position at SIDI OMAR and 3Tp in position at Pt. 204. At 0620 hours 3Tp reported the usual AC patrol at BP 43 and 5 MET moving SW at BP 39. At 0700 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron reported 2 ACs 1 mile SE of SIDI OMAR. At 0720 hours it was decided to move the section of A/Tk guns to HAQFET EL QUNEQINA 503358 where they could conceal themselves. 2Tp and 3Tp reported considerable movement of ACs between GHIRBA and SIDI OMAR during the day, none of which crossed the wire, with the exception of 2 parties which engaged 2Tp just East of the wire in the SIDI OMAR area and then retired. At 1900 hours 5Tp and 1Tp relieved 2Tp and 3Tp respectively. RHQ. A very quiet day except for 4 Me 110's which bombed and machine gunned DAR EL BRUG some 7 miles away. Major Smail returned from BUQ-BUQ about 1645 hours. Lt Spickernell spent the night with us before going on leave.
26/5/41	C Sqn. Sqn left BUQ-BUQ for RHQ at QARET RAMLIYAT arriving at 1100 hours. Remained there until 1730 hours, when RHQ and sq moved back to ALAM EL SAFA 552332 and remained there for the night. The enemy advanced to KHREGAT and HAMRA areas. A Sqn. A very quiet day until about 1500 hours when an enemy column came through the wire, consisting of approx 200 vehicles of which 50 were tanks. 2Tp Lt Clarke made contact and kept them under observation. Due to shells falling unpleasantly close SHQ were forced to withdraw to QABR CHIRBA 546337. During the withdrawal, a column of 60 MET, including tanks, were reported heading East from BP 70. The forward element of this force penetrated as far as HAMRA. At 2200 hours the column that 2Tp was observing moved East as far as the KHREGAT track and then headed North. During their observation the Tp was subjected to very heavy shellfire for over 2 hours. One car was hit but had no casualties. At 2215 hours the column was reported between KHREGAT and HALFAYA PASS and a considerable number of Verey lights were seen in this area during the night. A very exciting day. B Sqn. Thick fog until 0730 hours at which time, patrols moved into position. 5Tp Lt Dier to SIDI OMAR and 1Tp Lt Burnes to 510365 with role of watching the left flank of 2nd RTR and gun column operating to his East. The two sections of A/Tk guns in the same position as on the 25th. At 0800 hours 1Tp reported vehicles and guns retiring North from Pt. 206 area after being engaged by our column. At 0837 hours 1Tp reported 22 MET stationary in area 509332. At 1030 hours 5Tp reported 2 ACs entering SIDI OMAR from the NE. At 1055 hours 1Tp reported 6 lorries and guns, 3 ACs and 1 tank moving towards GHIRBA from the NE. This column was followed by a further 6 lorries and guns, and the whole column halted 2 miles SW of



	GHIRBA. At 1123 hours a further column of 12 MET joined the previous column SW of GHIRBA. In view of the information the Tp of A/Tk guns was concentrated at 510358 with the 3 wireless cars of SHQ – called 6Tp. At 1230 hours 1Tp reported a further column of 14 tanks moving towards GHIRBA from the NE and at 1247 hours a further column of at least 8 MET joined the enemy force in the area SW of GHIRBA. At 1330 hours 5 tanks proceeded South and halted just SE of the wire at BP 40. They were followed soon by a further 5 tanks. At 1525 hours a total of 20 tanks had crossed through the wire and just later the whole of the force moved into position spread out behind the 20 tanks. The visibility at the time was bad and approx 80 vehicles were counted, although the actual number must have been well in excess of this number. At 1600 hours orders were received from RHQ that in the event of an advance the SIDI SULEIMAN – HAMRA track South of SIDI SULEIMAN would be the responsibility of the Sqn. At 1620 hours 1Tp reported the column moving SE. 3Tp proceeded immediately to SIDI SULEIMAN in order to contact the head of the column. At 1642 hours 1Tp reported the head in the area Northern X tracks. At 1659 hours 1Tp reported head of column at 515358. 6Tp retired in contact with 1Tp at 1710 hours. At 1715 hours 5Tp were ordered to withdraw SE from SIDI OMAR. At 1720 hours 3Tp reported head of column at 514352. At 1735 hours 1Tp reported 15 MET at 514352. At 1736 hours information was received that a column of 16 MET were moving South on the West side of the wire. SHQ commenced withdrawal South at approx 1745 hours. At 1755 hours 3Tp reported head of column at BIR EL KHREIGAT. At 1800 hours 1Tp, 3Tp and 6Tp were in touch with the enemy column in the KHREIGAT area. Enemy tanks moved South from KHREIGAT and engaged 1Tp and 6Tp who were forced to withdraw. At the same time 3Tp came under artillery fire and withdrew SE down the track. At 1850 hours 1Tp and 6Tp were still being engaged by enemy tanks in area 520340. At 1840 hours information was received that the enemy outflanking column had crossed the wire at BP 70 and were moving East. At 1840 hours the column was reported at the 509 Grid line still moving East. SHQ were now retiring East towards HAMRA. At 1900 hours the engagement between 1Tp, 6Tp and the enemy tanks was broken off. At 1907 hours the enemy outflanking column was reported at 314514 moving East. At 1923 hours 3Tp reported tanks which had previously engaged 1Tp were retiring North towards KHREIGAT. At 1924 hours 5Tp reported 14 vehicles moving East at 520324. It was thought that this was SHQ of the Royals, but later turned out to be the enemy Northern flank guard. At 2015 hours SHQ arrived at HAMRA and after waiting there for 5 minutes were joined by Major Pepys (Royals) and his SHQ who stated that the enemy outflanking column was only 2 miles West of HAMRA. 5Tp had previously been told to get in touch with the North flank of the enemy outflanking column, which he actually did when he contacted the 14 MET, but being under the impression that they were friendly vehicles, he left then to proceed East while he went South. The situation therefore, at 2015 hours, was as follows:- SHQ at HAMRA in touch with the enemy who were 2 miles to their West. 1Tp, 3Tp and 6Tp in area 530335. 5Tp in area 530325. 1Tp, 3Tp and 6Tp were ordered to proceed East to the 540 Grid line which they did, reaching it at 2130 hours and put their position as 540330. It was realised that 5Tp was outflanked and could not proceed East. He was therefore ordered to proceed South and cut in behind the enemy column. This he did and by 2300 hours had reached the area 550315 where he halted. SHQ halted for the night in area 555324. The enemy column halted at HAMRA and 1Tp were ordered to a position 543327, and 6Tp returned to SHQ for the night. RHQ. The Colonel and Lt Spickernell left for Cairo at 0615 hours. All quiet during the day. At 1615 hours the enemy advanced and at 1700 hours we were forced back to HABATA. We spent the night 8 miles NW of HABATA.
27/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. Sqn moved to take up role of observation from coast road



	exclusive to escarpment inclusive. 1Tp Sgt Beard moved to ILWETKURSI 548361 and 4Tp Sgt Macey moved to GHOTOGREIN 548355. SHQ moved to ALAM SAMULUS 589361. Contact was gained with a 3rd Hussars patrol on the coast road and with a section of 31st Field artillery who were at BIR FAGRUN 555359. There was no enemy movement during the day except for a party of 40 MET moving down the HALFAYA PASS. At 1800 hours – nothing further to report. 2000 hours situation unchanged. A Sqn. At 0530 hours heavy shelling was reported by 4Tp in the HALFAYA PASS area. At 0900 hours we were concerned with the location of the HAMRA column which was last seen going North. 3Tp and 4Tp did a forward recce to locate it. They only came in contact with very small parties, whom retired NW in the direction of HALFAYA PASS. At 1458 hours KHREIGAT was reported no movement seen and SHQ decided to advance forward to a new position. At 1530 hours the Sqn moved forward to Pt. 206. No movement seen. B Sqn. At 0600 hours 1Tp Lt Burness proceeded West and reported 30 MET in the HAMRA area, but he was immediately driven back by three 8 wheeled ACs. 3Tp Lt Halliday was also engaged a little later by this patrol and driven back. At 0700 hours 3Tp broke a spring in the wireless car. At 0720 hours 1Tp reported HAMRA clear and he was ordered to proceed NW up the HAMRA – SIDI SULEIMAN track. At 0817 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron was dispatched to relieve 1Tp. At 1005 hours 2Tp arrived with 1Tp who at that time reported the enemy at 527334. 2Tp was therefore ordered to observe the enemy from the HAMRA – SIDI SULEIMAN track, and 1Tp from the SE. At 1142 hours 3Tp arrived with 1Tp and the latter returned to SHQ which was at this time 3 miles East of HAMRA. At 1305 hours A Sqn reported KHREIGAT area clear of the enemy. Therefore the enemy at 527334 must have moved NW without 3Tp being aware of the fact. 3Tp was therefore ordered to proceed NW up the track with 2Tp moving parallel 3 miles to the West. At 1400 hours 3Tp confirmed the KHREIGAT area clear. At 1540 hours 3Tp reached RUWEIBITEL WARRANI where an enemy staff car retired as he approached. At 1600 hours 2Tp reached QARET ABU SAYID where he reported 12 MET to the NW, but at 1805 hours information was received that SIDI SULEIMAN was occupied. 3Tp therefore moved NW to the track at 519350 to observe and at 1902 hours he reported 5 ACs moving South towards him. In view of this information, 2Tp was halted just North of the ABU SAYID area. From this time until dark the enemy ACs, totalling 8, continually harassed 3Tp in the RUWEIBITEL WARRANI area. Enemy ACs withdrew at nightfall and our Troops leaguered, 3Tp at KHREIGAT and 2Tp 4 miles to his West. SHQ leaguered in area 523331. RHQ. Moved at first light to HABATA. The enemy withdrew and we had a quiet day. In the evening we moved to a position 7 miles NW of HABATA 553333 where we spent the night.
28/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon moved to relieve 4Tp Sgt Macey at GHOTOGREIN. Sqn Ldr made a personal recce of forward areas and liaised with 3rd Hussars patrol and gunner OP. At 1100 hours no movement seen except for 10 MET which had moved down HALFAYA PASS between 0800 hours and 1100 hours. 1800 hours – no movement seen. At 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. Very quiet day, nothing of importance to report, no movement seen. B Sqn. 3Tp moving forward from night position reported 2 enemy ACs on RUWEIBITEL WARRANI at 0620 hours. These cars engaged 3Tp and forced him to retire South. Enemy ACs then withdrew. During the next two hours there was considerable enemy ACs activity on the track North of RUWEIBITEL WARRANI.



	At 0830 hours 5Tp Lt Dier relieved 3Tp and 1Tp Lt Burness relieved 2Tp. At 1417 hours 5Tp reported 5 tanks moving South from SIDI SULEMAN. These tanks moved at great speed and 5Tp was forced to retire South down the track. At the same time 1Tp who had advanced South from the direction of QARET ABU SAYID was attacked by 3 tanks. The 5 enemy tanks on the track, having reached the 345 Grid line, were engaged by our guns and halted. The 3 tanks however, continued to press 1Tp and at 1545 hours they had reached 51?340. 2Tp was therefore ordered out to assist 1Tp and also to watch the West flank as 1Tp had reported possible movement in that area. At 1614 hours 1Tp reported the 3 enemy tanks retiring NE and he maintained touch until they reached the SIDI SULEMAN area. 2Tp Sgt Cameron on reaching the area 510366 broke a wheel and had, therefore, to return to SHQ. At 2020 hours 5Tp who had gone North again after the 5 enemy tanks who had retreated, was engaged by 4 enemy ACs and forced to retire. 1Tp and 5Tp then retired to night position on the 341 East/West Grid line. RHQ. About 0730 hours the 2nd RTR stopped hard by us and we had a quiet day except for an Me 110 reconnaissance plane which came over in the evening. The Echelon was bombed and Sgt Pegg was wounded in the arm.
29/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. White Verrey lights seen at top of HALFAYA at 0500 hours. 3Tp Lt Burdon patrolled to BIR BATTUMA and reported no movement seen. He returned to his position at 0800 hours having remained 1 hour at BIR BATTUMA. 1Tp Sgt Beard patrolled to ALAM BARGHUT and 2 miles to its South. He reported 2 tanks moving slowly from SOLLUM village towards the bottom of HALFAYA PASS. Patrol was fired on from area Pt. 14 332568 and withdrew. Patrol took up normal position of observation at Pt. 26 549361 at 0900 hours and was relieved by 2Tp TSM Scrivener. At 1700 hours no movement seen except for 4 MET which had moved up HALFAYA PASS during the morning. 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 1000 hours 4Tp under command of Lt Jacobson was pursued by 3 enemy 8 wheeled ACs. He retired South and the enemy ACs halted 2 miles South of KHREIGAT. They then retired in a NW direction. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 5Tp reported 5 enemy ACs moving in area 519354. At 0700 hours 5Tp was relieved by an A Sqn patrol and returned to SHQ. At 0700 hours 2Tp proceeded to SHEFERZEN to take over that patrol from the Royals, while 3Tp Lt Halliday went to QARET ABU SAYID to take over that patrol from 1Tp. At 0752 hours 1Tp reported 7 tanks moving South down the track and engaging the A Sqn patrol in the area BIR KHREIGAT. These tanks were engaged by our guns and retired at 0840 hours, after carrying out target practice on a derelict Cruiser tank North of RUWEIBIT EL WARRANI. At intervals during the day 3Tp reported movement of various enemy AC patrols in the area 519355. At 1950 hours 2Tp carried out a reconnaissance of area RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR 795354 and then East for 3 miles. He reported no enemy in the HALIAN or EGYPTIAN forts or in that area. At 1848 hours 3Tp reported 5 ACs moving South from SIDI SULEMAN. At 1900 hours 4 Me 110's flew over SHQ, RHQ were warned and 5 minutes later reported they were being dive bombed. At 1930 hours 3Tp reported that the 5 ACs now totalled 8, consisting of 6 ACs and 2 light tanks. They engaged A Sqn patrol and at 2000 hours withdrew northwards. They fired at the derelict Cruiser tank and set it on fire. 3Tp withdrew 2 miles South of ABU SAYID for the night, and 2Tp 2 miles South of SHEFERZEN. SHQ moved during the day to ALAM EL SEYIF 510331. This being the 17th position SHQ had been in during the past 47 days. The Echelon arrived with a composite 4Tp at 2015 hours under Sgt Corfield, having come on a direct bearing from RHQ now 25 miles away to the East. Capt Lawson carried out a reconnaissance during the evening with a view to filling the gap between the B Sqn two western patrols. This he did and Pt. 202 was decided on as a suitable position for 4Tp to take up. RHQ. A quiet day until about 1830 hours when 4 Me 110's came and smartened us up from 2000 feet. Two of



	the bombs failed to explode. Major Alexander's ford had 2 tyres punctured and the LAD welding truck was burnt out. No one was hurt. The Breda gunners had a stoppage in one gun and were late off the mark.
30/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 5Tp Lt Smithers relieved 3Tp at GHOTOGREIN. Nothing to report all day except for 5 MET moving up HALFAYA PASS. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. Doctor visited us and 1Tp went and bathed at BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn. Patrol activity in the ALAM BATTUMA area. Nothing further to report. B Sqn. 3Tp Lt Halliday in position 513349 and 2Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN. 3Tp reported 3 enemy ACs at southern X tracks at 0617 hours. These ACs moved SE to QARETABU SAYID. At 0706 hours these 3 ACs retired. At 0800 hours 5Tp Lt Dier relieved 3Tp and 1Tp Lt Burness relieved 2Tp. At 0840 hours 1Tp carried out a recce of SIDI OMAR area and 3 miles East of it – no movement seen. At the same time 2Tp went to the Watch Tower 3 miles South of SHEFERZEN and reported no movement seen and returned to SHQ. At 1150 hours 5Tp reported 3 MET in the KINIBISH area. These were followed by two more and all moved East. At 1700 hours 1Tp carried out a recce of the SIDI OMAR area and reported no movement seen. Between 1800 and 1900 hours 5Tp reported various enemy patrol movements in area 519345 and at 2021 hours 3 ACs engaged 5Tp and forced them to retire. 5Tp leaguered in area 515346 and 1Tp in area 2 miles SW of BIR SHEFERZEN. During the day 4Tp was in position 508337 and reported no movement seen all day. RHQ. We moved at 0800 hours 3 miles West to get clear of 2nd RTR who were very conspicuous. Four Me 110's flew over us before we left and Major Smail had to abandon his shaving. However they left us alone this time. The rest of the day was very quiet. Lt Faymer with 2 Bofors AA gun took over from 2Lt Priddle, who returned to BARRANI.
31/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 4Tp Sgt Macey moved to relieve 2Tp at ILWET KURSI. 2Tp patrolled West to try and locate two 25 pdr guns which had been abandoned by the 31st Fd Regt. At 0630 hours 2Tp located one 25 pdr, but could not move it. They reported no movement seen on the HALFAYA – SOLLUM road. Patrol continued to recce area ALAM BHARGUT but were unable to locate any more guns. 2Tp TSM Scrivener at 0745 hours commenced to withdraw to normal position which he had reached at 0835 hours and was relieved by 4Tp Sgt Macey. Little movement seen during the day except 7 MET moving down HALFAYA at 0810 hours. At 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. No movement seen. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 5Tp reported 3 ACs at 515353. At 0732 hours 1Tp was in position at RUWEIBI SIDI OMAR and reported no movement seen. 1Tp then proceeded for 3 miles East and reported no movement seen again and returned to BIR SHEFERZEN. At 0800 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron relieved 5Tp and 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 1Tp. At 0825 hours 2Tp reported 2 ACs in area 579354. At 1510 hours 4Tp in position at 508337 reported 3 vehicles approaching from the NW. They closed to within 2000 yards and opened fire. 5Tp in reserve at SHQ was ordered to proceed to the scene immediately with a Breda car and 3Tp was also ordered to move immediately also with a Breda car to QARET BAKARAT SW to intercept. The enemy however retired North immediately after firing and were never seen by either 3Tp or 5Tp.



	At 1820 hours 2Tp reported 1 AC moving South in area 519354 and at the same time he reported a lorry and a staff car moving West to KINIBISH. Capt Turnbull arrived on the Echelon to take over the duties of 2i/c, from Capt Lawson, who was to take over the command of A Sq. RHQ. A quiet day. Capt Grant-Thorold and Lt Crankshaw went down to the Echelon for the day.
May 1941	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
May 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
4/5/41	C Sqn. TSM Scrivener relieved Lt Burdon on western patrol. 5Tp Sgt Smedley was shelled from BIR SLWAYAT and forced to withdraw. Enemy then stopped shelling and the patrol returned to its original position. Sqn Ldr and Major Christopher RHA made a recce of ALAM BATTUMA at 1130 hours, but could not locate the guns. At 1730 hours one of our columns arrived in the ALAM BATTUMA area. At 2010 hours 3 MET appeared at 522358 and a few minutes later 2 MET appeared at 519358. The 3 MET then moved West and joined the 2 MET. As it got dark the 5 MET were seen moving slowly northwards. At 2030 hours 5Tp Sgt Smedley was again shelled in the ALAM BATTUMA area. A Sqn. Nil Reports B Sqn. 5Tp Lt Dier was relieved at GHOTO GREIN 548354 by 1Tp Sgt Beard at 1130 hours. 3Tp Lt Halliday was in position at ILWET EL ANSUL 547358, with SHQ at 562364. Sqn Ldr visited 7th Hussars patrols with Major Younger, as he did not consider the patrol on the Southern Road to be far enough forward to give our patrols warning of any enemy movements. The 7th Hussars patrols were then moved up North and South, level with the Sqn patrols. No movement seen during the day. RHQ. A quiet day.
v5/5/41	C Sqn. At 0610 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock relieved 5Tp Sgt Smedley at ALAM BATTUMA. At 0831 hours TSM Scrivener at ALAM EL ARAD reported 5 AFVs, 1 gun and 4 ACs at 522352 making West. One large tank was also seen making down the track towards KHREIGAT. SHQ moved to 538228. At 0902 hours 4 AFVs and one gun moving down 521 Grid line. Position at 0910 hours 521348. TSM Scrivener forced to withdraw to QUARET REMLIYAT area. At 0912 hours the 4 AFVs and 1 gun reported stationary were due East of KHREIGAT and at 0921 hours they turned and chased 2Tp, making him withdraw further to the SE. At 0940 hours they were reported stationary at 527345 and some MET at BIR KHREIGAT. At 1000 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock at ALAM BATTUMA withdrew ALAM MADAN with a column. His position was 536345. He passed all information to Major Goschen and remained with him until the column moved West at approx 1200 hours. At 1035 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener reported 5 MET at RUWEBIT with 1 AFV. One mile South of these, 5 MET, which were joined by 6 more MET at 1101 hours. At 1427 hours the column shelled the enemy in QUARET EL REMLIYAT area and forced them to withdraw. 2Tp pushed North again to QUARET EL RAMLIYAT and at 1709 hours took Major Goschen over to A Sqn patrol. 2Tp then moved to Pt. 207 530347, arriving there at 1810 hours. He reported 6 MET in area 525352, otherwise no movement seen. At 1730 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock moved to area HAQFET MADAN and took up position of observation at Pt. 200, no movement seen. At 2000 hours Western patrol remained the night in area Pt. 207 530347 and Eastern patrol at Pt. 200 537350. A Sqn.



	At 0749 hours 1Tp reported 5 vehicles moving South from QUARET ABU SAYED. These were joined by 3 AFVs. Later this force was joined by 6 more AFVs. They remained in position a short while and then continued to advance. 1Tp retired, keeping contact, in a southerly direction. At 0833 hours the vehicles were reported moving in the direction of KHREIGAT and at 0909 hours they were beyond KHREIGAT. At 0916 hours 4Tp reported 6 MET and trailer in the SHEFERZEN area. At 0933 hours 1Tp reported 3 AFVs 4 miles South of KHREIGAT, still keeping contact. At this time 5Tp were forced to withdraw, due to the advance of the other column. These vehicles continued to move South until they reached a point short of Pt. 207. The two troops (5th & 7th) were subjected to a considerable amount of shelling whilst keeping the force under observation. At 1203 hours 1Tp reported 3 vehicles NE of his position in the SHEFERZEN area, and at 1221 hours this Tp was pursued by 4 large fast vehicles. The 4 vehicles split into 2 groups of 2 and attempted to attack from both flanks, but thanks to the superior speed of our cars this was avoided and after a chase of 10 miles the enemy were left well behind and the Tp returned to SHQ for replenishing. At 1230 hours SHQ moved 5 miles ESE. At 1455 hours Troops reported that the enemy were being engaged by our guns and were retiring towards SULEIMAN. At 1706 hours enemy again shelled 1Tp who were in close contact, and they retired slightly. At 1930 hours all Troops reported that the enemy had retired to the SULEIMAN area, no movement seen. B Sqn. SHQ at 562364. 1Tp Sgt Beard at GHOTOGREIN area 548354 and 3Tp Lt Halliday at ILWETEL ANSUL 547358 until he was relieved by 2Tp Sgt Cameron at 1315 hours. 1Tp reported some movement on the HALFAYA track at 0956 hours, otherwise no movement seen by the patrols during the day. Major Wainman visited both patrols at 1800 hours and returned at 2030 hours. RHQ. Lt Burrell returned to Cairo. Major Smail and Lt Crankshaw went down to Echelon. A Lysander dropped a message that we were being advanced on from 3 sides so we moved to a place 3 miles SW of BIR HABATA. A sandstorm during the night.
6/5/41	C Sqn. At 0550 hours SHQ moved to 536333. No movement seen during the night except for the odd Verey lights at KHREIGAT and SULEIMAN. At 0610 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon relieved 2Tp TSM Scrivener at Pt. 207. At 0800 hours no movement seen by all patrol area except for 2 MET at V tracks 522357. At 0905 hours bad sandstorm started which continued all day, visibility limited to 25 yards at times. NTR all day. At 1800 hours Eastern patrol went forward to ALAM BATTUMA and reported no movement seen. Western patrol moved forward to Pt. 205 and reported no movement seen. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. Usual patrols only, no movement seen. B Sqn. SHQ at 562634. 2Tp Sgt Cameron in ILWETEL ANSUL area. 1Tp Sgt Beard at GHOTOGREIN until relieved at 1750 hours by 5Tp Lt Dier. Visibility bad all day. 2Tp had moved about 2 miles during the day to conform to the position of the 7th Hussars. No movement seen by our patrols.
7/5/41	C Sqn. At 0555 hours SHQ moved to 530331. No movement seen during the night. During the day there was little movement to report except for 3 AFVs at Pt. 205 522356 which were forced to withdraw by shellfire from a column. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. Usual patrols, no movement seen.



	B Sqn. Position as for 6-5-41. 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ILWET EL ANSUL. No movement seen by our patrols.
8/5/41	C Sqn. At 0605 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock attached to Lt Col Campbell's HQ as communication between our patrols and Lt Col Campbell's. Sgt Peacock remained at QUARET EL RUWEIBI all day and returned to SHQ which moved to QUARET RAMLIYAT at 2200 hours. At 0610 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon moved forward to 523359 and remained in observation all day. He reported very little movement all day and at 2200 hours withdrew 2 miles SE on report from A Sqn that there were 7 enemy tanks at SIDI SULEIMAN. At 1000 hours 5Tp Sgt Smedley in ALAM BATTUMA area was shelled from HALFAYA area. At 1330 hours OP went up to Sgt Smedley and patrol, and pushed on to BIR SILWEIYAT which was not occupied. The enemy ACs at 528362 withdrew. The patrol remained at BIR SILWEIYAT while the column put a barrage on to HALFAYA and then attacked it with four 2pdrs and 11 Carriers. They suffered 4 casualties and it appeared that HALFAYA was stronger held than previously thought. At 1200 hours the Sqn Ldr visited Lt Col Campbell and owing to wireless communications being very bad at HQ, Sgt Saunders and the 3rd car of SHQ was attached to a column. At 1945 hours Lt Col Campbell reported 3 enemy tanks in BIR KHREIGAT area and 7 enemy tanks moving NE along SHEFERZEN – SIDI SULEIMAN track. A confused two hours followed, not improved by Lt Col Campbell's own wireless set breaking down. However by 2200 hours the situation was quite normal, and although 3Tp was fired on by some MET, at 2245 hours, at 100 yards range, there were fortunately no casualties. The MET were probably a party of 2pdrs on their way to V track 522358 which had been warned of 3Tp position. At 2330 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 0620 hours SHQ moved to Pt. 203 514344. 1Tp took up a position at SIDI OMAR and 4Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN. 3Tp were co-operating with the Gunners in area SIDI SULEIMAN. At 1030 hours 1Tp reported 4 vehicles coming through the gap at BP 47 and moving South still keeping contact. These vehicles retired in a northerly direction. At 1149 hours 1Tp and 3Tp were bombed and machine gunned by two Me 110's and suffered no casualties. At 1230 hours 5Tp did a recce West of SHQ and encountered 2 Bofors who opened fire at 300 yards, fortunately they missed and Lt Spickernell retired slightly ruffled by whole. At 1700 hours 5Tp left to relieve 3Tp. No movement seen. B Sqn. SHQ as previously. 3Tp Lt Halliday at ILWET EL ANSUL, and 5Tp Lt Dier at GHOTO GREIN until relieved by 1Tp Sgt Beard. Owing to our activities on top of escarpment, 7th Hussars patrols on the North and South roads were pushed forward to the 532 Grid line. 3Tp conformed and was pushed forward to the ILWET EL SHISH line to watch the left flank while 5Tp were also ordered to pay special attention to the escarpment. No movement seen was seen by our patrols who remained in day positions for the night. 7th Hussars were still on the 532 Grid line on the North and South road. A second Breda car arrived with the Echelon.
9/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock moved to contact Lt Col Campbell's HQ for wireless comm purposes at BIR KHREIGAT. At 0605 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved to relieve 3Tp at 523356. A Sqn reported an enemy column had crossed the wire at EGYPTIAN SIDI OMAR consisting of 6 ACs, 11 AFVs, 1 lorry, 1 MC and 1 staff car. This column moved East along the 357 Grid line. At 0930 hours a bad sandstorm started and orders were received to withdraw and hold a line of observation ALAM BATTUMA – KHREIGAT. At the same time 4Tp Sgt Peacock came back under command and moved forward to V track 519354. He was relieved at this position at 1100 hours by a patrol of A Sqn and he then returned to SHQ. Meanwhile 2Tp had been withdrawn to Pt. 205 522357 and picked up a small party of the column who were walking. They informed TSM Scrivener that a 25pdr and its tractor unit were 1 mile West of his



	position. 2Tp went forward and towed them out and also recovered an ammunition limber which was found abandoned. They towed them away and eventually arrived at SHQ where a RA officer picked them up. At 1505 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved back to ALAM EL ARAD and was relieved by 4Tp at 1820 hours as one of his MHACs was giving trouble. At 1800 hours visibility still very bad owing to sandstorm, and at 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 0735 hours 1Tp reported two 8 wheel ACs and two small ACs heading towards him. At 0737 hours 5Tp reported 2 tanks on track 7 miles North of SULEIMAN. At 0754 hours 9 tanks were on the East side of the wire, approx position at BP 46. This force was increased by ACs and was kept under observation by 1Tp, who later reported one 8 wheeler at SIDI OMAR and 2 small AFVs at Gap 46. 2Tp went to assist in this area. At 0929 hours 5Tp reported 2 tanks and 1 AC at 510367. At 0834 hours 2Tp reported 20 vehicles now at SIDI OMAR. This column came through the wire and came East. At 0913 hours 5Tp reported 7 Cruiser tanks in a disorganised formation being engaged by our artillery North of his position. At 0914 hours 2Tp reported their column 1 mile East of SIDI OMAR. This column consisted of six 8 wheeled ACs, 1 staff car, 1 MC, 1 lorry with gun and 16 smaller AFVs. Head of column 2 ½ miles East of SIDI OMAR. At 0940 hours a bad sandstorm developed and visibility was reduced to 50 yards. 1 & 2Tp had great difficulty in keeping the column under observation. When the column reached QARET ABU FARIS GHARBIYA, visibility became so bad that both Troops lost touch and had great difficulty in locating themselves. 5Tp was now ordered to withdraw 8 miles South from X tracks and warned not to be cut off. Visibility remained bad until 1700 hours when 5Tp reported 7 tanks in SIDI SULEIMAN area. All Troops now on a line of observation of the track SIDI SULEIMAN – BIR SHEFERZEN. Just after dark 5Tp who were still in observation of tanks at SIDI SULEIMAN, reported that they were being fired on by enemy tanks from the North and our own guns from the South. They were withdrawn out of the danger zone with great difficulty. This had been a very trying day for everyone owing to the sandstorm and a very hot wind. B Sqn. SHQ at 562364. 1Tp and 3Tp in position as for yesterday. 1Tp reported having heard movement from the West during the night, but nothing was seen. Sqn Ldr went up to 7th Hussars HQ at 0815 hours and they reported that HALFAYA PASS had been occupied top and bottom by the enemy after the activities on top of the escarpment on 8th May. 7th Hussars therefore moved back to normal position as did our patrols at 1100 hours. At 1730 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron relieved 3Tp Lt Halliday. 1Tp Sgt Beard reported hearing machine gun fire to his North at 1935 hours, and five minutes later 3Tp reported the same thing. Apparently firing was from the Australians who thought they saw things in the half-light. No movement seen.
10/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night except for a white Verry light seen in Halfaya area at 0145 hours. At 0605 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener left to relieve 5Tp Sgt Smedley at ALAM BATTUMA. Sgt Gander had repaired 2Tp's car during the night. At 0805 hours 5Tp at ALAM BATTUMA was shelled from HALFAYA for 10 minutes by guns – approx 25 pdrs. Three ACs appeared at SILWEYAT area and remained there all day. At 0900 hours Sgt Peacock at ALAM ARAD reported no movement seen. At 1715 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock patrolled to V tracks North of RUWEIBIT WARRANI to look for any men of the RHA who might be in that area. The patrol encountered 3 enemy ACs and engaged them with Breda, Bren and Boyes guns, driving them away. 4Tp then returned to ALAM EL ARAD at 1905 hours. At 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At dawn 5Tp recovered three RHA vehicles in the SIDI SULEIMAN area. 2Tp then escorted a Gunner party up to recover some more of their vehicles. During this operation they were heavily shelled from the North. A quiet day, but still very hot. B Sqn.



	SHQ at 562364. 1Tp at GHOTOGREIN and 2Tp at ILWETEL ANSUL until relieved by 5Tp Lt Dier at 1655 hours. At 1335 hours 7th Hussar on South road reported 2 AFVs at 540 Grid line. These came South of ALAM BARGHUT 538364 to see what was to their South. They were engaged by our artillery and retired. At 1630 hours 2Tp and 6Tp mistook each other for the enemy and at 1630 hours 5Tp was being shelled by friends – this was stopped. Tac Reported large MET concentration at CAPUZZO and on the BARDIA – TOBRUK road. Special orders were given to patrols to keep especial watch for movement but none was seen or heard.
11/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon relieved 4Tp Sgt Peacock at ALAM EL ARAD. At 0800 hours no movement seen by both patrols. Major Pepys and A Sqn of the Royals arrived at 1200 hours. At 1330 hours 2Tp of the Royals Sqn went to ALAM BATTUMA and took over from 2Tp. TSM Scrivener himself remained with the Royals Tp and instructed them. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. Whilst 1Tp was relieving 3Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN 2 enemy vehicles approached them from the North. These were engaged with small arms fire and the Breda gun which resulted in the capture of a small recce car. The crew escaped on the AC escort which withdrew very fast in a northerly direction. A very quiet day. B Sqn. 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ILWETEL ANSUL and 5Tp at GHOTOGREIN. 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 2Tp during the afternoon. There was no movement seen throughout the day. 7th Hussars who have been doing the North and South coast road patrols were relieved at 0900 hours by the 3rd Hussars who were given the same task. 7th Hussars moved back to Cairo to re-equip.
12/5/41	C Sqn. Movement of tracked vehicles heard during the night by both patrols. At 0557 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon reported 20 MET at ALAM EL ARAD stationary. This was confirmed by TSM Scrivener at ALAM BATTUMA, who could also see 40 MET in SIDI SULEIMAN area at 0615 hours. At 0619 hours Lt Burdon reported that 10 MET of the 20 at ALAM EL ARAD were moving SSE. He could see about 30 MET stationary behind the 10 moving MET, which were AFVs. He thought they were medium tanks. The remainder of the MET then appeared to start moving, and the whole column led by 10 tanks moved slowly SE after 10 minutes the column halted but the advance guard of 10 tanks moved on ESE and at 0700 hours were 1 mile East of QUARET RAMLIYAT. At 0820 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon reported the whole column moving SE again and kept in touch with the column until 0947 hours when he reported it was being led by 30 tanks and moving East – head 1 mile North of BIR ZAGDIN EL ABIYAD 539337. At 1020 hours touch was lost with the column and never regained. Column appeared to turn North and then NW and Lt Burdon was engaged by what he thought to be an enemy rearguard and was forced to withdraw. Meanwhile TSM Scrivener had withdrawn SE along the line of the escarpment and took up a pos of observation at Pt. 221 565335. 5Tp Sgt Chambers was at BIR KHREIGAT when enemy started advancing at 0619 hours and this patrol withdrew along the line of the KHREIGAT – HAMRA – HABATA track. SHQ was eventually established 7 miles East of BIR HABATA. At 1650 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon patrolled West to ILWET MAWI 543343 and reported no movement seen, returning at 2000 hours. At 2015 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon at Pt. 221 555335 and 5Tp Sgt Chambers at 557330 remained there for the night. 2Tp Royals and 4Tp with SHQ 7 miles East of BIR HABATA. 2100 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 0415 hours 3Tp at ABU SAYID reported the movement of vehicles to his North. At 0520 hours 1Tp at SHEFERZEN reported 20 vehicles moving South. At dawn when the visibility



	improved, 1Tp found they were following a column of 50 vehicles. 2Tp on the KHREIGAT track reported a column (enemy) moving SE to ALAM ARAD. 1Tp reported their column to be moving down the wire but at 0800 hours an ominous rumbling was heard in the vicinity of SHQ. Simultaneously two 4 wheeled ACs appeared about 400 yards to the North of SHQ who beat a somewhat hasty retreat to the SE. 2Tp having been relieved by C Sqn on the KHREIGAT track, were withdrawn South and ordered to rejoin the Sqn South of HAMRA. 1Tp and 4Tp were still in touch with the column which had so rudely moved SHQ and which was now approaching the track just North of HAMRA. 3Tp who had been in the centre were now completely cut-off to their East and SE. they were ordered to move South and make a detour as wide as was considered necessary. They succeeded in doing this and rejoined the Sqn late in the afternoon 6 miles South of SOFAI. In the meantime the enemy column which was moving towards HAMRA had reached BIR DIGNAISH very quickly. Considering that they were only 2 miles behind SHQ over a distance of 17 miles, it is curious they did not shell or attack. The Sqn was in observation of the HABATA – DIGNAISH track for the remainder of the day. The column at DIGNAISH slowly moved away West and NW. Cpl Cornish was badly wounded in the hand by shrapnel. This was our only casualty, although 1Tp and 4Tp were shelled at frequent intervals by the HAMRA column. B Sqn. 3Tp Lt Halliday in position at ILWETELANSUL and 5Tp Lt Dier at GHOTOGREIN. At 0817 hours 3Tp reported a column of 36 MET consisting of tanks, ACs, guns and MCs in area BIR HAGIB 544359, shortly after 5Tp reported 9 MET to his West and 5 MET to his SW. all the MET were moving East and the two patrols withdrew keeping touch. SHQ moved to ALAM SAMULUS 568361. 2Tp proceeded to ILWETABU MAGHUD 565350 to watch the southern flank. At 1000 hours all enemy vehicles appeared to be concentrated in the ILWETEL KURSI area 546360, but a ridge to the East of them prevented good observation. 3Tp was in contact the whole day with the enemy patrols that were pushed forward to the East of the main enemy position, and at one time 3Tp was shelled by 8th Field Regt RA who were positioned further East along the main road. At 1500 hours 1 enemy tank and 3 ACs were seen stationary in the GHOTOGREIN area. 5Tp kept these under observation. At 1800 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy proceeded with water and rations to 3Tp and then relieved 5Tp. During the afternoon a column under Major Tuck RHA, consisting of guns and one Coy of the Rifle Bde moved into position near SHQ with a view to harassing and further advance of the enemy. Situation at last light – enemy still in occupation of line BIR GIB – GHOTOGREIN. The 3rd Hussars had been operating to the road to the North all day. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Troop took up night positions on the 560 Grid line between the main road and the escarpment. Many Verey lights were seen during the night, which it transpired later, must have been the enemy retiring. RHQ. When the enemy advanced at first light, RHQ retired up the HAMRA – HABATA track. Lt Col Campbell had stayed the previous night and directed the movements of our own troops from the Rear link AC. On arrival in the HABATA area with the enemy not far behind a good deal of time was spent looking for the 4th RTR who had arrived the night before. Eventually they were found in the wadis, and were completely ignorant of the situation. They were galvanised into action, but as it happened the enemy did not come on. RHQ went to RABIA, and spent the rest of the day and night there.
13/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0605 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock relieved 3Tp Lt Burdon at Pt. 221. At 0610 hours 5Tp Sgt Chambers patrolled forward to ALAM EL ARAD and 4Tp to ALAM BATTUMA. At 1210 hours 4Tp went forward to BIR SILWEIYAT. No movement seen until after 30 minutes when he was engaged by 2 ACs and had to move slightly. At 1535 hours 3 more MET, possibly tanks joined the two MET already in position at 527364 and engaged Sgt Peacock again and he was forced to withdraw to ALAM BATTUMA. No movement seen both patrols at 1600 hours. SHQ moved to QUARETRAMLIYAT and withdrew to ALAM FAKHRI and remained there for the night. A Sqn. During the night orders were received to the effect that patrols were to be pushed forward to the line we had been on before yesterday's withdrawal. There was no news of the enemy occupying any



	position South of the line SHEFERZEN – SIDI SULEIMAN – BIR SUWEIYA. 1Tp and 3Tp were ordered to recce North. 1Tp up the KHREIGAT track and 3Tp to SHEFERZEN. This was done without any enemy being seen and 2Tp were sent forward to the centre position at ABU SAYID. On their arrival they were unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned by two Me 110's who later flew over SHQ who were on the move. They were not attacked. At 1400 hours 3Tp reported 1 enemy AC and 1 small staff car SW of KHREIGAT. 3Tp engaged them, but they fled to the West. 2Tp from the centre pursued them but they were too fast and got away. Unfortunately they got through the wire South of SHEFERZEN and escaped. SHQ returned to their old position at 516329. B Sqn. 1Tp and 3Tp moved forward from their high position on to the 560 Grid line to ILWET EL ANSUL and GHOTO GREIN. They were held up by thick fog and it was not until 0830 hours that they could report that the enemy had retired during the night. 2Tp returned to SHQ at 0830 hours and relieved 3Tp in the afternoon. No movement seen all day. SHQ at ALAM SAMULUS 586361. The C Sqn patrol under Sgt Beard returned to C Sqn. RHQ. Moved at first light to HABATA, the enemy having retired, and then back to HAMRA,
14/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 1Tp Sgt Beard relieved Sgt Chambers 5Tp at ALAM EL ARAD. No movement seen all day except for 2 ACs at BIR SILWEIYA which observed 4Tp Sgt Peacock all day, and 4 AFVs in V tracks North of KHREIGAT. At 1930 hours 2Tp Lt Burdon moved to ALAM EL ARAD in readiness for a recce at 0530 hours on the 15th. 2000 hours – nothing further to report. B Sqn. SHQ at ALAM SAMULUS. 1Tp Sgt McCarthy in position at GHOTO GREIN and 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ILWET EL ANSUL. 3rd Hussars patrol on the main road pushed forward West at approx 0900 hours. 2Tp pushed forward 4 miles to cover their left. At 1200 hours Lt Dier 5Tp relieved 1Tp. At 1230 hours the Sqn Ldr was ordered to RHQ at HAMRA. The Sqn was ordered to move to HABATA at 1800 hours where it spent the night, less 5Tp and 2Tp who spent it at SOFAL. Lt Cunningham rejoined from CCS and took over command of 1Tp. 5Tp was under the command of 2Lt Burness during the day, at Lt Dier was sick. RHQ. The Colonel went off to BIR HABATA in the morning. A Me 110 came over at 1300 hours and dropped 4 bombs in our area but hit nothing.
15/5/41	C Sqn. At 0530 hours SHQ moved to ALAM EL ARAD and were joined by Sgt Peacock who had been relieved by the Guards Bde at ALAM BATTUMA. At 0555 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon and 1Tp Sgt Beard moved to report on SIDI SULEIMAN and Italian camp area respectively. Lt Burdon kept touch with an enemy column retiring North towards CAPUZZO and Sgt Beard after reporting several small parties of MET between QUARET SHARQAN 520359 and the Italian camp, reported the area clear of the enemy. Both patrols pushed forward after the enemy and by 1030 hours had reached the wire. SHQ was moving up behind and at 1200 hours had reached BP 40, with Sgt Chambers patrolling to QABR MEDUAR 501376 and Lt Burdon patrolling to BIR HAFID and on to HAQFETUAR. Both patrols reported no movement seen in their area by 1300 hours. SHQ moved to BIR HAFID and by 1300 hours both patrols moved forward again to SIDI AZEIZ area. 1Tp Sgt Beard was at BP 38 and was rather mixed up with the enemy and friendly tanks. He was withdrawn to SHQ at 1330 hours. At 1340 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon patrolled to BIR BEDR and then East to QABR ARMAR and on to 50736 and remained there in observation of SIDI AZEIZ – BARDIA road. Patrols reported various MET moving in SIDI AZEIZ area and on the SIDI AZEIZ – BARDIA road. 5Tp Sgt Chambers patrolled to BIR BU TABIL and reported MET moving West along TRIGH CAPUZZO and



	at 1650 hours reported SIDI AZEZ clear of enemy and took up a position of observation at 500357. At 1703 hours Sgt Chambers reported that he had been attacked by a Hurricane – Sgt Chambers, Tpr Fidler, Tpr Shrosbury and LCpl Strong wounded. LCpl Strong wounded in the ankle and Tpr Fidler in the leg. Tpr Shrosbury had splinters in his forehead. All three were evacuated to ADS. Sgt chambers was dressed by the MO and returned to the Sqn the same night. At 1705 hours TSM Scrivener 2Tp moved out to relieve 5Tp. At 1720 hours Lt Burdon reported that one MHAC was not charging and 1 broken spring. Permission asked to withdraw this patrol. At 1845 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener and 3Tp Lt Burdon withdrew to SHQ. The whole Sqn moved to area BP 40 and remained there for the night. A Sqn. We again advanced over the wire and took up position with SHQ at QABREL GARAR and 5Tp and 3Tp in observation well forward in the QABREL LACHEM and BIR EL HAMARIN areas. The Sqn remained in this position all day and withdrew East of the wire for the night. This is the first time the whole Sqn had been together for 6 weeks. B Sqn. Sqn moved at 0600 hours to BIR KHREIGAT where it arrived at 0830 hours, and came into reserve with RHQ. Sqn remained with RHQ the whole day and at 1200 hours moved up to a position 2 miles SE of BP 40. At 1900 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday went on patrol to BP 44 and 5Tp to QABREL GARRARI. The remainder of the Sqn leaguered for the night at 513362. RHQ. We got up at the crack of dawn and moved to position 1 mile East of BP 40 and had a display of Me 109's and 110's most of the day. A Hurricane was shot down about 5 miles South of us. Three He 111's bombed one of the columns just NW of us. Spent the night there.
16/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0920 hours Sqn moved to ALAM EL ARAD and remained there concentrated until 1900 hours when the enemy were reported to be advancing South from BP 38. At 1915 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved to X tracks 518356 and contacted 2nd RTR. Patrol remained in this area for the night, but reported no movement seen. At 1918 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock moved to HAQFET NAAS and contacted 60th Rifles. No movement seen and patrol remained 2 miles North of HAQFET NAAS for the night. 2100 hours nothing to report, SHQ at QARET RAMLIYAT. A Sqn. At dawn 1Tp and 4Tp were sent out to the line of observation. At 0700 hours the Sqn was ordered to withdraw its southern patrol and to concentrate at SIDI OMAR. Later orders were received for a troop to be left in observation of SIDI OMAR. SHQ and 3 reserve Troops were moved 8 miles SE of SIDI OMAR. At 1800 hours 90 tanks reported moving South from CAPUZZO and the Sqn withdrew observing the line from SIDI OMAR eastwards to SIDI SULEMAN. At 2100 hours the Troops on the line of observation were withdrawn to observe a line inclusive BIR SHEFERZEN inclusive southern X tracks South of BIR EL KHREIGAT. B Sqn. Sqn moved at 0600 hours with the object of patrolling the area SIDI AZEZ – BIR HAFID. At first light 3Tp and 5Tp proceeded into that area. At 0730 hours when the Sqn stopped at RHQ the orders were changed and 3Tp was ordered to proceed to BIR BEDER 502383 and observe the TRIGH CAPUZZO. The remainder of the Sqn proceeded to 510358. At 0830 hours 5Tp rejoined SHQ. At 1006 hours 3Tp reported 20 MET moving SE along the TRIGH CAPUZZO. On reaching QABREL AHMAR 507384, they turned South. 3Tp remained in contact and reported that 10 of these MET were medium or large tanks. At 1100 hours this enemy party was engaged by our artillery from the BIR GIRBA area. At about the same time 3 enemy ACs were seen moving SW towards QABREL MEDUAR and 3Tp broke off contact with the 20 MET in order to cover the left flank of the guns. By this time the 20 MET having been engaged retired North followed by the 3 ACs from QABREL



	MEDUAR. At 1345 hours 3Tp had again pushed North and reported 30 MET stationary in the area QABREL AHMAR 507384. At 1515 hours 3Tp was pushed back by 3 ACs moving from 507384 to QABREL MEDUAR, and therefore 2Tp proceeded out in an endeavour to observe the QABREL AHMAR MET. At 1533 hours 3Tp reported 8 MET stationary in the QABREL MEDUAR area. At 1700 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron reached BIRGHIRBA and after liaising with Major Withers in charge of the column there, proceeded to BIRHARD to get in touch with a Sqn of 2nd RTR. On arrival he reported 100 MET moving SE along the TRIGH CAPUZZO, head of column on the 510 Grid line. This was at 1810 hours. Cruiser tank Sqn then engaged the tail of this column. At 1855 hours information was received that 40 tanks were moving South from CAPUZZO and in view of this 2Tp was withdrawn to area Beacon 40. In the meantime the MET at QABREL MEDUAR, which now totalled 14, were moving South with 3Tp in contact. At 1903 hours information was received that 80 enemy tanks were leaving CAPUZZO. At 1923 hours orders were received from RHQ to break contact with the enemy and take up a line of observation at X tracks 517361 to 510361. 3Tp was therefore ordered to rejoin the Sqn. SHQ and 5Tp together with the Echelon which had just arrived, withdrew southwards as the head of the column was reported 2 miles South of Beacon 38. At 1930 hours a change of orders was received from RHQ and B Sqn was ordered to take up a line of observation from SIDI SULEIMAN X tracks inclusive to 510353. 1Tp was therefore ordered to these X tracks and 2Tp to 510353. At 1949 hours all previous orders were cancelled and the Sqn was informed that no patrols would be required. Sqn therefore proceeded to 512342 where it spent the night. RHQ. Moved from BP 40 to QARETEL ABD where we had a quiet day. The Echelon arrived at the same time as the completion of the Mess and the advance of a large enemy column. Beat a hasty retreat to DAREL BRUG where we spent the night.
17/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night, but 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported movement heard in BIRSLQIYA area 520369 at 0500 hours. 2Tp TSM Scrivener reported white Verrey lights fired North of his position about 6 miles away. At 0600 hours 4Tp moved North to HALFAYA PASS and contacted 60th Rifles, and patrolled NW to HAQFET EL AS FAR 523368. From this position he reported 30 MET consisting mostly of large AFVs stationary at BP 35 at 0720 hours. At 0610 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener moved NW to Pt. 208 QABREL SHARGAN and reported no movement seen in the Italian camp area 518364. He also reported 2 Cruiser tanks of 2nd RTR derelict 2 miles West of QABREL SHARGAN. At 0731 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported 30 MET mostly AFVs at BIRWAIR. At 0732 hours SHQ moved to 529346. At 0912 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported 10 AFVs moving down the wire from BP 35 to BP 38. At 0915 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener who had moved to the Italian camp reported 40 MET at BP 38. He saw the 10 AFVs join them from BP 35. At 0921 hours he reported 3 tanks moving South from BP 38 and he was forced to withdraw. A further 2 tanks and 3 MET were seen to follow these tanks. At 1200 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener still in observation at the Italian camp and 4Tp Sgt Peacock at HAQFET EL AS FAR. No eastern movement of MET except for a patrol of 3 AFVs SE from BP 38. These were engaged and they withdrew. 4Tp were shelled by our own guns for 5 minutes and the same thing happened at 1600 hours. At 1800 hours – no change in the situation. Odd enemy MET were seen moving between BIRWAIR and BP 38. 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. Our Troops still in line of observation of yesterday, with 1Tp on the West and 5Tp on the East. At 1000 hours 4Tp who were returning to SHQ were chased for 9 miles by 8 wheeled ACs. 1Tp were sent out with the Breda and located the 5 enemy ACs by 1200 hours. He engaged them with the Breda gun and they withdrew rapidly, and were last seen going NW at full throttle. At 1712 hours 1Tp again came into the limelight and reported that they had captured a MC



	Combination and 2 prisoners on the Libyan side of the wire. He destroyed the vehicle and returned to his position on the Egyptian side of the wire. 2Tp went out to collect the prisoners, one of whom was badly wounded. A very exciting day. B Sqn. Sqn at 512342. Morning was spent in maintenance. C and A Sqns were patrolling the area to the North, and it appeared that the enemy had withdrawn during the night. At 1900 hours 1Tp Lt Cunningham took over northern patrol 516361 from A Sqn and 5Tp Lt Dier took over the A Sqn patrol at Pt. 204 508364. No movement seen was seen by our patrols during the night. RHQ. Moved to Pt. 204 at QARETREMUYAT. Enemy withdrew in the morning.
18/5/41	C Sqn. SHQ same position 529346, no movement seen during the night. 3Tp Lt Burdon relieved 2Tp TSM Scrivener at Pt. 204 Italian camp and 5Tp Sgt Chambers relieved 4Tp Sgt Peacock at HAQFETASFAR. At 0800 hours no change in the situation. 30 MET were seen stationary in the BP 38 area, 12 MET were stationary in the area BIR WAIR. During the morning there was movement between BIR WAIR and BP 38 and further movement between BP 38 and CAPUZZO. At 1305 hours 6 enemy ACs appeared at MUSAID. They turned South and moved down the track towards HALFAYA. 5Tp Sgt Chambers engaged the enemy ACs but was forced to withdraw. The enemy were then shelled and withdrew to BIR SHALUT and on to MUSAID. At 1345 hours Lt Burdon reported that the enemy at BP 38 appeared to be in larger numbers and Sgt Chambers confirmed this 5 minutes later, 30 MET including the 6 ACs had joined them from the North. At 1420 Lt Burdon reported the column at BP 38 starting to move South. It moved South for about a mile and then SW for 2 miles and then South again. The advance guard getting within 1,000 yards of SIDI SULEIMAN. The column was engaged by 2nd RTR and guns and was halted. The advance guard consisted of 20 AFVs at 518358 at 1715 hours. Meanwhile 5 ACs had moved from BIR WAIR to BIR SHALUT and moved on South down the track towards HALFAYA. 5Tp withdrew keeping the party under observation. At 1645 hours the 5 ACs halted at 525368 and at 1730 hours moved on East for ½ mile. They were then engaged by guns and Breda from our patrol and withdrew in disorder and at 1800 hours were stationary there. At 1800 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon at 52053572 in observation of enemy at 518358. At 1855 hours the enemy appeared to be withdrawing North with rearguard remaining just North of SIDI SULEIMAN. The 5 ACs at HAQFETELASFAR moved North at 1830 hours and Sgt Chambers followed up. At 1856 hours the 5 tanks were reported stationary at Pt. 191 520372. They saw 5Tp and advanced towards them and forced them to retire. At the same time our own guns fired at Sgt Chambers (the third time in 24 hours.) 1930 hours the 5 tanks withdrew and Sgt Chambers went forward again. At 2000 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon withdrew to V tracks at 522358 and remained there for the night. 5Tp Sgt Chambers withdrew to BIR SILWEIYAT and remained there for the night. A Sqn. Sqn in reserve, but plenty of sorting out to do. B Sqn. 1Tp Lt Cunningham at 516362, 5Tp Lt Dier at Pt. 204 507364. A very foggy morning and it was not until 0830 hours that the patrols could see their areas. At 0915 hours 1Tp reported 6 tanks and 30 MET in the area South of CAPUZZO and 5Tp reported no movement seen. During the morning there were reports from 5Tp of vehicles moving in twos and threes up and down the wire in the GHIRBA area. At 1420 hours 1Tp reported 40 to 50 MET dispersed in the BP 38 area 513371 and considerable activity amongst them. At 1439 hours 5Tp reported 50 to 100 MET moving South from BP 38 with 12 tanks at their head. 5Tp was therefore brought across to watch the West, with 1Tp keeping touch with its head. At 1445 hours 1Tp withdrew under shellfire, the head of the column then being on the 365 Grid line. At 1506 hours the head of the column now counted as 80 MET was now at the 360 Grid line. This was



	reported by 1Tp and confirmed by 5Tp. At 1553 hours 1Tp reported the head of the column in the SIDI SULEIMAN area and 5Tp got into an excellent position on the QARETABU FARIS area and gave some very good information on the formation and types of vehicles in the column. At 1640 hours 5Tp was spotted and came under very heavy fire indeed, from a range of 3,000 yards. During all this time 1Tp was liaising with a Sqn of 2nd RTR (Cruisers) who were awaiting orders to attack and 1Tp was being shelled at the rate of 4 rounds per minute. At 1706 hours 1Tp withdrew slightly from the RTR as the shelling became more intense. At 1100 hours 5Tp located 20 tanks at 515358, stationary. A report was then received from an OP to the effect that the main column was withdrawing. 5Tp moved North to confirm this and again came under heavy shell fire and was unable to get on, as both the B Sqn patrols were held up, it was asked if C Sqn could tap in from the East which it did and reported 12 MET in a hollow 2,000 yards NW of SIDI SULEIMAN. At 1929 hours 5Tp who had again got into position reported a column of approx 8 MET moving North from SIDI SULEIMAN. It was thought that the area was clear. 1Tp went forward therefore to confirm this and on topping the rise encountered 4 enemy tanks at approx 600 yards range. These opened fire and 1Tp withdrew. At 2000 hours 3Tp reported the last of the MET moving North and 2Tp proceeded to SIDI SULEIMAN and reported it and the area 3 miles North of it clear of the enemy. From 1435 hours until the enemy retired a column of guns and Infantry under Colonel de Salis was continually engaging the enemy and 5Tp was the whole time locating targets and able to direct and observe the fire of our own artillery. Lt Dier and Lt Cunningham carried out their most difficult task in a most able manner, while under intermittent and accurate fire. During the morning two A/Tk guns were attached to 5Tp with the object of ambushing enemy ACs in the GHIRBA area. 5Tp succeeded in leading 3 tanks into the ambush, but the enemy escaped under a smoke screen. These guns were under command of 2Lt Burness during the afternoon and he was responsible for covering the West flank of 5Tp. RHQ. Activity in the morning but the rest of the day quiet.
19/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 5Tp Sgt Chambers moved to position at HALFAYA PASS. 3Tp Lt Burdon was in position ½ mile NW of V tracks 552358. At 0820 hours Sgt chambers reported seeing tanks moving South from MUSAID. They halted at HAQFET EL ASFAR and were joined by three more. At 0840 hours the 6 tanks were stationary at 52473686. A column of 18 MET were seen moving NE from BP 38 to BIR WAIR. This column turned East and moved towards SOLLUM passing MUSAID at 0844 and going out of sight. At 1200 hours nothing to report except for odd movement of ACs and tanks at BP 38 and HAQFET ASLAN areas. At 1730 hours movement South of approx 3 miles by enemy column from BP 38 but they went back. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. Still in reserve. B Sqn. 2Tp at 520354 and 3Tp at 510354 with orders not to go North as a Sqn of 2nd RTR was making a sweep of the area to the North. At 0730 hours 3Tp proceeded to BP 40 accompanied by two 2pdr A/Tk guns. At 0815 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs in the FORT GHIRBA area. They retired before coming into range. At 0850 hours 2Tp was ordered to investigate area North of X tracks 518355 which was reported clear at 0928 hours. 2Tp proceeded NW for 3 miles and rejoined the track at the 365 Grid line from where he reported 6 MET in the BIR WAIR area. He then reported enemy artillery coming into action from 517371 against a patrol of C Sqn and a patrol of 2nd RTR in the QABREL QAHAR area. Shortly after 2Tp came under fire and withdrew. At 1108 hours 2Tp reported 4 enemy tanks advancing South towards QABREL QAHAR but apparently these turned East before reaching that position. 2Tp again advanced and at 1155 hours were again shelled and forced to retire.



	At 1340 hours 2Tp reported 4 tanks advancing South from Pt. 206 and retired in front of them and at 1430 hours he engaged them with the Breda gun (Cpl Scott). The tanks halted and returned the fire and caused the Tp to retire further. At 1600 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs going NE up the wire in area GHIRBA and for the next hour, the odd ACs were seen moving North and South along the wire in that area. At 1900 hours 2Tp engaged an AC in the area North of X tracks, both sides withdrew. At 1930 hours 5Tp and 1Tp relieved 3Tp and 2Tp and at 1945 hours 1Tp reported 12 – 14 MET spread out in the GHIRBA area. These were still in position when the light went. 2000 hours – troops withdrawn to night positions. RHQ. No excitement. Lt Ward came to us from the Echelon. Colonel Heyworth and Major Scott (Royals) came up to us and went to the Royals Sqn in the evening.
20/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0700 hours patrol taken over by A Sqn and Sqn went into reserve in area QARET RAMLIYAT and remained there all day. A Sqn. We have now taken over from C Sqn, moving into position at 0630 hours. 3Tp went to fort MADDELENA and met no signs of the enemy or recent occupation. 1Tp and 2Tp on standing patrols. Very little of importance occurred. The movement of enemy tanks in the area fort MUSAID and the cultivation East of HALFAYA pass was the only enemy movement during the day. B Sqn. 1Tp Lt Cunningham 2 miles North of X tracks at 516361 and 5Tp Lt Dier joined up with OP from Major Christopher's column at QARET ABU FARIS 515356 at 0515 hours and escorted him forward to a position SW of BP 38 514371. At 0810 hours a party of MET were located in BP 38 area and were successfully engaged and retired northwards. At 0830 hours the guns retired and 5Tp adopted his normal role of watching the GHIRBA area from Pt. 204 507361. At 0930 hours 3Tp reported 30 MET moving South from Pt. 206 514368. The column halted 1 mile from Pt. 206 and 1Tp came under shellfire and was forced to withdraw. At 1033 hours 5Tp reported enemy ACs moving SW down the wire in the GHIRBA area. At 1110 hours 5Tp reported 3 ACs at 512367 and retired in contact. At 1222 hours these ACs had reached 511362. A message was therefore sent through 1Tp to 2nd RTR who were in his area to send a patrol of Cruisers. This was done, the ACs were engaged and driven off. On being engaged the ACs threw out smoke screen and escaped. At 1900 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron and 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 1Tp and 5Tp respectively. At 2010 hours 2Tp which had pushed further North for a last look before dark, reported 30 MET in leaguer position at Pt. 206 and 11 MET at 512360. RHQ. An uneventful day. Colonel Heyworth returned from the Royals Sqn and spent the night with us.
21/5/41	C Sqn. Sqn moved to area BUQ-BUQ arriving there at 1030 hours. Found nice place close to the sea, where 7th Armd Div were during summer 1940. Two Troops remained at 10 minutes notice. At 1615 hours Sgt Gore and B2 and B3 Echelons arrived. At 2000 hours – nothing to report. Brigadier Erskine visited us during the afternoon. Sqn Ldr contacted Bde HQ and Sammulus column. A Sqn. At 0630 hours 4Tp left to relieve 1Tp. The usual patrol activity took place and 1Tp was shelled a couple of times. A little enemy movement of MET and tanks around Pt. 207 was reported, but never developed, as the enemy withdrew on being engaged by our tanks. The Sqn Ldr visited the forward Troops and arrived back at SHQ at 1310 hours. Nothing was reported for the remainder of the day. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday reported 6 ACs at GHIRBA fort. At this time 2Tp was with the Sqn of 2nd RTR in the Pt. 207 area and at 0630 reported them in action with enemy tanks but could not see the



	result of the engagement. At 0640 hours 2Tp came under shellfire from the Pt. 206 area and was forced to withdraw. These guns were then engaged by ours. At 0745 hours 2Tp reported 5 enemy tanks at 520365 moving South. Shortly afterwards these tanks retired north. At 0830 hours orders were received to watch for any movement between Pt. 207 and Pt. 206. 3Tp therefore moved slightly East into a position of observation. At 1000 hours 3Tp reported 3 enemy ACs moving South from BP 44 and at 1030 hours they were at 505362 with 3Tp in contact. At 1040 hours they had reached 504355 and at 1055 hours 3Tp had lost touch, having as he thought, last seen them at 503355. He thought he saw them again at 502356 at 11 44 hours, moving East. A Troop of 2pdrs was sent from Major Hobbs's column but owing to touch being lost they were recalled. It is thought the 3 ACs recrossed the wire at BP 47. At 1339 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs stationary at BP 42. At 1708 hours 2Tp reported 5 MET moving South from Pt. 207. These were engaged by artillery fire and retired. 2Tp did some useful spotting for the guns. At 1900 hours 1Tp Lt Burness and 5Tp Lt Dier relieved 2Tp and 3Tp respectively. Lt Burness had taken over from Lt Cunningham who had retired to Cairo, sick. At 1844 hours 1Tp reported 28 MET stationary at Pt. 206 with numerous men dismounted. At 2015 hours 1Tp reported 6 MCs, 2 ACs and 1 staff car moving SW, just to the West of the Pt. 206 party. RHQ. The enemy made a demonstration early but were halted by 0900 hours. Major Smail and Lt Cunningham who had returned sick from BSqn, went down to the Echelon.
22/5/41	C Sqn. At 0545 hours NTR. At 0600 hours Sgt Gore and B2 went to replenish. The Sqn remained at BUQ-BUQ until 0630 hours Monday 26th May 1941, good bathing was had by all. Inspections and checks were held. A Sqn. A very quiet day – nothing important occurred. B Sqn. 5Tp in position at Pt. 204 and 1Tp in area Pt. 205 513363. At 0625 hours 5Tp reported 3 ACs moving SW from GHIRBA. At 0844 hours 5Tp picked up two men from the KRR's who had been lost from SIDI OMAR night patrol. 1Tp was in observation of the Pt. 206 position all day, and observed at different times, some action between ours and the enemy's tanks and artillery. 3Tp and 2Tp relieved 5Tp and 1Tp at 1800 hours. RHQ. Colonel Heyworth and Major Scott after several mishaps to one of their cars, left at 1130 hours with Lt Cunningham for Cairo. The Colonel and Major Alexander went to SHEFERZEN with some 2pdr guns to trap enemy ACs which had been observed to go there daily. Unfortunately our gunners missed the cars but had quite a good shoot. A very hot day
23/5/41	A Sqn. Considerable amount of shelling was heard during the night from the direction of SOLLUM. At 0830 hours Sgt Beedham's Tp was heavily shelled and one car was hit, but not seriously. SHQ did a patrol round the forward Troops who were very surprised to see us. We saw about 11 tanks and a few MET 2 miles to the North of us, but no action was witnessed. A very quiet day. B Sqn. 2Tp in position at Pt. 205 and 3Tp at Pt. 204. At 0710 hours 3Tp reported a column of 11 MET moving SW from BP 38. This column halted SE of GHIRBA. At 0750 hours 6 ACs moved SW from GHIRBA and forced 3Tp to retire. At 0815 hours they had halted at 508366.



	At 0850 hours 3 of the ACs had come as far South as QARET ABU FARIS 510358 while the other 3 had halted at QABREL SHAHISHI 510362. At 1000 hours the southern 3 ACs moved North, joined the 3 at SHAHISHI and then retired North. At 1157 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs at 505365. At 1340 hours these were joined by a further 3 and very soon after they all retired North. 2Tp was unable to observe if there were any enemy in his area owing to bad visibility. At 1900 hours 3Tp was relieved by an A Sqn patrol and 3Tp relieved 5Tp. RHQ. A lot of AC activity. Wind went round to the SE and the sand started blowing. There was no activity in the evening, and Brigadier Russell came in on his way back. A very hot night.
24/5/41	A Sqn. 1Tp relieved 5Tp. Nothing of importance was noted throughout the day. A very quiet day. B Sqn. 5Tp in position at Pt. 204 and at 0630 hours reported 7 MET in the GHIRBA area, followed by a further 4 at 0720 hours. At 0800 hours 1Tp Lt Burness relieved a Troop of the Royals at SIDI OMAR and we took over that patrol. When nearing SIDI OMAR 1Tp was engaged by 3 ACs in area 498359. At 0930 hours a Tp of A/Tk guns under Lt Colt-Williams RHA came under the command of the Sqn with a view of bagging an enemy AC. After a recce of the whole area it was decided to station a section at 510358 while the other section had a roving commission in area Pt. 204 507369. At 1235 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs entering SIDI OMAR fort from the SW. At 1311 hours 1Tp reported 3 ACs moving NE from SIDI OMAR. At 1635 hours 5Tp reported 6 ACs in the GHIRBA area. At 1800 hours 1Tp reported 5 ACs proceeding NE up the wire from SIDI OMAR. At 1900 hours 2Tp and 3Tp relieved 1Tp and 5Tp. RHQ. ACs on the move again. Major Smail went down to C Sqn at BUQ-BUQ with Padre Rogers. Bad day with sand blowing and SW wind.
25/5/41	C Sqn. At BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn. 2Tp relieved 3Tp. Very quiet day, nothing of importance occurred. B Sqn. 2Tp in position at SIDI OMAR and 3Tp in position at Pt. 204. At 0620 hours 3Tp reported the usual AC patrol at BP 43 and 5 MET moving SW at BP 39. At 0700 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron reported 2 ACs 1 mile SE of SIDI OMAR. At 0720 hours it was decided to move the section of A/Tk guns to HAQFET EL QUNEQINA 503358 where they could conceal themselves. 2Tp and 3Tp reported considerable movement of ACs between GHIRBA and SIDI OMAR during the day, none of which crossed the wire, with the exception of 2 parties which engaged 2Tp just East of the wire in the SIDI OMAR area and then retired. At 1900 hours 5Tp and 1Tp relieved 2Tp and 3Tp respectively. RHQ. A very quiet day except for 4 Me 110's which bombed and machine gunned DAR EL BRUG some 7 miles away. Major Smail returned from BUQ-BUQ about 1645 hours. Lt Spickernell spent the night with us before going on leave.
26/5/41	C Sqn. Sqn left BUQ-BUQ for RHQ at QARET RAMLIYAT arriving at 1100 hours. Remained there until 1730 hours, when RHQ and sq moved back to ALAM EL SAFA 552332 and remained there for the night. The enemy advanced to KHREIGAT and HAMRA areas. A Sqn. A very quiet day until about 1500 hours when an enemy column came through the wire, consisting of approx 200 vehicles of which 50 were tanks. 2Tp Lt Clarke made contact and kept them under observation. Due to shells falling unpleasantly close



SHQ were forced to withdraw to QABR CHRIBA 546337. During the withdrawal, a column of 60 MET, including tanks, were reported heading East from BP 70. The forward element of this force penetrated as far as HAMRA.

At 2200 hours the column that 2Tp was observing moved East as far as the KHREIGAT track and then headed North. During their observation the Tp was subjected to very heavy shellfire for over 2 hours. One car was hit but had no casualties.

At 2215 hours the column was reported between KHREIGAT and HALFAYA PASS and a considerable number of Verey lights were seen in this area during the night. A very exciting day.

B Sqn.

Thick fog until 0730 hours at which time, patrols moved into position.

5Tp Lt Dier to SIDI OMAR and 1Tp Lt Burnes to 510365 with role of watching the left flank of 2nd RTR and gun column operating to his East. The two sections of A/Tk guns in the same position as on the 25th.

At 0800 hours 1Tp reported vehicles and guns retiring North from Pt. 206 area after being engaged by our column.

At 0837 hours 1Tp reported 22 MET stationary in area 509332.

At 1030 hours 5Tp reported 2 ACs entering SIDI OMAR from the NE.

At 1055 hours 1Tp reported 6 lorries and guns, 3 ACs and 1 tank moving towards GHIRBA from the NE. This column was followed by a further 6 lorries and guns, and the whole column halted 2 miles SW of GHIRBA.

At 1123 hours a further column of 12 MET joined the previous column SW of GHIRBA. In view of the information the Tp of A/Tk guns was concentrated at 510358 with the 3 wireless cars of SHQ – called 6Tp.

At 1230 hours 1Tp reported a further column of 14 tanks moving towards GHIRBA from the NE and at 1247 hours a further column of at least 8 MET joined the enemy force in the area SW of GHIRBA.

At 1330 hours 5 tanks proceeded South and halted just SE of the wire at BP 40. They were followed soon by a further 5 tanks.

At 1525 hours a total of 20 tanks had crossed through the wire and just later the whole of the force moved into position spread out behind the 20 tanks. The visibility at the time was bad and approx 80 vehicles were counted, although the actual number must have been well in excess of this number.

At 1600 hours orders were received from RHQ that in the event of an advance the SIDI SULEIMAN – HAMRA track South of SIDI SULEIMAN would be the responsibility of the Sqn.

At 1620 hours 1Tp reported the column moving SE. 3Tp proceeded immediately to SIDI SULEIMAN in order to contact the head of the column.

At 1642 hours 1Tp reported the head in the area Northern X tracks.

At 1659 hours 1Tp reported head of column at 515358. 6Tp retired in contact with 1Tp at 1710 hours.

At 1715 hours 5Tp were ordered to withdraw SE from SIDI OMAR.

At 1720 hours 3Tp reported head of column at 514352.

At 1735 hours 1Tp reported 15 MET at 514352.

At 1736 hours information was received that a column of 16 MET were moving South on the West side of the wire. SHQ commenced withdrawal South at approx 1745 hours.

At 1755 hours 3Tp reported head of column at BIR EL KHREIGAT.

At 1800 hours 1Tp, 3Tp and 6Tp were in touch with the enemy column in the KHREIGAT area. Enemy tanks moved South from KHREIGAT and engaged 1Tp and 6Tp who were forced to withdraw. At the same time 3Tp came under artillery fire and withdrew SE down the track. At 1850 hours 1Tp and 6Tp were still being engaged by enemy tanks in area 520340.

At 1840 hours information was received that the enemy outflanking column had crossed the wire at BP 70 and were moving East.

At 1840 hours the column was reported at the 509 Grid line still moving East. SHQ were now retiring East towards HAMRA.

At 1900 hours the engagement between 1Tp, 6Tp and the enemy tanks was broken off.

At 1907 hours the enemy outflanking column was reported at 314514 moving East.

At 1923 hours 3Tp reported tanks which had previously engaged 1Tp were retiring North towards KHREIGAT.

At 1924 hours 5Tp reported 14 vehicles moving East at 520324. It was thought that this was SHQ of the Royals, but later turned out to be the enemy Northern flank guard.

At 2015 hours SHQ arrived at HAMRA and after waiting there for 5 minutes were joined by Major Pepys (Royals) and his SHQ who stated that the enemy outflanking column was only 2 miles West of HAMRA. 5Tp had previously been told to get in touch with the North flank of the enemy outflanking column, which he actually did when he contacted the 14 MET, but being under the impression that they were



	friendly vehicles, he left then to proceed East while he went South. The situation therefore, at 2015 hours, was as follows:- SHQ at HAMRA in touch with the enemy who were 2 miles to their West. 1Tp, 3Tp and 6Tp in area 530335. 5Tp in area 530325. 1Tp, 3Tp and 6Tp were ordered to proceed East to the 540 Grid line which they did, reaching it at 2130 hours and put their position as 540330. It was realised that 5Tp was outflanked and could not proceed East. He was therefore ordered to proceed South and cut in behind the enemy column. This he did and by 2300 hours had reached the area 550315 where he halted. SHQ halted for the night in area 555324. The enemy column halted at HAMRA and 1Tp were ordered to a position 543327, and 6Tp returned to SHQ for the night. RHQ. The Colonel and Lt Spickernell left for Cairo at 0615 hours. All quiet during the day. At 1615 hours the enemy advanced and at 1700 hours we were forced back to HABATA. We spent the night 8 miles NW of HABATA.
27/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. Sqn moved to take up role of observation from coast road exclusive to escarpment inclusive. 1Tp Sgt Beard moved to ILWETKURSI 548361 and 4Tp Sgt Macey moved to GHOTOGREIN 548355. SHQ moved to ALAM SAMULUS 589361. Contact was gained with a 3rd Hussars patrol on the coast road and with a section of 31st Field artillery who were at BIR FAGRUN 555359. There was no enemy movement during the day except for a party of 40 MET moving down the HALFAYA PASS. At 1800 hours – nothing further to report. 2000 hours situation unchanged. A Sqn. At 0530 hours heavy shelling was reported by 4Tp in the HALFAYA PASS area. At 0900 hours we were concerned with the location of the HAMRA column which was last seen going North. 3Tp and 4Tp did a forward recce to locate it. They only came in contact with very small parties, whom retired NW in the direction of HALFAYA PASS. At 1458 hours KHREIGAT was reported no movement seen and SHQ decided to advance forward to a new position. At 1530 hours the Sqn moved forward to Pt. 206. No movement seen. B Sqn. At 0600 hours 1Tp Lt Bumess proceeded West and reported 30 MET in the HAMRA area, but he was immediately driven back by three 8 wheeled ACs. 3Tp Lt Halliday was also engaged a little later by this patrol and driven back. At 0700 hours 3Tp broke a spring in the wireless car. At 0720 hours 1Tp reported HAMRA clear and he was ordered to proceed NW up the HAMRA – SIDI SULEIMAN track. At 0817 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron was dispatched to relieve 1Tp. At 1005 hours 2Tp arrived with 1Tp who at that time reported the enemy at 527334. 2Tp was therefore ordered to observe the enemy from the HAMRA – SIDI SULEIMAN track, and 1Tp from the SE. At 1142 hours 3Tp arrived with 1Tp and the latter returned to SHQ which was at this time 3 miles East of HAMRA. At 1305 hours A Sqn reported KHREIGAT area clear of the enemy. Therefore the enemy at 527334 must have moved NW without 3Tp being aware of the fact. 3Tp was therefore ordered to proceed NW up the track with 2Tp moving parallel 3 miles to the West. At 1400 hours 3Tp confirmed the KHREIGAT area clear. At 1540 hours 3Tp reached RUWEIBITEL WARRANI where an enemy staff car retired as he approached. At 1600 hours 2Tp reached QARET ABU SAYID where he reported 12 MET to the NW, but at 1805 hours information was received that SIDI SULEIMAN was occupied. 3Tp therefore moved NW to the track at 519350 to observe and at 1902 hours he reported 5 ACs moving South towards him. In view of this information, 2Tp was halted just North of the ABU SAYID area. From this time until dark the enemy ACs, totalling 8, continually harassed 3Tp in the RUWEIBITEL WARRANI area. Enemy ACs withdrew at nightfall and our Troops leaguered, 3Tp at KHREIGAT and 2Tp 4 miles to his West. SHQ leaguered in area 523331. RHQ.



	Moved at first light to HABATA. The enemy withdrew and we had a quiet day. In the evening we moved to a position 7 miles NW of HABATA 553333 where we spent the night.
28/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon moved to relieve 4Tp Sgt Macey at GHOTOGREIN. Sqn Ldr made a personal recce of forward areas and liaised with 3rd Hussars patrol and gunner OP. At 1100 hours no movement seen except for 10 MET which had moved down HALFAYA PASS between 0800 hours and 1100 hours. 1800 hours – no movement seen. At 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. Very quiet day, nothing of importance to report, no movement seen. B Sqn. 3Tp moving forward from night position reported 2 enemy ACs on RUWEIBIT EL WARRANI at 0620 hours. These cars engaged 3Tp and forced him to retire South. Enemy ACs then withdrew. During the next two hours there was considerable enemy ACs activity on the track North of RUWEIBIT EL WARRANI. At 0830 hours 5Tp Lt Dier relieved 3Tp and 1Tp Lt Burness relieved 2Tp. At 1417 hours 5Tp reported 5 tanks moving South from SIDI SULEIMAN. These tanks moved at great speed and 5Tp was forced to retire South down the track. At the same time 1Tp who had advanced South from the direction of QARET ABU SAYID was attacked by 3 tanks. The 5 enemy tanks on the track, having reached the 345 Grid line, were engaged by our guns and halted. The 3 tanks however, continued to press 1Tp and at 1545 hours they had reached 519340. 2Tp was therefore ordered out to assist 1Tp and also to watch the West flank as 1Tp had reported possible movement in that area. At 1614 hours 1Tp reported the 3 enemy tanks retiring NE and he maintained touch until they reached the SIDI SULEIMAN area. 2Tp Sgt Cameron on reaching the area 510366 broke a wheel and had, therefore, to return to SHQ. At 2020 hours 5Tp who had gone North again after the 5 enemy tanks who had retreated, was engaged by 4 enemy ACs and forced to retire. 1Tp and 5Tp then retired to night position on the 341 East/West Grid line. RHQ. About 0730 hours the 2nd RTR stopped hard by us and we had a quiet day except for an Me 110 recce plane which came over in the evening. The Echelon was bombed and Sgt Pegg was wounded in the arm.
29/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. White Verrey lights seen at top of HALFAYA at 0500 hours. 3Tp Lt Burdon patrolled to BIR BATTUMA and reported no movement seen. He returned to his position at 0800 hours having remained 1 hour at BIR BATTUMA. 1Tp Sgt Beard patrolled to ALAM BARGHUT and 2 miles to its South. He reported 2 tanks moving slowly from SOLLUM village towards the bottom of HALFAYA PASS. Patrol was fired on from area Pt. 14 332568 and withdrew. Patrol took up normal position of observation at Pt. 26 549361 at 0900 hours and was relieved by 2Tp TSM Scrivener. At 1700 hours no movement seen except for 4 MET which had moved up HALFAYA PASS during the morning. 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 1000 hours 4Tp under command of Lt Jacobson was pursued by 3 enemy 8 wheeled ACs. He retired South and the enemy ACs halted 2 miles South of KHREIGAT. They then retired in a NW direction. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 5Tp reported 5 enemy ACs moving in area 519354. At 0700 hours 5Tp was relieved by an A Sqn patrol and returned to SHQ. At 0700 hours 2Tp proceeded to SHEFERZEN to take over that patrol from the Royals, while 3Tp Lt Halliday went to QARET ABU SAYID to take over that patrol from 1Tp. At 0752 hours 1Tp reported 7 tanks moving South down the track and engaging the A Sqn patrol in the area BIR KHREIGAT. These tanks were engaged by our guns and retired at 0840 hours, after carrying out target practice on a derelict



	Cruiser tank North of RUWEIBIT EL WARRANI. At intervals during the day 3Tp reported movement of various enemy AC patrols in the area 519355. At 1950 hours 2Tp carried out a recce of area RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR 795354 and then East for 3 miles. He reported no enemy in the HALIAN or EGYPTIAN forts or in that area. At 1848 hours 3Tp reported 5 ACs moving South from SIDI SULEMAN. At 1900 hours 4 Me 110's flew over SHQ, RHQ were warned and 5 minutes later reported they were being dive bombed. At 1930 hours 3Tp reported that the 5 ACs now totalled 8, consisting of 6 ACs and 2 light tanks. They engaged A Sqn patrol and at 2000 hours withdrew northwards. They fired at the derelict Cruiser tank and set it on fire. 3Tp withdrew 2 miles South of ABU SAYID for the night, and 2Tp 2 miles South of SHEFERZEN. SHQ moved during the day to ALAM EL SEYIF 510331. This being the 17th position SHQ had been in during the past 47 days. The Echelon arrived with a composite 4Tp at 2015 hours under Sgt Corfield, having come on a direct bearing from RHQ now 25 miles away to the East. Capt Lawson carried out a recce during the evening with a view to filling the gap between the B Sqn two western patrols. This he did and Pt. 202 was decided on as a suitable position for 4Tp to take up. RHQ. A quiet day until about 1830 hours when 4 Me 110's came and smartened us up from 2000 feet. Two of the bombs failed to explode. Major Alexander's Ford had 2 tyres punctured and the LAD welding truck was burnt out. No one was hurt. The Breda gunners had a stoppage in one gun and were late off the mark.
30/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 5Tp Lt Smithers relieved 3Tp at GHOTO GREIN. Nothing to report all day except for 5 MET moving up HALFAYA PASS. At 2000 hours nothing further to report. Doctor visited us and 1Tp went and bathed at BUQ-BUQ. A Sqn. Patrol activity in the ALAM BATTUMA area. Nothing further to report. B Sqn. 3Tp Lt Halliday in position 513349 and 2Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN. 3Tp reported 3 enemy ACs at southern X tracks at 0617 hours. These ACs moved SE to QARET ABU SAYID. At 0706 hours these 3 ACs retired. At 0800 hours 5Tp Lt Dier relieved 3Tp and 1Tp Lt Burness relieved 2Tp. At 0840 hours 1Tp carried out a recce of SIDI OMAR area and 3 miles East of it – no movement seen. At the same time 2Tp went to the Watch Tower 3 miles South of SHEFERZEN and reported no movement seen and returned to SHQ. At 1150 hours 5Tp reported 3 MET in the KINIBISH area. These were followed by two more and all moved East. At 1700 hours 1Tp carried out a recce of the SIDI OMAR area and reported no movement seen. Between 1800 and 1900 hours 5Tp reported various enemy patrol movements in area 519345 and at 2021 hours 3 ACs engaged 5Tp and forced them to retire. 5Tp leaguered in area 515346 and 1Tp in area 2 miles SW of BIR SHEFERZEN. During the day 4Tp was in position 508337 and reported no movement seen all day. RHQ. We moved at 0800 hours 3 miles West to get clear of 2nd RTR who were very conspicuous. Four Me 110's flew over us before we left and Major Smail had to abandon his shaving. However they left us alone this time. The rest of the day was very quiet. Lt Faymer with 2 Bofors AA guns took over from 2Lt Priddle, who returned to BARRANI.
31/5/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 4Tp Sgt Macey moved to relieve 2Tp at ILWET KURSI. 2Tp patrolled West to try and locate two 25 pdr guns which had been abandoned by the 31st Fd Regt. At 0630 hours 2Tp located one 25 pdr, but could not move it. They reported no movement seen on the



	HALFAYA – SOLLUM road. Patrol continued to recce area ALAM BHARGUT but were unable to locate any more guns. 2Tp TSM Scrivener at 0745 hours, commenced to withdraw to normal position which he had reached at 0835 hours and was relieved by 4Tp Sgt Macey. Little movement seen during the day except 7 MET moving down HALFAYA at 0810 hours. At 2000 hours – nothing further to report. A Sqn. No movement seen. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 5Tp reported 3 ACs at 515353. At 0732 hours 1Tp was in position at RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR and reported no movement seen. 1Tp then proceeded for 3 miles East and reported no movement seen again and returned to BIR SHEFERZEN. At 0800 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron relieved 5Tp and 3Tp Lt Halliday relieved 1Tp. At 0825 hours 2Tp reported 2 ACs in area 579354. At 1510 hours 4Tp in position at 508337 reported 3 vehicles approaching from the NW. They closed to within 2000 yards and opened fire. 5Tp in reserve at SHQ was ordered to proceed to the scene immediately with a Breda car and 3Tp was also ordered to move immediately also with a Breda car to QARET BAKARAT SW to intercept. The enemy however retired North immediately after firing and were never seen by either 3Tp or 5Tp. At 1820 hours 2Tp reported 1 AC moving South in area 519354 and at the same time he reported a lorry and a staff car moving West to KINIBISH. Capt Turnbull arrived on the Echelon to take over the duties of 2i/c, from Capt Lawson, who was to take over the command of A Sq. RHQ. A quiet day. Capt Grant-Thorold and Lt Crankshaw went down to the Echelon for the day.
June 1941	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
Jun 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/6/41	C Sqn. 0550 – 1Tp Sgt Beard relieved 5Tp Lt Smithers at GHOTOGREIN. No movement seen during the day except for 7 MET moving down HALFAYA PASS during the morning. 4Tp Sgt Macey patrolled forward and salvaged a 25pdr from ALAM BARGHUT. At 2000 hours there was nothing further to report. A Sqn. There was slight patrol activity in the KHREIGAT area, otherwise no movement seen. B Sqn. 2Tp Sgt Cameron was in position at QARET ABU SAYID and 3Tp Lt Halliday at BIR SHEFERZEN. At 0630 hours 3Tp on a recce northwards reported a man standing on top of RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR. At 0640 hours 2Tp reported 5 MET in the area QUABRA EL GARAR 519354. At 0720 hours reported 1 lorry moving West towards KINIBISH. At 0740 hours 3Tp observing RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR from the East reported seeing 2 turrets hiding behind a hill. 5Tp Lt Dier who had proceeded to BIR SHEFERZEN to relieve 3Tp was therefore ordered to approach RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR from the SW and reported 4 ACs hiding behind a hill. These enemy ACs had obviously been placed there with a view to ambushing our patrols carrying out their daily recces of the SIDI OMAR area. On being discovered, the 4 enemy ACs moved to the East for a short way and then returned to RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR. At 0830 hours 1Tp Lt Bumess relieved 2Tp in the area QARET ABU SAYID. At 0837 hours 1Tp reported enemy ACs in the area EL KINIBISH. At 1205 hours 1Tp reported 3 MET proceeding North at 520349. At 1705 hours 5Tp was joined by a patrol of KRR and they both proceeded to RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR to carry out a recce of the SIDI OMAR area. On moving to this position they observed 4 enemy ACs on the wire at the 353 Grid line which retired North as they approached. At 1855 hours 5Tp reported 2 ACs at ITALIAN SIDI OMAR and 1 AC returning North from EGYPTIAN SIDI OMAR. At 1928 hours 1Tp reported 1 lorry moving in the area EL KINIBISH.



	RHQ. A little local AC activity in the morning, otherwise quiet. We were machine gunned by 1 Me 110 in the morning. No damage. Major Joy and Capt Fitzpatrick of the Royals arrived in the morning.
2/6/41	C Sqn. NTR. A Sqn. Sight patrol activity was observed in the KHREIGAT area and 15 MET including tanks were observed in the SWEIYAT area which afterwards withdrew towards HALFAYA. B Sqn. 1Tp Lt Burness reported 6 ACs in the SIDI SULEIMAN area moving slowly East at 0617 hours. Ten minutes later he reported 2 ACs moving West towards KINIBISH and at 0640 hours he reported 2 ACs moving South at 519349. At 0655 hours these ACs turned West at 519346 and 1Tp withdrew slightly. The 2 ACs then withdrew slightly towards SIDI SULEIMAN. At 0800 hours 5Tp Lt Dier reported 1 man standing on a well at ITALIAN SIDI OMAR. At 0900 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday who had relieved 1Tp, reported several ACs moving around in the area 518355. At 1000 hours 3Tp reported 2 ACs moving South down the track towards KHREIGAT. These ACs then turned NW and 3Tp retired to Pt. 206 513344 to observe. The enemy ACs reached QARETABU SAYID where a Me 110 dropped a message on them and at approx 1100 hours they retired NE towards SIDI SULEIMAN and 3Tp returned to ABU SAYID. A Troop of 2pdr A/Tk guns was attached to the Sqn and at 1300 hours they were placed in position at QARETABU SAYID. At 1935 hours 1 vehicle was seen by 3Tp in the KINIBISH area and 1 lorry moving West from SIDI SULEIMAN. At 1955 hours 3Tp reported 2 ACs at 508355. Before darkness fell, 3Tp reported several ACs moving in the area QUABRA EL GASAR. Capt Lawson left the Sqn for RHQ on his way to take over A Sqn. RHQ. There was a lot of air activity in the neighbourhood. Major Alexander went to C Sqn by the sea in the afternoon.
3/6/41	C Sqn. NTR. A Sqn. At 0900 hours 4Tp Lt Jacobson reported 5 MET in the SIDI SULEIMAN area and at 1130 hours they reported 3 MET RUWEBIT EL WARRANI. Later on these MET moved West and NW and then moved out of sight. Capt Lawson took over the Sqn from Capt Robarts who returned to Cairo. B Sqn. At 0806 hours Lt Halliday at QARETABU SAYID reported 3 enemy ACs halted at KINIBISH. At 0820 hours they were relieved by 5Tp Lt Dier. As they were moving off, accompanied by the 2pdr guns, 5Tp reported 3 enemy ACs approaching from from the North. The 2 guns were brought into action and engaged the 3 cars who retired NW. At 1124 hours 5Tp reported 3 MET moving North from RUWEBIT EL WARRANI. No other movements reported during the day. RHQ. The colonel returned from Cairo in time for breakfast. Major Joy and Capt Fitzpatrick of the Royals returned to Cairo. Major Robarts spent the day with us. A quiet day.
4/6/41	C Sqn. Major Payne Gallway DSO visited RHQ between 0900 and 1700 hours. Otherwise NTR. A Sqn. 4Tp Lt Jacobson who was at ALAM EL ARAD 522357 reported during the morning movement of MET in the SIDI SULEIMAN area and 4 MET came South as far as RUWEBIT EL WARRANI. At 1830 hours 9 MET were reported in the SWEIYAT area but at last light the whole area was reported clear.



	B Sqn. At 0740 hours 5Tp Lt Dier who was at QARET ABU SAYID reported a tank at 505352. Later on both 5Tp and 2Tp Sgt Cameron opened fire with their Boyes guns at the tank which returned fire with 2pdr and then retired North. At 1830 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday at BIR SHEFERZEN carried out a recce of SIDI OMAR and reported 2 men standing on the wall of the fort. At 1950 hours 2Tp reported a vehicle moving East in area KINIBISH 513350. Lt Horsford arrived on the Echelon and took over 4Tp who had been at 508337 all day. RHQ. Major Roberts and Capt Grant-Thorold returned to Cairo, the latter on leave. Major Smail and Lt Crankshaw went down to the Royals in the afternoon with the doctor. A quiet day.
5/6/41	C Sqn. NTR. A Sqn. At 1000 hours 5 MET, 2 of which were heavy tanks, moved from BIR NUR to 529358 and from there shelled 5Tp Lt Spickemell at ALAM EL ARAD. 5Tp withdrew to Pt. 207 531347 and reported 2 MET at 532351. At 1115 hours 5Tp moved via 531349 back to ALAM EL ARAD. There were 6 MET seen in the SWEIYAT area at last light. B Sqn. At 1900 hours 1Tp Lt Burness at QARET ABU SAYID reported 1 lorry area KINIBISH. Otherwise no movement seen. RHQ. Very quiet. Padre Rogers arrived with YMCA car. He then went round the Sqn.
6/6/41	C Sqn. At 0800 hours the Sqn, less 2 patrols, moved to BIR ZIGDEN and took over A Sqn patrols at QARET RUWEIBIT, ALAM EL ARAD and Pt. 200 537354. These were taken over by 1400 hours. A Sqn took over C Sqn patrols at ILWET KURS and GHOTOGREIN and these 2 patrols returned to C Sqn by 1800 hours. No movement seen in new area. A Sqn. A little enemy movement was seen in the SIDI SULEIMAN area and BIR EL SWEIYAT area during the morning. At 1030 hours SHQ and 1Tp and 2Tp moved to SOFAFI West where they met C Sqn. The Sqn then moved to ALAM SAMALUS to take over C Sqn's task. 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp joined the Sqn when patrols from C Sqn had taken over from them. B2, B2a and B3 Echelons joined the Sqn from BIR ENBA. B Sqn. At 0645 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy who was at QARET ABU SAYID reported 1 AC moving South at 519354. At 0950 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron who had relieved 1Tp reported 2 tanks moving North 515354. At 1924 hours 2Tp reported 4 vehicles moving East from KINIBISH area 513354. At 2000 hours they reported 1 lorry and 4 smaller vehicles moving SW at 516355. RHQ. Moved to HAMRA area. The Colonel and Major Alexander went to Bde HQ. We were bombed and machine gunned by a Me 110 in the evening. No damage although 2 bombs fell near the Mess. Major Lord Apsley arrived in the evening to stay.
7/6/41	C Sqn. The Sqn Ldr visited all 3 patrols. He also contacted Major Consett, Officer i/c South Column. At 0915 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock at QARET RUWEIBIT was machine gunned by a Me 110, no damage. During the morning 3 enemy ACs moved in the triangle BIR NUH – BIR SWEIYAT – ALAM BATTUMA. At 0800 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart who was at Pt. 200 patrolled forward to a position 2 miles North of ALAM BATTUMA but was driven away by the 3 enemy ACs. No movement seen after 1100 hours until 1900 hours when a patrol of 3 enemy ACs moved from BIR SWEIYAT to ALAM BATTUMA and on to 530357. They remained there for 10 minutes and then returned to BIR SWEIYAT. A 2000 hours 4Tp reported 2 enemy MET halted at 519351. These 2 MET came from behind RUWEIBIT EL



	WARRANI and were still there when it got dark. A Sqn. At first light 1Tp Sgt Parry proceeded to ILWET EL KURSI 547360 and 2Tp Lt Clarke was standing by at ALAM SAMALUS. At 0930 hours 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp proceeded to the sea to bathe at 566371 where they were later joined by SHQ and Echelon. 1Tp reported no movement seen during the day. Capt Friend went on leave in the morning and Lt Petch took over as 2i/c. B Sqn. At 0826 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy at SHEFERZEN reported 3 ACs moving South at 495354. These were joined by a further 3 ACs. These ACs retired at 0900 hours. At 1900 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday at ABU SAYID reported 3 ACs a 519351 moving North. From 1900 to 2030 hours 3Tp reported several AC and lorry parties moving in the area of KINIBISH and ABU SHALIF. RHQ. NTR.
8/6/41	C Sqn. Nothing to report all day. A Sqn. 5Tp Lt Spickernell at ILWET EL KURSI and 3Tp Sgt Beedham at ALAM SAMALUS. Capt Lawson MC went to RHQ where he was told that Intelligence had reported a German advance was imminent and that A Sqn patrols were going to be taken over by the Central India Horse by 2100 hours. The Sqn would then proceed to SIDI BARRANI area to rest. Separate instructions were issued if the advance mentioned above were to take place. The Sqn, less 5Tp, moved at 2200 hours along the road to SIDI BARRANI and halted for the night in area 582372. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday, who were at ABU SAYID, reported 3 MET at 518355 moving North. At 0815 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy at BIR SHEFERZEN reported 3 ACs stationary at 495354. At 0936 hours 4Tp Lt Horsford who had relieved 1Tp reported these 3 ACs moving North. No movement seen remainder of the day except for several German recce planes. RHQ. A quiet day with no incidents.
9/6/41	C Sqn. Nothing to report all day except for odd vehicles at BIR NUH. Capt Tanner and one S/Sgt of the South African Div Armd Car Regt attached for instruction. Lt Blackburn RA and one Tp of 2pdrs attached. A Sqn. Sqn complete with Echelon concentrated in area 602379 to rest. Whilst proceeding to SIDI BARRANI from the night position the Sqn was stopped at 0600 hours by members of a party who had landed on the coast during the night, having been in an open boat for 7 days journeying from CRETE. The party consisted of 139 officers and men and they all said "Thank god that's over". B Sqn. At 0855 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday at BIR SHEFERZEN reported 3 ACs stationary at 493352. At 0917 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ABU SAYID was machine gunned by a ME 110. At 0918 hours 2Tp reported 1 MET in the area KINIBISH 513354. At 1940 hours 2Tp reported 5 AFVs at 509353 and from then until 2030 hours 2Tp reported various AC movements in the ABU SHALIF area. Major Reeves Moore, South African Div AC Regt arrived in the afternoon for an attachment to the Sqn. Two Australian A/Tk guns came under command of the Sqn during the evening. RHQ. Col Newton King and 5 officers of the South African Div AC Regt arrived in the evening. Col Newton King, Major Lyndsay and Lt Oppenheimer stayed with us and B & C Sqn took one officer. Otherwise NTR all day.



10/6/41	C Sqn. Lt Blackburn went on a recce with Sgt Peacock, who was at Pt. 200, to ALAM BATTUMA looking for gun positions for his 2pdrs. At 0730 hours 3 enemy ACs moved to ALAM BATTUMA and then 1 ½ miles SE and halted. Lt Smithers who had relieved 4Tp remained in observation and eventually signalled then to rally with his flag and the enemy cars immediately moved off fast to ALAM BATTUMA, remained there for ½ hour and then retired West. Nothing further to report for the remainder of the day. A Sqn. Sqn complete concentrated by the sea 3 miles East of SIDI BARRANI. The day was spent in maintenance and bathing. B Sqn. At 0545 hours 5Tp Lt Dier plus the 2 A/Tk guns left SHQ for BIR SHEFERZEN with a view to ambushing the enemy ACs usually in that area. At 0630 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron at ABU SAYID reported 3 AC stationary at 515350. At 0640 hours these ACs moved West to 512349. By this time 5Tp with the A/Tk guns was at QARET EL BAKARAT and it was decided to get the A/Tk guns to the North of the 3 enemy ACs. At this moment 2Tp reported these ACs moving East and this plan was abandoned and 5Tp plus the guns moved up to SHEFERZEN. When approx 2 miles SE of SHEFERZEN 3Tp Lt Halliday at SHEFERZEN was attacked by 3 ACs and was therefore compelled to use his Breda gun and the ACs retired North. Therefore when 5Tp with the A/Tk guns arrived at SHEFERZEN the enemy ACs had retired to ITALIAN SIDI OMAR. 5Tp with the A/Tk guns then moved North towards ITALIAN SIDI OMAR but were unable to engage the enemy. During this move a Heinkel at 200 feet was engaged by the Breda gun without success. At 1000 hours 3Tp escorted the A/Tk guns back to SHQ. 1Tp Sgt McCarthy had relieved 2Tp at ABU SAYID and at 1225 hours reported 4 MET moving West from SIDI SULEIMAN. At 1841 hours 1Tp reported a staff car proceeding South from KINIBISH but turned East and then North without giving a chance of a shot. At 1950 hours 1Tp reported 4 MET in area KINIBISH. RHQ. The Colonel and Col Newton King went round all the Sqns. Otherwise nothing to report.
11/6/41	C Sqn. At 0530 hours 10 Verrey lights seen in the ABU SHALIF area. 2Tp Sgt McHardy at QARET RUWEIBIT, 3Tp Sgt Nash at ALAM ARAD and 1Tp Lt Stewart at Pt. 200. At 0630 hours an enemy column of 13 AFVs including 1 large tank and 1 large AC moved from SIDI SULEIMAN to KHREGAT. This column was shelled and withdrew West and then North. Capt Tanner and Major Payne Galloway were at QARET RUWEIBIT and saw the column moving, engaged and retiring. Lt Blackburn laid an ambush with two 2pdrs in ALAM BATTUMA area. 5Tp Lt Smithers acted as bait and patrolled up to SWEYAT but the enemy would not play. The guns withdrew at 1000 hours. No movement seen during the day. There were 3 large columns of smoke seen in the HALFAYA area at 1100 hours. A Sqn. Sqn at rest by the sea. B Sqn. At 0630 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy at ABU SAYID reported 4 MET moving South from SIDI SULEIMAN. These increased to 12 and at 0706 hours they were reported in the KHREGAT area where they were engaged by guns. The enemy column then moved SW to Pt. 203 513344 and from there to Pt. 201 507347 where they halted. They were observed in this position by 4Tp Lt Horsford who had relieved 1Tp at ABU SAYID and also by 3Tp Lt Halliday who was at 508337. The enemy column appeared to consist of 6 ACs and 6 tanks. At 0830 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron relieved 5Tp who were machine gunned at 0900 hours by a Me 110. At 0925 hours 4Tp at 513344 was fired on by the enemy tanks. At 1000 hours 4Tp reported the column moving NE towards SIDI SULEIMAN where they disappeared from view. At 1915 hours 4Tp was machine gunned by an Me 110 and from then until 2030 hours reported the usual enemy AC movements in the KINIBISH – SIDI SULEIMAN areas. RHQ. We were bombed and machine gunned by a ME 110 at 0915 hours. No damage. The Colonel had gone to Bde HQ and so missed it.



	Capt Grant Thorold returned from leave.
12/6/41	C Sqn. At 0730 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart reported 5 MET including 2 large and 2 small ACs moved to ALAM BATTUMA from BIR NUH. They remained there for 5 minutes and were joined by a staff car. After a further 20 minutes the party moved off back to BIR NUH and went out of sight. A Sqn. Sqn still at rest by the sea. B Sqn. At 0557 hours 4Tp Lt Horsford at ABU SAYID reported 4 MET moving North from 519354. 3 minutes later they were joined by 3 more MET. During the afternoon there was a slight sandstorm and visibility became very bad. At 1930 hours the light cleared. At 1950 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday who had relieved 4Tp at ABU SAYID reported 3 ACs moving West from 519355 and these were followed later by 2 lorries and a staff car. RHQ. No incidents. Lt Pridell 37th LAA returned to us and Lt Farmer 1st LAA went back.
13/6/41	C Sqn. At 0738 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart at Pt. 200 reported 7 MET stationary at BIR SWEIYAT. At 0850 hours 2Tp Sgt McHardy who had relieved 1Tp at Pt. 200 reported the 7 MET had moved to ALAM BATTUMA, halted for a few minutes and then moved SE for 2 miles. They shelled 2Tp and he had to withdraw 1 mile. The enemy then moved back to ALAM BATTUMA and shelled 4Tp Sgt Peacock at ALAM ARAD and he was also forced to withdraw 1 mile. The enemy then withdrew to BIR NUH and disappeared NW out of sight. At 1000 hours patrols were back again in their normal position. A Sqn. At 1600 hours the Sqn moved via BIR ENBA and RABIA to a position 3 miles West of BIR HABATA where we leaguered for the night. B Sqn. At 1500 hours 4Tp Lt Horsford reported 3 ACs moving North by SHEFERZEN WATCH TOWER. At 2010 hours 5Tp Lt Dier reported 1 lorry moving from KINIBISH to SIDI SULEIMAN. Otherwise no movement seen. RHQ. No incidents. The Colonel was out all day round the Sqns, and in the evening he went to Bde.
14/6/41	C Sqn. The higher command had decided to advance with 7th Armd Div and the Indian Div with the object of relieving our forces at TOBRUK and the day was spent preparing and moving up for his event. Major Apsley who was attached to the Sqn went out on patrol with 1Tp Lt Stewart who relieved 5Tp at QARET RUWEIBIT. Major Apsley returned at 1100 hours and then went back to RHQ. At 1800 hours the Sqn, less the 3 patrols, moved to area 2 miles NW of QARET RAMLIYAT. At 2000 hours 1Tp returned to SHQ from RUWEIBIT WARRANI where he had been in observation whilst 7th Armd Div re-concentrated in the KHREIGAT area. 5Tp and 4Tp remained in their normal position for the night. A Sqn. In the morning Capt Lawson MC went to RHQ to receive orders and the Sqn moved at 1700 hours to area 516366 where the Sqn leaguered for the night. B Sqn. The Sqn Ldr visited RHQ during the morning to receive orders for the advance. At 1800 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron relieved 5Tp Lt Dier at ABU SAYID and 1Tp Sgt McCarthy and 3Tp Lt Halliday proceeded to SHEFERZEN relieving 4Tp. At 1800 hours 3Tp carried out a recce of SIDI OMAR and reported 3 ACs moving SW of the rise. 1Tp and 3Tp leaguered together at SHEFERZEN and 2Tp at ABU SAYID. SHQ moved to QARET EL BAKARAT at 2000 hours. RHQ. Sqn Ldrs conference at 1100 hours. Brigadier Campbell called in. Moved out preparatory to the show at 1900 hours and spent the night at MILK 521332.



	Two Me 110's were shot down by Hurricanes.
15/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night except for our troops moving up for the advance. The Sqn, less 4Tp Sgt Peacock and 5Tp Lt Smithers, moved to a position 1 mile West of ABU SHALIF. Later, 4Tp and 5Tp joined the Sqn there. The Sqn was in reserve all day and moved with RHQ. They leaguered for the night at 506363. A Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0530 hours to area 499355. The Sqn was responsible for the recce and observation for the line SIDI OMAR – GABREL GERRARI – GABREL MEDWAR – BIR LEMLIN. This was to take place when the 7th Armd Bde advanced from MONASTIR X tracks 516361 to BP 40 and thence to BIR HAFID 506375. Troops were given the following tasks:- 1Tp Sgt Parry to recce BIR GHIRBA, BIR HAFID and Pt. 204 509377. 3Tp Sgt Beedham to recce GABREL GERRARI, GABREL SHADEW to GABREL MEDWAR. At 0940 hours 1Tp and 3Tp were in the BIR GHIRBA and GABREL GERRARI areas respectively and Sgt Parry contacted 2nd RTR in the GHIRBA area. He reported movement on the BIR HAFID ridge at 506374 but this was later reported as being friendly. 1Tp was then told to push on the BIR HAFID but when he was within 300 yards of that position he was heavily fired on from what he considered to be a very strongly held position, consisting of A/Tk guns and artillery firing over open sights. He dropped back and personally gave this valuable information to the Commander of 2nd RTR. Meanwhile 3Tp was moving from GABREL GERRARI to GABREL SHADEW and 4Tp at 0945 hours was ordered to move out and watch the western flank from Pt. 201 496367. At 1144 hours 3Tp was in position at GABREL MEDWAR but 15 minutes later retired to GABREL SHADEW as he was heavily shelled from BIR HAFID. At 1155 hours BIR HAFID position was under heavy fire from our own guns. During the next hour that place was subjected to two tank attacks by us. From 1200 hours throughout the afternoon 3Tp gave good reports of movement from the North, and reported on a column at 496380, 25 MET mostly AFVs and also 9 AFVs at 500380, and was able to see any movement into BIR HAFID from the North or NW. During this time 1Tp had been giving information on the HAFID area. At 1635 hours the column being watched by 3Tp and was at 496380 appeared to be moving NW. At 1815 hours 4Tp was heavily attacked by 7 Me 110's and all 3 cars were put out of action, 2 of them completely burnt out. 2Tp were sent out from SHQ to render assistance and brought back 9 wounded men. Lt Jacobson and Tpr Worthington subsequently died. 5Tp took over took over 4Tp patrol. At 1945 hours the enemy who had returned to the 496380 area and who had been refuelling from 1900 hours, commenced to move South with a column of about 40 vehicles of which 30 were tanks, and at the same time a second column of 20 tanks moved under heavy shellfire South from the HAFID RIDGE. The western column advanced very quickly South to the 369 Grid line, while the eastern column came as far South as BIR GHIRBA. 1Tp maintained touch with the eastern column whilst 3Tp and 5Tp did the same with the western column. Both columns were engaged by our artillery and tanks. The 3 Tps mentioned above maintained a listening watch during the night. SHQ leaguered at 499358 where Mr Jacobson and Tpr Worthington were buried. B Sqn. At 0530 hours 2Tp Sgt Cameron moved North to Pt. 204 507364 but owing to a puncture coupled with bad visibility did not reach the position until 0734 hours. On reaching this position he reported 40 to 50 MET in the area Pt. 206 514369, also 1 AFV and 1 lorry at BP 40. He was engaged by this AFV and was forced to retire. 3Tp Lt Halliday was due to meet Major Consett's column at BIR SHEFERZEN at 0530 hours and proceeded with them to attack ITALIAN SIDI OMAR and reported several men standing on the walls and 1 MET inside the fort. These turned out to be 3 ACs with their crews who withdrew before they could be engaged. 3Tp then proceeded to a point 3 miles West of SIDI OMAR where he remained in observation during the day until relieved by 1Tp Sgt McCarthy at 1900 hours. At 0900 hours a Btn of our tanks passed through 2Tp position moving West and his role of watching the wire being finished he returned to SHQ.



	1Tp was relieved by an OP of Major Consett's column at BIR SHEFERZEN at 0846 hours and then rejoined SHQ. SHQ then moved to HAQFET EL QINEQINA at 0630 hours. At 1730 hours 4Tp Lt Horsford and 5Tp Lt Dier proceeded to BIR SHEFERZEN where they joined up with Major Wither's column. 5Tp remained there and 4Tp accompanied Major Withers West along the TRIGH EL ABD for 10 miles where they halted at dark, returning during the night. The object of this move was to try and lead the enemy into thinking that we were moving round his left flank. RHQ. Moved from MILIK at 0630 hours to ABU SHALIF and then to Pt. 205 where we spent the day. The horizon was covered with smoke and sand for most of the day. Two enemy planes were shot down by Hurricanes who were plentiful all day until about 1800 hours when the Luftwaffe came over bombing and machine gunning.
16/6/41	C Sqn. 3Tp Lt Burdon at 0530 hours moved off to take over A Sqn patrol at GHIRBA and 1Tp Lt Stewart moved to take over another A Sqn patrol at a position 2 miles NW of BP 46. 1Tp then moved on to Pt. 201 and at about 0700 hours reported a large column of approx 150 MET including tanks (about 50) moving South. 3Tp also observed this column which moved South to Pt. 201 496367 and then turned SE. It was engaged by our tanks and a large battle took place. 1Tp by this time was at BP 46 and when the enemy were driven back slightly by the tanks, moved forward to 496362. The Tp was then heavily shelled and forced to move back to BP 46. During this time 3Tp was at GHIRBA and reported some enemy MET at BIR HAFID. At 1000 hours the enemy again advanced right up to the wire between BP 47 and BP 45. Eight enemy tanks came through the wire at BP 46 and halted. The remainder of the enemy halted about 1 mile NW of the wire in the area 500363. 1Tp withdrew to 503359 and remained in observation there. 3Tp remained at GHIRBA and SHQ moved to QARET SUWEIDA. The enemy column remained in the same position during the day until about 1915 hours when it commenced to advance East. The first move was to C87 503359 where the column halted for 10 minutes and then moved on East to the area QARET ABU FARIS – GHARBIYA area where a big battle took place, going on until 2048 hours when darkness stopped the fight. During the battle 1Tp Lt Stewart was in observation on the southern side of the column. 3Tp Lt Burdon on the northern side from Pt. 206. When the battle stopped the enemy were seen to move back West and 1Tp observed them halted at 503359. SHQ moved to EL KINIBISH and then to Pt. 203 where they remained for the night. 1Tp remained at QARET SUWEIDA for the night and 3Tp at 516361. During the day 1Tp was shelled and fired at by A/Tk guns. At one time he was 1000 yards from 25 enemy tanks. The Tp Ldr's (Lt Stewart) information during the day was excellent. He remained within 3 miles of the column during the night and so was able to report it stationary at 0530 the next morning and also report its first move from the night position. A Sqn. 1Tp Sgt Parry reported movement during the night, heard in the direction of the enemy's western column. 3Tp and 5Tp who had leaguered together also heard the movement and thought that the column was moving in a SW direction. At first light however it was discovered that the western column had returned northwards and at 0625 hours 1Tp from BIR GHIRBA reported the HAFID ridge position still strongly held and no sign of the western column which had retired North. At 0700 hours 1Tp reported 40 MET in the HAFID area consisting of tanks and lorries, and another column of 20 MET 2 miles further East. At this time a considerable number of dismounted men were seen in the HAFID position. Between 0700 and 0800 hours 1Tp, 3Tp and 5Tp were relieved at 503355. At 1030 hours the Sqn moved to 504351 and SHQ placed themselves at Support Grp HQ to enable Brigadier Campbell to get 11th Hussars information direct. At 1930 hours the Sqn moved to area 504349. Capt Friend and his black driver returned from leave in Cairo. B Sqn. At 0615 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy reported 6 enemy MET moving SE 496364. At 0630 hours 4Tp Lt Horsford was ordered to return to SHQ and 5Tp Lt Dier remained in observation in the BIR SHEFERZEN area. At 0727 hours 1Tp reported 25 MET moving SE 501365. At 0850 hours information was received from C Sqn that a column of MET were moving South in area 496372 but it was not until 0936 hours that 1Tp was able to report a large concentration of enemy



	vehicles to the North of SIDI OMAR. 1Tp then moved East to SIDI OMAR but came under shellfire from the column and was forced to retire SE. The leading elements of the column entered ITALIAN SIDI OMAR and then withdrew North to their main body at 496364. For the next few hours 1Tp was continually in touch with the enemy movement North of SIDI OMAR which consisted of approx 150 vehicles. The enemy appeared to be trying to move East but was heavily opposed by our column in that area. At 1000 hours SHQ withdrew to area 509351. At 1253 hours 1Tp re-entered ITALIAN SIDI OMAR FORT and reported 60 to 70 MET, mostly lorries, stationary at 491363. In the meantime 2Tp Sgt Cameron had been despatched to assist 1Tp and at 1305 hours reached the area 498352. 2Tp then moved North to RUWEBIT SIDI OMAR where he remained in observation. At 1500 hours 5Tp Lt Dier proceeded northwards to area 490354 accompanied by 2 A/Tk guns to investigate a report of a concentration in that area. The report proved false but 5Tp encountered 2 enemy ACs which engaged them and they then retired to SHEFERZEN. 5Tp reported various AC movement in the SIDI OMAR area during the afternoon. At 1720 hours 1Tp reported the following situation – approx 60 MET in area 489360 and also 15 MET returning North from SIDI OMAR. At 1743 hours 1Tp reported 10 MET moving East from 489361 and at 1748 hours 9 MET moving towards ITALIAN SIDI OMAR. At 1837 hours 1Tp reported 40 tanks in area BP 47, being replenished by lorries. At 1930 hours 3Tp relieved 1Tp and 2Tp relieved 5Tp. At 1940 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday reported 125 MET stationary in area 492362, the majority of these being lorries. At 1941 hours a large number of men were seen to dismount from these lorries. At 1955 hours the enemy Infantry advanced on foot towards ITALIAN SIDI OMAR. At 2040 hours 3Tp reported 55 MET at 491364 and 50 MET at 489361 also 3 large guns in area 491362. 3Tp spent the night in area 501354. RHQ. We moved back during the day in small jumps to ABU SHALIF again – the battle raging furiously between 2000 and 2100 hours. We had a fine view of a tank battle. Large numbers of Italian and German planes bombed the area during the afternoon.
17/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night except for enemy Verey lights in great numbers. At 0545 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart reported the enemy column moving East from C87 and he continued to report on this column until it halted at QARET ABU FARIS at 0830 hours. 3Tp Lt Burdon also reported it from Pt. 206 up to the time it reached ABU FARIS area, where he withdrew SE and eventually took it up from a position of observation at Pt. 206. 1Tp Lt Stewart was in observation at 517352. The enemy remained halted in the QARET ABU FARIS area during the remainder of the morning. At 0930 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock relieved 1Tp at 517352 and 5Tp Lt Smithers relieved 3Tp at Pt. 205 522352. At 1115 hours 2Tp moved to take up a position of observation at BIR NUH. SHQ moved to BIR KHREIGAT at 0630 hours and remained there during the day. At 1500 hours the enemy column in QARET ABU FARIS moved off NE. 5Tp and 2Tp kept the column under observation until it disappeared in the HALFAYA area. 4Tp Sgt Peacock patrolled forward to the northern X tracks, but when they were within 300 yards they surprised a German broken tank with the crew outside. He machine gunned the crew but there was someone inside who swung the turret round at him so he quickly withdrew over the ridge. Later 3 of our tanks destroyed this tank. At 1820 hours 14 tanks moved East from EL KINIBISH towards QARET ABU FARIS. They continued to SIDI SULEIMAN and then turned South and were engaged by our tanks and guns and driven off West. During this operation another party of 25 MET moved from Italian camp area SE to the northern V tracks at 522358 and remained there while the battle at SIDI SULEIMAN was going on. At 2000 hours there was nothing further to report. A Sqn. At 0933 hours the Sqn, still in reserve, moved to area 526340 where they remained throughout the day. B Sqn.



	At 0600 hours 3Tp Lt Halliday reported 12 MET at 494358. At 0612 hours 3Tp reported 3 ACs moving East 496356 and at the same time 2Tp Sgt Cameron reported 3 ACs moving North from the SHEFERZEN WATCH TOWER. At 0620 hours 3Tp reported a concentration of MET in area HAQFET EL QINEQINA and also 39 MET moving East from BP 47. At 0628 hours he reported that this column consisted of 1 tank, 5 ACs, 7 guns and 26 lorries. At 0645 hours a report was received that an enemy column was in area 507353 and 5Tp Lt Dier was dispatched to investigate. At 0657 hours 5Tp reported that area clear and the head of the column was at 512357 moving East. SHQ in the meantime withdrew to area 514344. At 0716 hours 4Tp Lt Horsford relieved 2Tp and in the meantime 3Tp was reporting various AC movements in area 500356. For the next 3 or 4 hours 3Tp and 4Tp were constantly watching the enemy AC patrol in the area SIDI OMAR and West of the wire in the SHEFERZEN area. During the afternoon 5Tp reported enemy vehicles stretching from QARETABU FARIS to QARETABU FARISEL GHARBIYA and at 1437 hours he reported general NE movement from this column. At 1600 hours 5Tp reported 6 MET in area 515356. At 1700 hours 5Tp proceeded to QARETABU FARISEL GHARBIYA. At 1810 hours he reported 14 MET in area 510363 moving South. These were heavily bombed and dispersed. At 1822 hours he reported seeing movement in area QARET SUWEIDA. It was at first thought that this was friendly but it turned out to be 14 enemy tanks moving East line abreast. 5Tp just had time to get across their bows at 1000 yards and luckily must have been mistaken for an enemy patrol as he was not engaged. At 1850 hours 3Tp reported 3 MET at 498355. At 1900 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy relieved 3Tp. At 1911 hours 4Tp reported 2 ACs moving East at 490356. At 1935 hours 1Tp was shelled from SIDI OMAR and was forced to retire a short way at 1935 hours 5Tp reported the 14 tanks retiring at 510356. These were engaged by one of our columns. At 2000 hours 4Tp reported enemy guns in action at 494359 and also 1Tp reported 7 of the 14 tanks halted at 500355. At 2030 hours 5Tp withdrew to SHQ. 1Tp leaguered in area 505351 and 4Tp at BIR SHEFERZEN. RHQ. Moved at 1945 hours to area 527344 for the day. The battle was still going on. There were two big air battles when the Hurricanes arrived just after the enemy had bombed the area. At 1930 hours 8 Me 110's gave a fine display of aeronautics together with bombs and machine guns round our position and we had a good shoot. In the evening the Regt came back under Support Grp.
18/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0645 hours 4 tanks appeared at SIDI SULEIMAN X tracks with 3 other MET which eventually moved off NW. Patrols remained in the same area. 2Tp TSM Scrivener found a 25pdr with a punctured wheel. He managed to get a wheel off a broken limber in the same area. It was later collected after being reported to RHQ. At 1000 hours all was quiet but the visibility was bad – about ½ mile. Later on SHQ moved to QARET RAMLIYAT. At 1615 hours the enemy sent out a screen of 22 AFVs South from SIDI SULEIMAN as far as RUWEIBIT WARRANI. They then turned West and moved off to EL KINIBISH. The object of the screen was to allow them to burn our derelict tanks which they did. At 1800 hours the enemy had disappeared NE. A Sqn. At 1015 hours the Sqn moved to Pt. 203 513344 to take over from B Sqn. At 1400 hours 3Tp was in position at 511353, 5Tp at 505352 and 2Tp in the BIR SHEFERZEN area. There was enemy patrol activity throughout the afternoon and 1 column of 20 MET, mostly tanks, which came as far South as 514354 and were engaged by our guns. They later retired NE to SIDI SULEIMAN. B Sqn. 1Tp Sgt McCarthy was at 503352 and 4Tp Lt Horsford at SHEFERZEN WATCH TOWER. 2Tp Sgt Cameron moved out to area 512353 at first light.



	At 0538 hours 1Tp reported 6 MET in area 503357. At 0635 hours 4Tp reported 1 AC at 492351 with 8 – 10 men digging a ridge behind. At 0739 hours 4Tp reported 3 MET, one of which was towing a gun, at 491352. During the rest of the morning 1Tp and 4Tp were in contact with the enemy AC patrols and at 1300 hours A Sqn arrived and relieved the Sqn. The Sqn then moved into reserve with RHQ at QARETEL MILUK 520331. RHQ. Returned to QARETEL MILUK at 0615 hours. Bombed and machine gunned by Me 110's at 1050 hours. No damage.
19/6/41	C Sqn. The Sqn now had three permanent patrols out. One at ABU SHALIF, one at ALAM ARAD and another at ALAM BATTUMA. Each Tp had 72 hours on patrol and 48 hours rest. 1Tp Lt Stewart relieved 5Tp Lt Smithers at ALAM ARAD who relieved 2Tp TSM Scrivener at ALAM BATTUMA. 3Tp Lt Burdon relieved 4Tp Sgt Peacock at ABU SHALIF. There was a little local movement in the SIDI SULEIMAN area during the morning. 5Tp patrolled forward towards SIDI SULEIMAN, but was driven back by fire from the enemy tanks which appeared from behind the ridge behind SIDI SULEIMAN grave. The patrol saw approx 15 men on the ground at the grave and 1 MET with them. TSM Scrivener 2Tp salvaged a 15cwt truck with 2 Bren guns, 1 Boyes Rifle, 2 range finders and some medical equipment. At 1135 hours a recovery party arrived to salvage an I tank at ALAM BATTUMA. This was unsuccessful as the tank had seized up. At 1300 hours 5Tp moved to RUWEBITEL WARRANI as the visibility was so bad. At 1900 hours 3 ACs approached ALAM ARAD from the North, but withdrew when they were 3 miles from our patrol. A Sqn. Our patrols observed various enemy AC and tank patrols during the day and at the BIR SHEFERZEN position A/Tk gunners with 1Tp had a shoot at 2 enemy ACs but missed. B Sqn. At midday the Sqn moved to BIR ENBA arriving there just before dark. RHQ. Major Smail and Capt Grant Thorold went to the Echelon at 0730 hours. Colonel Newton King and party left to return to AMRIYA. The Colonel went round the Sqn. At 1400 hours RHQ moved to 1 ½ miles NE of BIR DIGNAISH 545319.
20/6/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours the Sqn moved to 533340. 4Tp Sgt Peacock relieved 3Tp at RUWEBITEL WARRANI who relieved 1Tp at ALAM ARAD who relieved 5Tp at ALAM BATTUMA. There was no movement during the day but at about 1900 hours an enemy column of 9 tanks and 2 recovery vehicles made a march from QARET ABU SAYID – SIDI SULEIMAN and were last seen going North from SIDI SULEIMAN. Three tanks also came from the North and halted at the Y tracks 519354 from 1930 to 2010 hours and then retired North. At 2100 hours nothing further to report. A Sqn. 4Tp Sgt Perry relieved 1Tp Lt Petch at BIR SHEFERZEN and 1Tp moved to Pt. 203 505351 and 2Tp Lt Clarke moved to Pt. 202 512353. There was a good deal of enemy patrol activity during the day and at 1850 hours 2Tp reported 12 large tanks moving South from 513351 with 2 large recovery vehicles. They moved to QARET ABU FARIS and then on to SIDI SULEIMAN collecting various derelicts on their way. B Sqn. The march was continued in the early morning and on arrival at SIDI BARRANI the Sqn came under orders of 22nd Guards Bde. The Sqn moved later on in the day to a place on the coast in the area of ALAN EL HAMID. RHQ. A quiet day. Lord Apsley went up to C Sqn.



21/6/41	C Sqn. At 0545 hours no movement seen during the night. At 0640 hours 3Tp Lt Burdon at ALAM ARAD reported 7 tanks at Pt. 205 522356. These tanks made a march to ALAM ARAD and across to QARET RUWEIBIT and then North to KHREIGAT. Here they halted for 15 minutes and then moved West to QARET ABU SAYID, turning North there and disappearing out of sight. Meanwhile 20 tanks and 10 ACs appeared in BIR SILWEIYA area from the NW. They pushed 3 tanks SE to ALAM BATTUMA and drove patrol SE to Pt. 200 537354. The enemy did not come SE of BATTUMA but remained in that area. At 1100 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener with Lord Apsley moved to relieve 4Tp Sgt Peacock who was at QARET RUWEIBIT and who moved to Pt. 204 to relieve 3Tp Lt Burdon who moved to Pt. 200 to relieve 1Tp Lt Stewart who came into SHQ. At 1250 hours the enemy at ALAM BATTUMA started to move SE and were heavily engaged by TOGS column. 4Tp at ALAM ARAD was shelled from BIR NUH area and forced to withdraw to Pt. 207 530347. At 1310 hours the enemy who were moving SE from ALAM BATTUMA were reported by 2Tp to be at QABR EL SAKIR. They then moved North past ALAM BATTUMA towards BIR EL SWEIYA. At 1400 hours 2Tp reported 15 MET had passed BIR EL SWEIYA and that 8 MET still remained there. By 1430 hours all patrols were back in their normal position. At 1515 hours Lt Burdon reported 6 MET halted at QABR EL SHARQAN. At 1930 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported 11 MET halted at Pt. 205 522356. Five of these MET later moved off North. 2100 hours nothing further to report. Major Payne Gallway DSO left the Sqn to go on leave. Capt Cayzer took over command and Lt Burdon 2i/c. A Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Beedham moved to BIR SHEFERZEN area and 4Tp Sgt Parry moved to Pt. 203. 1Tp Lt Petch moved up towards Pt. 202 but by that time 2Tp Lt Clarke was involved. At 0600 hours he had heard the noise of tanks moving from his NE in a southerly direction. At 0640 hours C Sqn reported 7 tanks and 10 ACs moving SW – the tanks being at 525356. They continued moving SW to QARET EL RUWEIBIT and 2Tp was withdrawing to Pt. 203. From QARET EL RUWEIBIT the 7 tanks turned North to KHREIGAT and by 0810 hours they had turned West and by 0815 hours they had turned South and were forming up to attack our patrols. 1Tp and 2Tp were together by this time and had with them 2 A/Tk guns. Capt Friend was also with the party as he had been visiting the patrols. Owing to the threat from the East 3Tp and 4Tp were withdrawn to the 345 East West Grid line. The 7 tanks started moving South in line and engaged our patrols from 4000 yards, later coming to within 2000 yards. They were in turn engaged by A/Tk guns and artillery from the ALAM EL LISD position. They reached Pt. 203 and turned North and disappeared towards QARET ABU FARIS. Our patrols resumed their normal position and 2Tp returned to SHQ. Which was at ALAM EL LISD. After this incident little movement was seen during the day. 3Tp Sgt Beedham reported 3 ACs moving South down the wire opposite BP 55 and later moved down to BP 71 and then disappeared West. B Sqn. At dawn 1Tp proceeded to ILWET ABU MAZHUD with the object of watching the left flank of the coastal columns in the event of an enemy advance. Later in the day this patrol moved to Colonel Eastman's HQ slightly East of BUQ-BUQ where it remained ready for instant action on the left flank in the event of an enemy advance. RHQ. Quite a lot of activity in the morning. General Creagh came to visit in the afternoon and the Colonel visited Div HQ.
22/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener reported 3 MET in the area of the southern V tracks 519353 and 3 ACs were also reported at BIR NUH. At 0615 hours 5Tp Lt Smithers relieved 2Tp Who relieved 4Tp Sgt Peacock at ALAM EL ARAD who relieved 3Tp Sgt Nash at ALAM BATTUMA who came into SHQ. At 1100 hours 4Tp reported 1 MET moving from SDI SULEIMAN towards HALFAYA also 2 MET halted just SW of BIR NUH. At 1930 hours 2Tp reported 2 MET stationary at Pt. 205 and at 2030 hours he reported 1 AC moving



	down the track towards the southern V track 519353 and then turned back NE. Otherwise no movement seen. A Sqn. 5Tp Lt Spickernell moved to BIR SHEFERZEN, 3Tp Sgt Beedham to Pt. 203, 4Tp Sgt Parry to Pt. 202 and 1Tp Lt Petch returned to SHQ. There was small enemy patrol activity in the morning and evening. Otherwise no movement seen. B Sqn. From June 22nd to 30th the Sqn remained in the HAMID area with one Tp proceeding daily to Colonel Eastman's HQ whilst the remainder of the Sqn were refitting and carrying out maintenance and training. RHQ. A quiet day. Major Payne Gallway DSO and Lord Apsley returned to Cairo. Colonel Hayward of the Royals arrived during the morning to discuss with Colonel Leetham arrangements for relieving Sqns. The Colonel left at 1700 hours to visit Support Grp.
23/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart left to relieve 5Tp who relieved 2Tp who relieved 4Tp who returned to SHQ. At 0700 hours 1Tp reported 2 medium tanks at ABU SHALIF and also 2 MET at the northern V tracks which later went West out of sight. At 1100 hours 5Tp Lt Smithers reported 2 ACs halted at HAQFET EL NAAS. These ACs remained there all day until 2030 hours when they went out of sight in a NE direction. Otherwise a quiet day. A Sqn. 2Tp Lt Clarke went out to the SHEFERZEN area. 5Tp Lt Spickernell to Pt. 203. 3Tp Sgt Beedham to Pt. 202 while 4Tp returned to SHQ. There were enemy patrols consisting of 3 ACs which travelled South down the wire until they were engaged by the Royals in the area of the 332 Grid line. Otherwise a quiet day. RHQ. A little activity during the morning. Three enemy 8 wheeled ACs moved South down the wire and were engaged and driven off by a Coy of the KRR. Colonel Leetham and Major Alexander left for B Sqn who were just West of SIDI BARRANI and remained there for the night. Very quiet during the afternoon with no enemy movement being reported.
24/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0600 hours shelling was reported in area HALFAYA. At 0815 hours 3Tp Sgt Nash reported 3 ACs between ABU FARIS and ABU SHALIF with men walking about. Fifteen minutes later these 3 ACs moved off NE out of sight. At 1750 hours 5Tp Lt Smithers reported 4 MET halted NE of QABR EL SHARQAN. At 1800 hours 2 ACs were reported at ABU SHALIF which later went off NE out of sight. At 2030 hours 2 ACs halted ½ mile NE of BIR NUH, 1 MET at the northern Pt. 205 522356. A Sqn. There was the normal enemy patrol activity in the early morning and late evening. They appeared to make no move in the heat of the day. RHQ. Little activity today.
25/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0730 hours 3Tp Sgt Nash reported 1 MET halted at Pt. 205 and also 1 MET at BIR NUH. At 0940 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported 3 MET halted at southern V track. He engaged them with his Breda gun and they retired. At 1200 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart reported 1 staff car and one large AC moving from SIWEYAT to BIR NUH. No movement seen remainder of the day. In the evening Major Anderson 4th SA AC Regt and 3 men arrived for a short stay. A Sqn. It appears that the enemy have taken up a line of observation with AFV patrols on the general line SHEFERZEN WATCH TOWER – RUWEBIT – SIDI OMAR – SIDI SULEIMAN. Usual dawn and dusk enemy



	patrols. Some smoke columns and explosions seen between 1000 and 1100 hours in area BP 39. RHQ. Brigadier Campbell and Colonel Hayward of the Royals arrived at 0830 hours to make final arrangements about reliefs of Sqns by the Royals. Little activity, the usual enemy patrols. It is expected that the Royal will take control of the front at 2400 hours. The actual Sqns on patrol being A & C Sqns 11th Hussars, C Sqn the Royals and 1 Coy KRR
26/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. In the early morning there was a very thick mist over all our front and visibility was very poor, a very quiet day. At 2000 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported 1 AC a mile East of ABU FARIS and 4 MET moving down the track towards SHEFERZEN. During the last few days there has been a considerable amount of blasting and explosions coming from the enemy positions. It appears that they are building fortifications. A Sqn. At 0940 hours Gunner position 513344 was attacked by 6 Me 109's and severely dealt with. These aircraft then flew West and attacked 4Tp wounding Tpr Blake on a Breda car. They then continued and attacked 3Tp. Tpr Winslade was killed and Cpl Green wounded. Tpr Winslade was buried at 514334. Tpr Blake although seriously wounded continued to drive his car for 10 minutes until fainting. There was the usual enemy patrol activity in the morning and evening and 4Tp Sgt Parry at 2010 hours engaged 1 enemy tank with his Breda gun. The tank withdrew NW. RHQ. A very misty morning and patrols reported visibility of 15 yards until 0830 hours. The Royal took command at 0815 hours and the forward link took up listening watch only. Ground activity was very slight but an increase in air activity was observed. Sixteen of our planes and 17 enemy planes were reported at 1530 hours.
27/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0850 hours 4Tp Sgt Peacock reported between 12 and 15 MET spread out in line NE of QABREL SHARQAN. 2Tp TSM Scrivener confirmed this. At 1000 hours they moved off towards Italian camp Pt. 207 518364. At 1100 hours 4Tp reported 12 to 15 MET in columns of 3 or 4 between 521360 and 521362. They appeared to be acting as a screen to a party who were blasting behind them. A certain amount of thuds in the SIDI SULEIMAN area indicated movements of MET. At 1400 hours Major Anderson returned from 4Tp with whom he had spent nearly 24 hours and went on to RHQ. At 1850 hours the MET acting as a screen still appeared to be in the same position, screening the blasting party. There also appeared to be objects which looked like entrenchments in the same area. At 2030 hours there was 1 MET ½ mile East of BIRNUH and still 5 MET in area 521360. The remainder of the MET appeared to have moved off NW. also 5 ACs moved NE up the track from X tracks at SIDI SULEIMAN. A Sqn. Patrols went out at first light. Normal patrol activities were carried out by the enemy protective detachments. It was decided to bring the centre position (3Tp Sgt Beedham) back to Pt. 201 507347 in order to shorten the line. A quiet day. RHQ. On the whole a very quiet day with little enemy activity. Major Smail and Lt Ward left at 0800 hours to visit B Sqn on the coast.
28/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0720 hours 2Tp reported 1 AC and 1 staff car halted just East of BIRNUH. At 0800 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart reported 3 ACs just West of the Grave at ABU SHALIF 520353 who afterwards moved West and then North out of sight. At 0845 hours 2Tp TSM Scrivener reported blasting in the same area as the day before with a screen of



	MET in front in groups of two, between 521360 and 522362. At 1045 hours Lt Stewart reported 2 ACs halted just West of the southern V tracks at 518353. No movement seen during the afternoon. At 2045 hours 1 Tp Lt Stewart reported 2 ACs at SIDI SULEIMAN with about 8 men walking about round the derelicts. A Sqn. Normal patrols out. At 1100 hours 5 Tp Lt Spickernell drove off 2 enemy ACs which tried to penetrate our lines, with the use of the two Breda cars attached to him. The day was otherwise normal. RHQ. Another quiet day with a little air activity. General Gott arrived at about 1800 hours and stopped for the night.
29/6/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 0730 hours 2 Tp reported that 3 ACs came from the NE and halted just NE of BIR NUH. At 1200 hours there were intermittent explosions coming from the area NE of QABR EL SHARQAN 520358 where the enemy continued with his blasting activities. At 1815 hours 5 Tp Lt Smithers reported that there were 10 MET in the area QABR EL SHARQAN and the blasting was still continuing. At 1905 hours 3 Tp Sgt Nash reported 7 MET at SIDI SULEIMAN. At 2000 hours 1 AC and 1 MET moved South from SIDI SULEIMAN. They were accurately shelled and retired North. A Sqn. This was a quiet day with normal patrol activity on both sides. It was noticed that the enemy were now blasting in the area 504368 which would seem to indicate the creation of some form of fixed position. RHQ. Very slight enemy movement throughout the day. At 1100 hours Colonel Leetham again took command from the Royals who had been ordered to Palestine. This was a great disappointment to everyone as they had been expecting to be relieved by the Royals.
30/6/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 14 Me 109's flew over RUWEIBITEL WARRANI and at 0925 hours 1 MET approached BIR NUH and was engaged by our guns. Normal enemy movement was observed throughout the remainder of the day. A Sqn. Normal patrols sent out. At 0915 hours 1 Tp picked up 8 Riflemen who had been out all night on patrol and failed to locate their trucks by dawn. At 0940 hours 2 Tp engaged enemy ACs which were apparently searching for our Infantry patrol and drove them off NW. At 1000 hours 1 Tp picked up another Rifleman which now accounted for the entire patrol. Nothing else of importance occurred during the day but enemy blasting operations continued over the entire area. RHQ. Report missing.
July 1941	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
Jul 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/7/41	The Sqn was resting by the sea and had nothing to report until July 16th. A Sqn. 3 Tp Sgt Beedham took over the SHEFERZEN area. 4 Tp Sgt Parry Pt. 201 and 1 Tp Lt Petch ABU SAYID.



	This was a quiet day, the only event being the inspection of patrol positions by Major Smail who spent the evening with SHQ. B Sqn. The Sqn moved from the sea to relieve C Sqn on the top of the escarpment. At 1300 hours the Sqn moved to 533340. 1Tp was left behind with a broken spring but joined later. At 1430 hours the Sqn arrived at C Sqn HQ and 3 patrols were sent out to relieve C Sqn patrols. 5Tp went to RUWEIBITEL WARRANI, 3Tp to ABU EL ARAD and 2Tp to ALAM EL BATTUMA. At 1730 hours all tps were in position and C Sqn patrols returning. At 1900 hours 3Tp reported 3 MET halted at 526361. At 1927 hours 2Tp was shelled off BATTUMA and retired SW for ¼ mile. At 1945 hours 5Tp reported 2 MET stationary at 518355. At 1950 hours 2Tp returned to BATTUMA and reported no movement seen. At 2045 hours tps retired to night positions approx 2 miles South of day positions. SHQ remained at 534340. Major Wainman went on leave to Cairo that night. RHQ. Major Alexander, Major Wainman went on leave. Capt Cayzer went to Cairo. NOTHING TO REPORT.
2/7/41	A Sqn 5Tp Lt Spickemell took over SHEFERZEN area. 3Tp took over from 4Tp at Pt. 201, 4Tp ABU SAYID area. This was a quiet day. Capt Dunning arrived to stay with SHQ also S/Sgt Stewart, both from 3rd Btn SAF. B Sqn. At 0647 hours 2Tp reported 1 AC halted East of BIR NUH which at 0657 hours moved North out of sight. At 0710 hours 5Tp reported 3 MET moving from SIDI SULEIMAN towards KINIBISH. At 0714 hours 2Tp was shelled out of BATTUMA. At 0753 hours 1 MET stationary at 515356. At 0807 hours 3Tp reported 2 lorries at 522360. At 0825 hours 4Tp relieved 5Tp at WARRANI. At 0845 hours 3Tp reported 1 AC retiring out of sight at BIR NUH. At 0915 hours 5Tp relieved 3Tp at ALAM EL ARAD. At 1000 hours 2Tp returned to BATTUMA and was relieved by 3Tp at 1030 hours and returned to SHQ. From 1030 hours to 1730 hours explosions were seen in the area 520360. These were thought to be blasting operations by the enemy. At 1916 hours 3Tp reported 4 MET moving South from SIDI SULEIMAN and halting at 518356. At 1934 hours 5Tp Lt Dier reported 3 MET halted 518356. At 1945 hours 3Tp reported 2 lorries and some men walking about at 527362. At 1950 hours 5Tp reported an increase of 5 MET at 519361. At 2025 hours 3Tp reported 1 tank at BIR NUH and one tank halted West of BIR NUH. During the day 3Tp and 4Tp had 2 A/Tk guns with them. RHQ. Major Smail and Lt Poston returned to Cairo. A quiet day.
3/7/41	A Sqn. The usual patrol reliefs took place. 3Tp at ABU SAYID picked up a SAfrican Flying Officer who had come down in the GAMBUT area on June 17th. Two Bedouins who had befriended him guided him through hostile country, and they were all sent to RHQ. B Sqn. At 0600 hours 3Tp at ALAM EL BATTUMA reported 2 lorries moving West from 528363 also 1 large AC moving SW from BIR ABU NAIS. At 0647 hours 5Tp reported 3 MET halted South of BIR NUH. At 0726 hours 4Tp at RUWEIBITEL WARRANI reported 2 ACs moving NW from 519354. At 0800 hours the usual reliefs took place. At 0900 hours Lt Dier took over his Tp (5Tp) from Sgt Merrick, having returned from leave. Lt Horsford & Lt Dier carried out a small recce over some dead ground 3 miles NW of ARAD. At 1925 hours 1Tp reported 5 MET halted at 516355. At 1941 hours 5Tp reported 8 MET halted at 524361. RHQ. Lt Col Roodt and 4 officers of 3rd SA Recce Btn came to stay with us. Detachment of 38 LAD left us.



4/7/41	A Sqn. Usual patrol positions with enemy blasting in SIDI SULEIMAN area, otherwise a quiet day. B Sqn. At 0755 hours 5Tp Lt Dier reported 12 MET halted at 514360. At 0800 hours 2Tp arrived at WARRANI and the usual relief took place. At 1145 hours 1Tp at ARAD reported 4 MET halted at 512352. At 1847 hours 4Tp at BATTUMA reported 7 MET moving about in area 522362. One vehicle left this group going NE. At 2005 hours 2Tp at RUWEIBITEL WARRANI reported 3 MET halted at 518360. RHQ. Lt Col Roodt went to one of the columns leaving 2 officers with the Sqn. F/Lt Hamlin, 250th Sqn RAF, had lunch with us after 17 days with Bedouins in Libya. We sent him to SIDI BARRANI in the afternoon.
5/7/41	A Sqn. 2Tp at ABU SAYID reported more blasting at 508358 SIDI OMAR area, and at 503356. At 1832 hours this Tp (Woods) engaged and drove away two enemy 6 wheeled ACs. Otherwise the day was quiet. B Sqn. At 0717 hours 2Tp at WARRANI reported 6 MET halted at 518360. At 0734 hours 3Tp relieved 2Tp at WARRANI and the usual round of reliefs took place. At 0900 hours 3Tp reported 1 MET at 517355. At 1800 hours 2Tp at ARAD reported 3 MET moving West from 520355. At 1824 hours 3Tp at WARRANI reported 3 ACs moving West at 517354. At 1913 hours they were at 518356 and then moved North. At 1932 hours 3Tp reported 7 MET in SIDI SULEIMAN area with local movement. RHQ. Major General Gott and Colonel Kenyon SA AC arrived in the afternoon, with the latest Marmon Herrington. Colonel Kenyon spent the night with us.
6/7/41	A Sqn. At 0905 hours a threat developed to our western patrol at SHEFERZEN, an enemy force of 25 MET came to within 1 mile of the water tower on the frontier wire. They sent a party of 6–8 ACs to the tower itself. This movement, however, did not develop and by 1100 hours they had all withdrawn North. B Sqn. At 0650 hours 1Tp reported 2 ACs at 525361 with 1 staff car, moving SW. During the morning the usual reliefs took place. At 1300 hours 2Tp at BATTUMA reported 1 AC at 528360, the crew of which were inspecting derelicts. At 2006 hours they reported 5 MET at 525361 and at 2044 hours 7 MET halted at 521362. Blasting operations were reported by all tps along the front. RHQ. The Colonel went round the Sqn. and Lt Crankshaw took Colonel Kenyon to A Sqn and later to C Sqn near SIDI BARRANI.
7/7/41	A Sqn. 5Tp at SHEFERZEN, 3Tp at Pt. 201, 4Tp at ABU SAYID, 1Tp returned to SHQ. An uneventful day but 1Tp reported enemy defensive preparation on a small scale at 512355 KINIBISH. B Sqn. At 0715 hours 5Tp Lt Dier at WARRANI reported 4 ACs halted in KINIBISH area with men dismounted. At 0728 hours 2Tp reported 3 MET halted 525361. At 0803 hours 3Tp reported 4 MET in area 526361. During the morning 4Tp relieved 5Tp, who relieved 3Tp, who relieved 2Tp, who returned to SHQ. At 1958 hours 4Tp reported 4 AFVs and 1 lorry at 518356. Several MET were reported in BIR NUH area by both 3Tp and 5Tp. RHQ. Lt McSwinney and 3 Bofors guns KHA came to us. Lt Crankshaw returned from C Sqn.
8/7/41	A Sqn.



	2Tp Sgt Woodstock over SHEFERZEN area. 5Tp Lt Spickernell took over Pt. 201, 3Tp Sgt Beedham took over ABU SAYID and 4Tp returned to SHQ. The enemy carried out their normal patrol activity but no threat developed and we were unable to benefit by the pressure of close support artillery. B Sqn. 4Tp, 5Tp and 3Tp were in position at WARRANI, ARAD and BATTUMA. At 0645 hours 3Tp reported 4 MET in BIR NUH area. During the morning 1Tp relieved 4Tp and the usual reliefs took place, 3Tp returning to SHQ. At 1930 hours 5Tp Lt Dier reported 5 MET halted at 524361. At 1945 hours 1Tp Sgt McCarthy reported 20 men in SIDI SULEIMAN area, and at the same time 4Tp reported 4 ACs and 5 lorries halted at 527361. Usual movements of MET seen around BIR NUH and 5 MET in KINIBISH area at last light. RHQ. Lt Colonel Knowles, R Signals, came to see X Tp and Lt Donald at Capt Kellock RAMC returned from leave. No incidents.
9/7/41	A Sqn. Usual patrol activity. At 0726 hours a demonstration was made by 4 ACs and 4 trucks, covered by fire from 2 tanks, in the KINIBISH area against 3Tp Lt Clarke. Before he was relieved he was forced to retire for a short time. At 1545 hours SHQ was attacked by 11 C56 Italian fighters. Tpr Myers was hit and evacuated by the MO. B Sqn. 1Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp at WARRANI, ARAD and BATTUMA. At 0644 hours 5Tp Lt Dier reported 4 MET halted in SIDI SULEIMAN area. At 0705 hours 1Tp reported 4 MET in SIDI SULEIMAN halted. At 0720 hours 1Tp reported 5 MET moving SW from KINIBISH. During the morning the usual reliefs were made. At 1737 hours 4Tp reported 1 lorry and 3 ACs at 528364. There was the usual AC movement in the BIR NUH area in the evening. RHQ. Major Alexander and Major Wainman returned from leave. Lt Col de Robeck ILAA came in the morning. Capt Pomfret RAMC left us.
10/7/41	A Sqn. 4Tp Sgt Parry went to SHEFERZEN, 1Tp Sgt Mullen to Pt. 201, 2Tp Sgt Woodstock to ABU SAYID. 5Tp returned to SHQ. Lt Petch came in to act as 2i/c to Capt Friend as Major Lawson went on leave. There was nothing to report all day. B Sqn. 2Tp at WARRANI, 1Tp at ARAD and 4Tp at BATTUMA. At 0814 hours 4Tp reported 5 ACs in area 526361. At 1100 hours 4Tp reported 4 MET halted at 519363. During the morning the usual patrol reliefs were made. At 1850 hours 1Tp reported 3 MET at 519360. Usual enemy AC activity in BIR NUH area. Three South African officers and 1 Sgt were attached to the Sqn for instructional purposes. RHQ. Major Short and 6 officers from SAfrican AC Regt came to stay. No incidents.
11/7/41	A Sqn. Usual patrol reliefs carried out. During the day there were the usual enemy patrols and blasting activities. Lt Poston came to take over 5Tp from Lt Spickernell who returned to command Echelon. B Sqn. 3Tp, 2Tp and 1Tp in position at WARRANI, ARAD and BATTUMA. At 0620 hours 1Tp reported 5 MET at 526361 and at 1000 hours reported 1 enemy vehicle towing away a derelict in the BIR NUH area. The usual reliefs took place during the morning.



	At 2000 hours 5Tp Lt Dier reported 3 MET at 513354. RHQ. The Colonel took Major Short round the Sqns and the other officers were split up. No incidents.
12/7/41	A Sqn. Usual patrol reliefs carried out. Anti-personnel bombs reported on North and South track at B55. A quiet day. B Sqn. During the morning 4Tp relieved 5Tp at WARRANI and the usual reliefs took place, 2Tp returning to SHQ. At 0908 hours, before relief, 2Tp reported 3 MET moving towards SWEIYAT from BIR NUH. The usual ACs seen in BIR NUH area during the evening. RHQ. Major Short and his Adj. went to A Sqn. NOTHING TO REPORT.
13/7/41	A Sqn. 2Tp (Woods) took over SHEFERZEN, 5Tp (Poston) Pt. 201, 3Tp (Clarke) ABU SAYID. 4Tp (Parry) returned to SHQ. Before being relieved Sgt Parry did good work in drawing 4 enemy tanks on to our guns and co-operating closely with the OP. Lt Clarke did a forward dawn patrol and reported that the diggings and defensive emplacements previously reported in the KINIBISH area were much further back, probably covering Gap 38 and the Italian Camp. B Sqn. 1Tp (McCarthy) took over WARRANI, 4Tp (Howells) ARAD, 5Tp (Dier) BATTUMA. 3Tp (Halliday) returned to SHQ. Before being relieved 3Tp reported 5 MET at BIR NUH at 0650 hours and 4Tp reported 4 MET at 518356. At 1300 hours 1Tp was attacked by 6 Macchi 200 fighters. Two cars were hit, one being temporarily put out of action and the other had to be evacuated. At 1914 hours 1Tp reported 2 MET moving in SIDI SULEIMAN area. At 1940 hours 5Tp reported 5 men and some MET in BIR NUH area. RHQ. Major Alexander went to ACM in the morning. Brigadier Campbell, Lt Col Ackenhead and Major Curry RHA came to see us in the evening.
14/7/41	A Sqn. Usual reliefs. A quiet day with usual enemy patrols and enemy ranging operations area 509353. RHQ. Major Short and party returned and spent the night here.
15/7/41	A Sqn. 4Tp (Parry) relieved 1Tp (Mullens) at SHEFERZEN who relieved 2Tp at Pt. 201 who relieved 5Tp at ABU SAYID who came into SHQ. Sgt Parry took some Sappers with him to dispose of the Thermos bombs at BP 55. On arrival there 3 ACs came from the NE and covered the area of these operations. These ACs were engaged by both tps under the command of Sgt Parry who was able to dispose of 3 Breda cars. Unfortunately the enemy slipped off NW and on orders from SHQ there was no pursuit. Major Payne Gallway OC of C Sqn came to spend the night at SHQ. Lt Clarke 3Tp left at 1200 hours for HQ Coastal Grp where he took over from C Sqn at 2100 hours that evening. RHQ. Major Short and party left at first light. A very hot day. Major Payne Gallway had lunch with us.
16/7/41	C Sqn. At 0930 hours the Sqn arrived at DIER BU EL MILK area 517332. Patrols moved out to take over from A Sqn. By 1130 hours patrols were in position as follows:- 2Tp (Scrivener) at Pt. 199, 4Tp (Peacock) at Pt. 201,



	3Tp (Nash) at QARET ABU SAYID. No movement seen from all patrols all day. A Sqn. At dawn Major Payne Gallway inspected the Tp positions and no Tps were relieved until C Sqn took over at 1115 hours. At 1000 hours 5Tp left for RHQ to pick up the Echelon. SHQ and the 3 Tps on patrol left at noon. The whole Sqn (less 3Tp) arrived without mishap at the camp area by the sea 586378 by 1800 hours. RHQ. The trick-cyclist – Col James RAMC had lunch with us. Lt Ward went on leave. [Transcriber's Note, trick-cyclist – psychiatrist]
17/7/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the day. Very heavy ground fog which did not lift until 0810 hours. At 0815 hours 5Tp (Chambers) relieved 2Tp (Scrivener) at Pt. 199 who relieved 4Tp (Peacock) who relieved 3Tp (Nash) who came into reserve. Nothing to report all day. RHQ. There was a certain amount of air activity. Major Alexander went round the Echelon and Major Smail returned from Cairo in the evening.
18/7/41	C Sqn. The usual patrol reliefs took place at 0600 hours. There was local ground mist on the left patrol position, which cleared about 0645 hours. At 0745 hours 1Tp Lt Stewart on the left reported one 8 wheeled AC and one 4 wheeled AC and one Peoplescar in area North of SHEFERZEN. These 3 remained in the area for about an hour and then went North out of sight. No movement seen for the rest of the day. RHQ. The Colonel went to C Sqn and Major Smail and Major Alexander to the Echelon. Col de Robeck called in the evening.
19/7/41	C Sqn. There was nothing to report during the night except for bombing to the North at 0400 hours. The usual reliefs took place and there was no movement seen for the remainder of the day. Major Smail visited the left patrol. RHQ. Reports missing.
20/7/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours the usual reliefs took place. Major Smail visited the centre and left Tps. There was nothing to report. RHQ. Reports missing.
21/7/41	C Sqn. Usual reliefs at 0600 hours. At 0700 hours 2Tp (Scrivener) was joined by two 2pdrs and an OP. The party moved forward to Pt. Pt. 198 and remained there in observation. At 0710 hours 1Tp (Lt Stewart) patrolled forward to KINIBISH and reported no movement seen in QARET SUWEIDA area. Explosions were heard in SIDI OMAR area. At 1900 hours four 25pdrs and six 2pdrs of UGEF column moved to area BIR SHEFERZEN to engage enemy position at SIDI OMAR. 2Tp moved to RUWEBIT SIDI OMAR with the OP. 4Tp (Peacock) moved to BIR HURUSH 504355. The OP was engaged by shellfire at 1900 hours from an enemy gun position located by Cpl Lawrence to be on a bearing of 6° from the 'R' of RUWEBIT. Estimated gun position at 494359 and to consist of at least 6 guns as 6 flashes were seen together. The OP and 2Tp were forced to withdraw after shelling the enemy position. The force withdrew at 2010 hours to normal night position and there was nothing further to report. RHQ. Reports missing.



22/7/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours the visibility was bad owing to ground mist and the usual reliefs took place. 5Tp (Chambers) reported 3 MET and 1 DR at EGYPTIAN SIDI OMAR. The DR moved off in the direction of QINEQINA and 2 of the MET moved to ITALIAN SIDI OMAR. The patrol then returned to normal position. RHQ. Major Smail returned from Cairo.
23/7/41	C Sqn. Lt Smithers returned to 5Tp from leave. At 0745 hours 2Tp and 4Tp reported no movement seen. At 1900 hours 1Tp went to Pt. 198 and reported 5 MET at 495353. These moved off at 1950 hours NE and returned to RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR at 2010 hours. At 1935 hours 5Tp patrolled to Pt. 203 and on to 503355 and saw 16 trucks at ITALIAN SIDI OMAR and 10 MET at 504360. 2Tp patrolled to QARET ABU FARIS and reported 4 large MET moving in Eastern Camp at Pt. 207 and also 6 explosions. RHQ. A quiet day. Capt Tucker and 6 officers of the 6th SAAC Regt arrived to stay. Two went up to C Sqn. Major Smail, Capt Grant Thorold went to B Sqn for the evening.
24/7/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. At 1935 hours 5Tp Lt Smithers reported 3 ACs moving South from SIDI SULEMAN X tracks. When they reached 518355 they turned West for 1 mile and then turned North and disappeared. TSM Scrivener left the Sqn for promotion to SSM RHQ Sqn. RHQ. Nothing to report. Lt Col Fulton 19th LIA came to stay with us. Major Smail and Capt Grant Thorold returned from B Sqn with Lt Dier.
25/7/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours 4Tp and one SA AC moved to relieve 3Tp at left position and the usual reliefs took place. No movement seen all day. RHQ. A quiet day. Brigadier Davy visited the Colonel in the well at BIR DIGNAISH in the afternoon. Lt Ward returned from leave.
26/7/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours 1 AC of 6th SA AC Regt went out with 2Tp to left position. At 1730 3Tp moved to QARET ABU FARIS and 4Tp at Centre moved to BIR HURUSH and remained there while an OP was established at QARET SUWEIDA and four 25pdrs carried out a shoot on SIDI OMAR track. a working party was seen at 509 361 otherwise no movement seen by both patrols. At 1800 hours 2Tp moved to RUWEIBIT SIDI OMAR. Six MET were seen at 498380 at 1905 hours which later moved off West. During these operations SHQ moved to QUBURET EL BARASI, everybody returning to normal position at 2035 hours. RHQ. Nothing to report. Major Alexander went back to Cairo, sick, in the evening. Lt Col Fulton 19th LIA returned to us from B Sqn in the evening.
27/7/41	C Sqn. The Sqn Ldr's birthday. The usual patrol reliefs took place and all reported no movement seen until 1800 hours, when 4Tp at Right position reported 60 – 70 MET halted in SIDI SULEMAN area. This party began to move West at 1820 hours and was then seen to consist of about 150 MET. The column moved to EL KINIBISH and BP 47 where the head was at 2010 hours. The party went from sight here and touch was lost owing to 2Tp W/T car breaking down.



	5Tp (Lt Smithers) at Left position stayed in his normal place until the head of the column was at QARET EL BAKARAT. He then moved SE to Pt. 194 501341 and was driven off from there by 6 enemy ACs and shellfire from the head of the column. The ACs chased him South to 503323 at which place the enemy halted and eventually turned North at 2050 hours. Meanwhile 2Tp (McHardy) had been chased by 3 ACs and 2 lorries to Pt. 202 508337. This patrol was then machine gunned by a HENCHEL which was doing recce for the column. During the time 2Tp was being chased (McHardy), his 2 other cars lost touch with him and eventually turned up at SHQ at 1930 hours. Meanwhile McHardy's car (W/T) had broken down at 503341 whence he had gone to keep touch with the column when they moved West. 4Tp (Peacock) was driven back from ABU SAYID by 3 ACs and 10 MET which turned West at ABU SAYID. They remained in observation at QARET BARASI from where he could see the column in the BAKARAT area. At 2100 hours 4Tp was at QARET BARASI, 2Tp at 503341 and 5Tp at Pt. 196 501324. Sgt Beard with 3 ACs of SHQ arrived at Sgt McHardy's car at 2130, crews changed over. McHardy's car was then towed back to SHQ arriving at 2345 hours. RHQ. The morning and afternoon as usual. At 1800 hours there was considerable activity by 150 MET which kept us glued to the wireless until dark. These MET returned through the wire at about BP 69.
28/7/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night with heavy ground mist at first light. At 0605 5Tp (Lt Smithers) moved North and on reaching BP 63 saw 3 MET 1 mile South of BP 62. These moved away North. At the same time 5Tp heard tracked vehicles. The Tp moved after the 3 MET and when the fog lifted at 0705 hours saw 2 MET and a DR moving across his front at BP 62. He gave chase and captured what turned out to be one 3-ton lorry, 1 armoured troop carrier and 1 DR. The lorry was full of supplies and beer and was brought into SHQ. The patrol could not move the troop carrier and it was left, later being towed away by the Royal. The DR was captured but the MC was US. At 0700 hours 1Tp (Lamb) moved to Pt. 202 and at 0830 hours moved to normal day position at Left. At 0700 hours 2Tp (McHardy) moved to QARET EL BAKARAT and at 1000 hours saw 6 MET at 507348 which moved North at 1035 hours. At 1100 hours 5Tp left SHQ to relieve 2Tp and the usual reliefs took place. At 1630 hours 1Tp (Lamb) patrolled to QABR SUWEIL and saw 3 ACs and 5 MET in area of Watch Tower at 493345. The ACs came towards him and he withdrew to QUBURET EL MADHUM and remained in observation. This party was still seen at last light. A Sqn. Still at the sea. RHQ. A hectic morning on the wireless, but all quiet by 1100 hours. The Echelon was machine gunned by 2 Me109's and 1 lorry burnt out and 3 men wounded. Major Smail was also machine gunned while driving along. Capt Tucker 6th SA AC Regt and party left us, and Lt Col Douglas RB visited us.
29/7/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours the usual reliefs took place. The visibility was bad until 0730 hours when 1Tp saw 5 MET in Watch Tower area. At 0830 hours 3Tp (Macey) reported 3 MET moving towards him. They halted by the wire at 493345. At 0850 hours one of the 5 MET at the Watch Tower moved off North and another MET joined the 4 left from the West. At 1930 hours 5Tp (Lt Smithers) at ABU FARIS was chased away by three 6 wheeled ACs who came South to 515350 and then turned East and out of sight. At 1935 hours 1Tp (Lamb) on patrol at Pt. 203 saw 1 MET moving fast NW from QUARET SUWEIDA, otherwise no movement seen. At 2000 hours no movement seen. At 2100 hours – normal night position. RHQ. A quiet day. The Colonel and Major Smail went to the Royals C Sqn. The Colonel then went to the Desert Group HQ for the night.



30/7/41	C Sqn. 0600 hours usual reliefs. At 0800 hours SHQ moved to Pt. 201. At 0830 hours 4Tp (Peacock) returned from a recce of the Watch Tower Camp. He reported a camp 300 yards by 100 yards with the Water Tower in the centre, three stone buildings. One MET was in the camp with a man on the tower. He was shelled from the 2 stone buildings South of the tower. At 1845 hours 1 small tank and 1 lorry moved to Watch Tower Camp from the North and halted at the foot of the tower. This party was still there at last light. RHQ. The Colonel returned at lunch time. Major Payne Gallwey and Major Lawson had lunch with us. It was a very hot day with a hot wind.
31/7/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 2Tp (McHardy) reported 1 AC halted at bottom of Watch Tower and 1 man on the tower. At 1840 hours 4Tp (Peacock) patrolled from Centre to BIR HURUSH, reporting 3 MET at BP 46 and 5 MET at ITALIAN SIDI OMAR also 1 small MET at HAQ FET QINEQINA. At 1850 hours 3Tp (Macey) patrolled to QARET ABU FARIS and reported 15 MET at 517361, stationary. At 1905 hours 2Tp (McHardy) patrolled to BIR SHEFERZEN and on to BP 52. No movement seen except for 2 MET and 3 men at Watch Tower Camp. A Sqn. Sqn moved to area 520323 dispersed by Tps at 20 minute intervals. Lt Clarke was left at RHQ sick. The line was taken over by 1700 hours. 3Tp (Harvey) took over the West at 501312, 4Tp (Colman) at BP 65 and 5Tp (Lt Poston) at 496334. No enemy activity was seen. RHQ. A hot day. Major Reeves Moore and his Sqn of 4th SA AC Regt arrived in the afternoon.
OPERATIONS OF B Sqn. PERIOD 14TH – 30TH JULY. During this period the Sqn found 3 patrols as under:- RUWEIBI EL WARRANI ALAM EL ARAD ALAM EL BATTUMA. This necessitated Tps doing 72 hours in the line and 48 hours in reserve in SHQ. With few exceptions shown below there was little enemy movement. What movement there was consisted chiefly of AC patrols in area BIR NUH and lorry movements in the area Pt. 207. These movements were usually seen in the mornings and evenings. There was also continual blasting along the whole front daily. On 25th July the right hand column under Major Oswald pushed forward to engage the enemy fortifications in the Pt. 207 area. 2Tp was required to advance North to ABU SHALIF 520353 to cover the left of this column, in conjunction with a troop of the Northumberland Hussars A/Tk guns. The column began shooting at approx 800 yards and apart from slight retaliation from enemy artillery, there was no further enemy action and by 1000 hours 2Tp had returned to its normal position. On July 26th, owing to information received, it was decided to bluff the enemy into thinking that we were going to advance, therefore the column under Major Oswald on the right and the one on the left under Major Carmoyle RB pushed forward their guns at 1900 hours with a view to bringing fire to bear on enemy dispersed points. C Sqn patrols on the left of us pushed forward and to cover their right 5Tp advanced from WARRANI to SIDI SULEIMAN. No enemy were encountered and at last light troops returned to their normal positions. On July 27th at 1810 hours C Sqn reported 40 – 50 MET at the southern X tracks 518356. At 1816 hours 3Tp reported 8 vehicles in the BIR NUH area, and at 1822 hours 4Tp reported 30 MET moving South from KINIBISH. This whole column eventually turned SW and were entirely dealt with by C Sqn. At 1835 hours 3Tp reported a total of 17 MET in the BIR NUH area, 3 of which were thought to be guns. At 1837 hours 4Tp reported 4 ACs moving East from ABU SAYID and they therefore dropped back to KHREIGAT. These ACs disappeared shortly after dark and he returned to WARRANI where he reported no movement seen for the rest of the day. The MET in the BIR NUH area were shelled by our guns at last light and retired northwards. On July 28th there were approx 12 MET in BIR NUH area which were shelled by our guns at last light. The enemy retaliated with guns from the area BIR ABU EL NAAS. On July 29th the same 12 MET were still in BIR NUH area and at last light 4Tp were shelled at BATTUMA. On July 30th the same 12 MET in BIR NUH area. At 0900 hours 4Tp were again shelled in the BATTUMA area and were	



forced to withdraw.

OPERATIONS OF A Sqn. PERIOD 17TH – 30TH JULY.

The Sqn remained at 586378 with one Troop at Coastal Troop HQ. Nothing occurred to change the daily routine – Pt. And bathing were enjoyed by everyone before breakfast.

On July 30th sports were held on the sands. Major Lawson left for the Royals Sqn at ALAM LEEHALI to inspect our new position.

The days were spent in maintenance, bathing and resting.

August 1941	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
Aug 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/8/41	C Sqn. At 0600 hours the Sqn Ldr went on a recce of Watch Tower Camp, South of SHEFERZEN. At 1850 hours 4Tp (Peacock) went on patrol to KINIBISH whilst four 25pdrs shelled SIDI SULEIMAN area. At 1950 hours 5Tp (Lt Smithers) patrolled towards Watch Tower Camp. Two MET were in position QABR SUWEIL and the patrol was shelled and driven back to 500343. The 2 MET moved towards camp at 2035 hours. RHQ. The Colonel went on leave, motoring to Cairo and taking 2Lt Rapp with him.
2/8/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 5Tp (Lt Smithers) reported the Watch Tower camp as apparently empty. At 1300 hours General Sir Beresford Pierce and Gen Gott visited the Sqn and spoke to several of the men. At 1919 hours 1Tp (Lamb) reported the Watch Tower camp as occupied by 2 MET and men walking about. At 2030 hours 1 MET moved 1 mile North of the tower. At last light nothing further to report. RHQ. General Beresford Pierce and Gen Gott came to see us and went round the Sqn with Major Smail. A very hot day.
3/8/41	C Sqn. At 0615 hours visibility was very bad owing to a heavy ground mist. At 0750 hours 3Tp (Macey) reported 20 men working on the Watch Tower which had been destroyed by a patrol of the Rifle Bde during the night. One AFV was seen North of the camp. At 0900 hours heavy explosions were heard North and NE of Centre patrol. At 1905 hours 1 MET moved South down the wire and halted by the Watch Tower relieving one which was already there. At 2020 hours 1 AFV moved South from the Watch Tower towards A Sqn patrol who had reced to the West behind the Tower. This AFV went from sight going South.
4/8/41	C Sqn. At 0640 hours 5Tp (Lt Smithers) reported 3 ACs moving South from SIDI SULEIMAN to ABU SHALIF and then returning North out of sight. At 0645 hours 3Tp (Macey) patrolled to the Watch Tower and was engaged by Breda fire from the camp. He returned to normal position at 0710 hours. At 2000 hours Lt Col Richards (C1 5th Armd Div) arrived with Major Smail and stayed the night.
5/8/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 3 ACs moved South down the wire from SIDI OMAR to the Watch Tower and remained there.



	Visibility was bad during the evening and no movement seen reports were received.
6/8/41	C Sqn. 3Tp (Macey) patrolled forward to QARET ABU FARIS where he was chased to KINIBISH, where the enemy halted, remained for a short time, moved North, and finally disappeared East in SIDI SULEIMAN area. 2Tp (McHardy) reported one man on Tower and 2 MET at bottom, at 2000 hours.
7/8/41	C Sqn. At 0700 hours the usual men and MET at the Watch Tower and at 0720 hours 3 shells landed 600 yards North of QARET ABU SAYID. At 1945 hours 1Tp (Lamb) reported 4 MET ¼ mile North of Watch Tower and 2 MET at the Tower. Blasting heard in OMAR area. At 2010 hours two white Verrey lights SW of BIR SHEFERZEN. A Sqn. Positions:- 1 Platoon of RB and 1 Troop Northumberland Hussars at 507301. 2Tp (Woods) at 507312. 1Tp (Lt Petch) at 499323. 3Tp (Hutchinson) at 495334. At 0910 hours our line was somehow penetrated by 2 enemy ACs in between 2Tp and 1Tp. They were unobserved by the latter and appeared to the former to be friendly Marmon Herringtons. By the time this supposition was found to be extremely improbable, they approached the rear of 2Tp on the open flank having come straight down the boundary track. The enemy ACs then attacked at great speed assisted by the close co-operation of a CR42 which pointed out our Troop positions. Our Troop was taken completely by surprise on an unexpected flank. The Tp Ldr's car and Tp Corporal's car were knocked out and caught alight. The Tp Sgt (Aslin) managed to get down to the Rifle Bde patrol. The enemy then made off West through the wire taking with them, it is thought, Cpl Winterbottom, Tpr Crowther and Tpr Walburn. 1Tp (Lt Petch) which took over the patrol in that area, buried four bodies that night. They are believed to be those of Sgt Woods, Tpr Coles, Tpr Manning and Tpr Banbury. 5Tp (Lt Poston) took over the centre position 499323 leaving SHQ at 1005 hours. At 1022 hours 3Tp in the North reported 3 ACs at 493332 which retired NW and were joined by two pairs of heavy dark ACs from the South, the entire party hastily withdrawing NW out of sight at 1059 hours. The remainder of the day was quiet.
8/8/41	C Sqn. At 0620 hours 1Tp (Lamb) reported 4 MET breaking leaguer at 493347. They looked like small ACs and moved West through the wire – two moving South to the Watch Tower, and two going NW out of sight. At 0625 hours 2Tp (McHardy) on patrol North of ABU SAYID saw 4 MET at ABU FARIS GHARBYA which disappeared North from sight. At 0635 hours 1 large and 1 small AC moved West from SIDI SULEIMAN and halted 2 miles East of KINIBISH. At 0645 hours they moved NE to ABU FARIS and halted, being joined by a third AC. Two moved East and one NW, all disappearing from view. Nothing further to report.
9/8/41	C Sqn. There was no movement during the day until 2005 hours when 2 MET moved down the wire and halted at the Watch Tower. Three ACs were seen well spread out just East of the tower. Nothing further to report.
10/8/41	C Sqn. At 0612 hours 1Tp (Lamb) at Right, moved forward with four 2pdrs and an OP to EL KINIBISH, where the 2pdrs remained in the derelicts and the OP went to ABU FARIS. 1Tp moved to 510356 and reported 10 MET halted at 507360. These consisted of 2 small tanks, 2 lorries



	towing guns and 6 unidentified. They appeared to have come up the track from the West. The 2 tanks moved South and drove off 1Tp who withdrew 100 yards, hoping to draw them onto the 2pdrs, but they halted and fired at Sgt Lamb with the equivalent of a 2pdr. Two large ACs and 1 tank appeared at QARET ABU FARIS and drove off the OP. The 2pdrs engaged the AFVs who retired under a smoke screen. 1Tp was engaged by these AFVs and driven back to KINIBISH. At 0802 hours our whole party withdrew to ABU SAYID as the enemy had all gone. At 1925 hours 4Tp patrolled forward to BIR HURUSH and reported 3 MET and men dismounted at 499360 and a tower with one MGT at 496359, also 2 MET and men walking about in BP 46 area. Nothing further to report.
11/8/41	C Sqn. At 0635 hours 2Tp (Macey) on patrol in KINIBISH area reported 4 MET in QARET ABU FARIS area, and also 4 MET at ABU SHALIF which moved off North. At 0705 hours 5Tp (Lt Smithers) at Left position reported 1 gun which had been towed by a lorry to a position 150 yards East of the Watch Tower fired 8 rounds, landing in the MADHUM area. There were 4 small and 1 large ACs in the Watch Tower camp. The large AC fired a few shells which landed in the BP 56 area. At 1935 hours 2 MET moved down the track from the East, and halted at 509353 for about 10 minutes, finally disappearing NE. At 2000 hours 4Tp (Peacock) reported 3 tanks at SUWEDA. And 5Tp reported 2 MET moving North towards the Watch Tower. They were East of the wire and turned in at the camp. The situation in the camp was 2 MET North and 2 MET South of the tower at last light.
12/8/41	C Sqn. At 0719 hours 5Tp (Lt Smithers) reported 12 MET stationary at 495341 and a few minutes later 3 large ACs left the MET and moving NE halted at 499435. At 0755 hours he reported 2 MET halted at 498344 and later these were joined by 2 more from the West. Sgt Lamb 1Tp reported 6 MET moving North at 496344 led by 2 tanks. At 1800 hours 5Tp reported intermittent shelling at 509353 and later, that 15 shells had landed in area 508351. 2Tp (Suggitt) reported shell landing at 514356. At 1858 hours 1Tp reported a Me 110 circling several times at 497345 and 3 AFVs and a lorry at 494346 which disappeared South over a ridge. At 2000 hours 2Tp reported 3 MET moving SE to 516356 where they halted and were joined by 2 tanks and 1 staff car, the whole party moving East to the X tracks. Major Payne Gallwey DSO left us to fly to South Africa and Capt Cayzer took over the Sqn.
13/8/41	C Sqn. At 0645 hours 2Tp (Suggitt) reported 3 MET moving South at 512353. At 0648 hours 1Tp (Lamb) reported 9 MET in leaguer at 493342. Later 4 of these moved North to 493342 and the rest spread out. At 0730 hours 7 of these MET moved South on the West of the wire out of sight on the 343 Grid line, leaving 2 in the original position. At 0706 hours 2Tp reported 2 MET moving South at 511352 and withdrew 1 mile East of this position as these MET (which turned out to be tanks) had reached there. These tanks moved North to 512353 and Suggitt returned to his normal position, the tanks disappearing NW at 0800 hours. At 0800 hours 3Tp (Macey) reported 7 MET moving North up the wire about 1 mile South of SHEFERZEN Watch Tower, also 3 MET at 495344, 2 of them towing something. At 0810 hours 3Tp reported that 4 of the MET had halted at the Watch Tower and the other 3 about ½ a mile North of it. The 3 MET at 495344 moved West towards the tower. At 0822 hours 2Tp reported 3 MET moving North from ABU SHALIF and halting at 519356. At 0925 hours Macey reported there were now 7 MET at the Watch Tower, and 3 North of it were moving towards the wire, disappearing there followed by 2 more which left the tower. At 0957 hours one Me 110 flew West from ABU FARIS, then South down the wire, then turned NE and flew over SHQ. At 1909 hours 5Tp reported 5 MET at ABU FARIS GHARBIYA and 2 men walking about.



	At 1910 hours 3Tp reported 8 MET at Watch Tower otherwise no movement seen. Major Whitley with 4 Subalterns and 4 W/T Operators of the 4th SA AC Regt arrived at SHQ, preparatory to relieving the Sqn in about ten days.
14/8/41	C Sqn. The usual reliefs took place at 0615 hours, 4Tp (Peacock) taking out with him 1 subaltern and 1 W/T operator of the South Africans, 1Tp and 4Tp later having the same additions. Between 0700 hours and 0800 hours 3Tp reported 2 MET stationary at 495342. 5Tp reported 1 large and 1 small AC at 518354 and 4Tp reported 8 MET at 493347 and 2 ACs at 493341. At 1843 hours 4Tp reported 1 staff car and 1 MC and 5 lorries moving South on the other side of the wire towards the Watch Tower. The staff car and the MC went West out of sight and the lorries halted for an hour at the Tower then moved NW along the TRIGH EL ABD. Two MET were seen at the Tower at last light.
15/8/41	C Sqn. At 0719 hours 1Tp reported 2 MET halted at 507353. At 0826 hours 5Tp reported 5 MET moving NW at 521356. At 0830 hours 5Tp reported that 2 ACs which were halted at 493341 were now moving North at 497344 and at 0835 hours they reported 2 ACs halted at 508353. At 0840 hours 4Tp reported 5 MET disappearing West at 496339. At 0853 hours 1Tp who had relieved 5Tp reported that 1 AC was halted at 511353 and the other was amongst the derelicts at KINIBISH, both then returned North. At 1152 hours one Me110 flew West over the patrol from ABU SAYID and turned South down the wire. At 1834 hours 2 ACs were seen at 507653, later going East from sight. Two MET were reported at the Tower by 2Tp and 3 MET halted at 494346. At 1831 (Suggitt) 2Tp reported 10 – 12 MET at the Watch Tower and later 5 MET at 494341 which moved West. At 1927 hours 3 ACs were reported halted at 507353. At 1931 hours 2Tp reported that our guns were shelling the Tower and later that our OP at MADHUM had been shelled in turn and was retiring towards him. At 1950 hours 3Tp reported 4 ACs at 518354 which later moved North out of sight. At 2015 hours Peacock and Macey reported that the 3 ACs at 507353 had withdrawn NE. At 2030 hours nothing further to report.
16/8/41	C Sqn. At 0827 2Tp (Suggitt) reported 2 ACs at 507352 which later moved away NW. At 1305 hours 5Tp (Lt Smithers) reported 1 enemy plane flying North over SHEFERZEN. At 1806 hours 4Tp (Peacock) reported 2 ACs moving West at 510353. At 1937 hours 4Tp reported 4 tanks moving East out of sight. At 2015 – SITREP – 3 MET at Tower, otherwise no movement seen. The South African Tp Ldrs were on patrol with us all day and their Echelon commenced to work.
17/8/41	C Sqn. At 0615 hours the usual reliefs took place. The usual enemy movement was seen in the vicinity of the Watch Tower and at 0802 hours 1Tp (Lt Stewart) was shelled. At 2015 hours – SITREP – 9 MET at the tower and 4 MET at SUWEL which later moved to the Tower. Three South African W/T cars arrived with the Echelon.
18/8/41	C Sqn. At 0730 hours visibility was bad but 2 MET were seen at the Tower and 3 MET at SUWEL. An enemy OP was located at 518353 amongst the derelicts and 2Tp was shelled at the Right. At 0911 hours 12 vehicles, 2 towing guns, were seen moving North from the Tower. This was a suspicious move as the RAF had arranged to bomb the area between 0900 and 1100 hours. At 2015 hours 3Tp (Nash) reported 12 MET in the Tower area and 1 tank was reported by 5Tp at 518355. In the morning the remainder of the SAfrican Sqn came up under the 2i/c and their Tp Ldrs were on



	patrol in their W/Tcars with our patrols.
19/8/41	C Sqn. The usual enemy patrol movements were seen. 1Tp being shelled by 3 ACs at 1934 hours. During the day we only had our W/Tcar on patrol, the SAfricans having 1 W/Tcar and one other with our patrols.
20/8/41	C Sqn. The same patrol formation with the SAfricans was used and enemy movement was the same as usual in the Tower area.
21/8/41	C Sqn. 5Tp (Lt Smithers) was our only Tp Ldr on patrol, in the Left position, the others having been taken over by the South Africans. 5Tp reported no movement seen all day.
22/8/41	C Sqn. The South Africans had by now completed the taking over and we were preparing for the march to GERAWLA.
23/8/41	C Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0615 hours for GERAWLA at 15 minute intervals. The march was 163 miles and the Sqn was all complete by 1900 hours, less Lt Stewart and his W/Tcar who turned up next morning.

Operations of A Sqn. Period 1st to 6th August '41

The Sqn continued to observe on the line taken up on July 31st. a Platoon of the RB with a Troop of the Northumberland Hussars (2 A/Tk guns) observed in the MADDALENA area 506499, and came under the Sqn Ldr's command. Communication was by W/T.
During this period, the enemy made a daily air recce of the wire in the morning. The ground activity was very slight, and only an occasional AC was seen on the West of the wire and in the northern area.

Operations of A Sqn. Period 8th to 21st August 1941

The Sqn remained on the same line. On the evening of the 10th one Henschel was shot down by Hurricanes, 7 miles West of the wire between our centre and northern patrols. A column of the 60th Rifles went out and destroyed it some hours later but the crew had already been evacuated by the enemy. The 60th Rifles took over our southern patrol from the Rifle Bde.

The area remained quiet with patrol activity chiefly on the Italian side of the wire at dusk and dawn. Three Tp Ldrs of the 6th SA AC Regt came up to observe operations and two of the three nights spent with us were with the patrols. Period 14th – 21st Aug. Patrol positions were altered slightly during this period.

Support Group patrol at MADDELENA was withdrawn 400 yards and came East of the wire with an OP at the Blockhouse.

Left patrol, 11th Hussars, was moved from Pt. 195 501312 to ALAM EL HUDUD 504312 after the attack on Sgt Wood's Tp.

Centre patrol, 11th Hussars, moved from 499324 to Pt. 196 501324.

Right patrol, 11th Hussars, moved from 495334 to 498335.

Normal enemy patrol activity during this period, the wire would be recce'd morning and evening by CR42 and occasionally by Me110. Enemy ground patrols never proceeded further South than the Right patrol position, and only on four occasions came East of the wire.

On 17th SHQ moved from 517362 to Pt. 199 515327.

On 14th and 16th the MADDELENA patrol was lightly bombed.

On 16th the 2 A/Tk guns (Northumberland Hussars) from MADDELENA went to our Right position for an ambush the following morning. This was unsuccessful and the guns returned on the 17th.

On the 15th Lt Col Leetham with Lt Col Newton King and Major Anderson 4th SA AC Regt went round the patrols and on the 20th Major Larmuth and four Tp Ldrs arrived to commence taking over the Sqn area.



Operations of A Sqn. Period 21st to 31st August 1941

The same patrol positions were maintained. On the 21st 7 MET were reported in the MADDELENA FORT area and 3 of these came as far East as the Blockhouse.

It is probable that these vehicles were friendly and came from the Troops patrolling in the SWI – BIR BAYLY area but no confirmation of this was received.

This period was spent in gradually handing over to the 4th SA AC Regt, Tp Ldrs travelling with patrols from the 21st to the 25th of August, being followed by Driver Operators and by Troop Sgts on the 30th. Some delay was caused by the lack of No. 9 sets.

C Sqn went out of the line on the 23rd of August and was followed by 11th Hussars RHQ on the 25th of August. The Sqn came under command of Lt Col Newton King on the 25th.

On the 29th TAC R reported an increase of MET including tanks in the area BP 38, and all Sqn were ordered to keep a special look out. This increase applied to northern X track and FORT SHEPHERD areas.

No further increase was reported and there were no undue movements of MGI.

[At this point in the Diary a single sheet has been inserted with a note in manuscript stating :-]

Aug – Nov 41
To
ARCENTRE
AUG 66

December 1941	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
Dec 41	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/12/41	C Sqn. 0830 – Sqn moved back to Pt. 194 454395 and Nash and Peacock were withdrawn and joined the Sqn there. From 0630 – 0930 Paton (2Tp) and Ballingal (5Tp) were in observation at 45612 and 470411 reporting enemy. 0835 – Nash and Peacock on main road destroyed 1 German lorry, captured 4 Germans and killed 1 other German. 1200 – Sqn concentrated at Pt. 454395. 1430 – Ballingal 5Tp moved to observe West from Pt. 183 432388. 1615 – Ballingal 5Tp observed an enemy column consisting of 10 ACs, 20 lorries, 8 guns and 20 DRs moving SE from 423385. This column kept moving SE and when it reached Pt. 181 it was attacked by 20 Ju 87's who knocked out 8 vehicles. The column then turned round and disappeared West. 1730 – Ballingal moved to concentrate at SHQ. 1745 – SHQ moved to BIRMICHEZEN and leaguered there. A Sqn. SHQ in area Pt. 192 456401 still with Mayfield's column. 1Tp in area 443401, 5Tp in area Pt. 172, 3Tp area Pt. 182, 2Tp Pt. 194. Lt Col Douglas's column and C Sqn were withdrawn from GAMBUT during the early part of the morning. To the North of the escarpment, between the 448 and 450 Grid line, the area was still full of enemy MET. These were continuously engaged and the situation in 1Tp area seemed to be the same. 1131 – At 448405 enemy lorries appeared to be organising to move North which they eventually did. 1201 – These lorries were engaged by 5Tp and 3 lorries were knocked out and other damaged. Orders were received that the NZ Div would withdraw in the morning as their position had become untenable and that the Sqn was to render all assistance to collect them and direct them to area Pt. 172 455405 where they would take up a new position. 5Tp therefore proceeded to Pt. 136 450412, 3Tp moved to area Pt. 172 and 2Tp moved into 3Tp position. The situation at 1Tp was practically impossible to report on and as information was completely lacking he spent most of the day determining who were friends and who were foes. During the afternoon a large column of vehicles at 483405 moving North later proved to be some of the Indian Div who were not known to be in the area. As the move of the NZ Div did not materialise, Tps returned to their original positions. Shelling of the



enemy MET in the valley North of the first escarpment continued throughout the day and because of this they kept moving westwards.

1645 – SHQ witnessed six tanks with Capt Friend, 11th Hussars leading them in a **Dingo**, go North of the escarpment on the 450 Grid line and then turn West. They appeared to do considerable damage but unfortunately none returned.

That evening all Tps returned to SHQ except 5Tp who remained astride the Trigh at 454403 and Major Lawson MC contacted General Norrie and spent 2 hours with him while he was waiting to meet General Freyberge VC and the NZ Div who had sustained heavy losses and were withdrawing through our position which they did at 2100 hours.

B Sqn. Information had been received during the night that the NZ Div were being heavily attacked in the SIDI REZEGH aerodrome area and the 4th Armd Bde were ordered North to their assistance. 2Tp were ordered to area ABIAREN NBEDAT, 4Tp to HAREIFE EN NBEIDAT and 5Tp to a position about 5 miles West of MUFTAH. 0700 – 4Tp reported shells landing in the SIDI REZEGH aerodrome area, but owing to a lot of dust and smoke were then unable to see the aerodrome itself. 0735 – 2Tp reported 100 MET in area of Pt. 175 438404 and stretching SE for about 2 miles from this point.

At the same time 5Tp reported a large column stationary at 428398. This column consisted of approx 400 vehicles and was also observed by SHQ which was about 2 miles to the East of it.

0754 – 4Tp reported vehicles in the aerodrome area, but it was not known if they were friendly or hostile. The enemy column at Pt. 175 could be observed being shelled by the South African guns which were about 3 miles to the SE of the enemy. 5Tp also reported a column of 100 enemy vehicles at 425396.

The Bde then decided to advance North to the aerodrome and the Sqn was ordered to watch the right flank. 4Tp were in a position to do this, owing to the ground to his North falling away as far as Blockhouse ridge.

0800 – The Bde and artillery advanced into the valley and immediately came under heavy fire from their East and West. SHQ moved to 4Tp position and 4Tp was ordered about 1 mile NE to look into the wadi SW of Pt. 175.

0950 – 4Tp reported approx 10 M13 tanks 2 miles SW of Pt. 175 in a wadi, facing WNW.

1030 – Information was received from 4th Armd Bde who by this time were under heavy fire from all sides to the effect that the NZ Div were being evacuated South.

1039 – 5Tp reported 2 columns of MET comprising a total of 150 vehicles moving SW and joining up in area 425395.

1045 – 5Tp reported 15 – 20 MCs who were just North of this party moving East.

1046 – 4Tp reported the M13 tanks were engaging 4th Armd Bde, some of whom were moving South. Meantime 1Tp had been sent SSE to BIREL CHELB to watch the South and SW to CHARRUBETEZ ZGHEMET.

1100 – 2Tp reported the situation around Pt. 175 was unchanged and that the enemy was still being engaged by the SA artillery.

1130 – 4Tp was ordered to watch for any westward movement along the 400 Grid line; but to do this it necessitated him moving 2 to 3 miles West, thus losing his view of the right of 4th Armd Bde. 2Tp was ordered therefore to move to the position just left of 4Tp.

During this time 4th Armd Bde was having a very rough time and said they were moving East towards the Blockhouse. 4Tp was therefore ordered East again to assist in the withdrawal of the Bde southwards and 2Tp returned to his original position watching the enemy at Pt. 175.

5Tp was then ordered North to a position where he could observe any West or East movement South of the other 400 grid line escarpment.

1214 – Capt Wood (OP 4th RHA) was asked if he could bring fire to bear on Pt. 175 again, to assist in the event of withdrawal of the 4th Armd Bde.

1217 – 5Tp reported 6 lorries full of Infantry moving East at 430400 and a general easterly movement of the column to the South of this. Brigadier Gatehouse was at once warned of these, and it is believed that acting on this information, he ordered the withdrawal of his Bde.

1232 – 5Tp reported the head of enemy column moving East at 432394.

1240 – 5Tp reported 4th Armd Bde moving East then South.

By this time a battery of RHA had withdrawn from the valley and were in position on the ridge. 4Tp told them of the M13 tanks in the Pt. 175 area, which they immediately engaged with marked success. 4Tp then warned them of the presence of the Western column, and at 1250 hours 4Tp was ordered to contact this column, which he did, and put the head to be at 432397.

1300 – 5Tp reported that the column had split and that about 30 vehicles were moving SE and 1Tp was ordered to contact them.

1305 – Capt Ward again arrived at SHQ and was informed of this column to the West which he



	promptly engaged and checked their advance. 1328 – 1Tp contacted his column at 423398. 1510 – 1Tp reported his column to be at 418386 consisting of 35 vehicles, moving SE by this time 4th Armd Bde had withdrawn out of the valley and were replenishing in the MUFTAH area. 1557 – 1Tp reported his column still moving SE at 430378 and at this point handed the column over to a patrol of C Sqn. Just prior to this he reported the German column being heavily bombed by Stukas, setting fire to 3 of their lorries. At last light, 2Tp and 4Tp reported 2 or 3 enemy tanks in the HAREIFET EN NBEIDAT area. These were engaged by 4th Armd Bde. The Sqn leaguered in with the Bde 3 miles South of MUFTAH.
2/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 1430 – visibility bad due to rain. During the afternoon things were fairly quiet except for a few skirmishes with enemy ACs. 1750 – SHQ moved 3 miles South and Nash 3Tp and Peacock 4Tp joined SHQ. Paton 2Tp remained in observation all night 1 mile South of Pt. 187 450401. 1800 – nothing further to report. A Sqn. Sqn observing on same line. 4Tp captured 1 Italian, a deserter from GAMBUT. Also 3 men from the RB who were picked up and had been missing from the night that Douglas Column had spent at GAMBUT. B Sqn. Information was received that the remnants of a German Panzer Div were in the SIDI AZEIZ area. 4th Armd Bde with the Sqn moved out at first light to BIR BERRANES with the object of being in a position to engage this enemy column. RHQ. In reserve.
3/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0615 – Lamb 1Tp moved to 437399 and Nash 3Tp to Pt. 192 456401 and Ballingal 5Tp moved to relieve Paton 2Tp at Pt. 187 who came into SHQ. 0645 – SHQ moved 3 miles North to Pt. 194. During the day skirmishes were carried out between our patrols and enemy ACs. By 1500 hours the enemy ACs appeared to be on the defensive and we appeared to have the initiative. All patrols, especially Ballingal in the centre, were heavily shelled during the day. 1700 – Peacock 4Tp moved to relieve 3Tp who came into SHQ. 1745 – SHQ moved 3 miles South for leaguer and all patrols except 1Tp and 4Tp rejoined SHQ. Lamb and Peacock remained out in observation for the night. A Sqn. Sqn in observation on same line. 1Tp moving to position at Pt. 192 saw a column at 0715 hours. 50 MET moving East at 461401 and at 0730 hours this column picked up by 2Tp at 470400 and consisted of 50 vehicles headed by 5 tanks towing guns and had been engaged by Mayfield's artillery. This column was shadowed by 3Tp and reached the head at 475395 at 0820 hours. By 0857 hours the head was at 484392 and definitely contained 111 vehicles and about 15 tanks. At 0900 hours 1Tp captured a German staff car containing 1 officer and 3 ORs at 458406. The officer was carrying important documents and new codes. At 0940 hours 3Tp reported column at 492390 travelling East at high speed and at 1045 hours it had reached 495389, 3Tp remained in area 491389. On his way there he intercepted 2 trucks and captured 4 Germans. At 1045 hours 1Tp reported a column of 25 MET containing some ACs moving East in area 456406 and these then moved NE and halted at 459412, later disappearing over the escarpment to the North. At 1615 hours 2Tp discovered 20,000 gallons of petrol (aviation) on the GASREL AIRD aerodrome and had destroyed 1,500 gallons before nightfall. B Sqn. No change in the situation. 1Tp and 4Tp giving local protection to NW and SW. RHQ. In reserve.
4/12/41	C Sqn.



	No movement seen during the night but Lamb 1Tp heard movement to his West. A lot of flares were dropped during the night in area TRIGH CAPUZZO. 0615 – our line was extended West and Paton 2Tp moved to area 440400 to observe. Ballingal 4Tp moved to 442398 and relieved 1Tp who came into SHQ. Peacock 4Tp remained at Pt. 187. SHQ moved to BIR SAUSENNA 445395. Quite a lot of enemy movement during the day and centre patrol (Ballingal) was heavily engaged by 8 large lorries and 2 A/Tk guns. Tpr Lenton, the driver of the Tp Ldr's car, was wounded by an A/Tk bullet entering the car, otherwise no damage. Paton was shelled by field guns and tanks from area SIDI REZEGH aerodrome and forced to withdraw several times. Peacock 4Tp at Pt. 187 had a fairly quiet day except for one engagement with two 6pdr mounted on trucks. These guns fired very accurately and the Tp was lucky to escape casualties. When 7.02 Besa was fired at the trucks they retired quickly as they had no protection. 1745 – Paton 2Tp and Peacock 4Tp withdrew to SHQ which withdrew 3 miles South of BIR SAUSENNA to leaguer. 4Tp remained out in observation for the night. B Sqn. 0445 – the Bde moved West to 417385 with the object of covering the right of the Indian Div who were attacking GUBI from the West at dawn. The Sqn moved behind the Bde until first light when it carried out the duties of advance guard with 2Tp on the right, 3Tp in the centre and 5Tp on the left. 0710 – 2Tp reported 20 MET at 416390 and 5Tp reported 20 MET moving North at 416385. 0729 – 3Tp reported 3 ACs and 10 lorries moving North at 413385. At this time 1Tp was sent to a position 4 miles East of NAG FET EL GUETINAT. 0738 – 3Tp reported 7 tanks moving NE at 414385. At this time information was received that 30 tanks and 300 MET were moving SW, 10 miles to our NE, and 1Tp was sent to investigate. Meanwhile the 7 tanks reported by 3Tp passed the forward screen of 4th Armd Bde forward Regt and arrived with them 1000 yards off Bde HQ where one was knocked out and the remainder retiring. 1Tp reported considerable shelling in the area he had been sent to, but could not locate any enemy. 4th Armd Bde had engaged the 20 lorries in area 416390 and they appeared to surrender but when a party went in to collect the prisoners it was heavily fired on by A/Tk guns and so the prisoners were mopped up by the tanks. 5Tp was reporting various movement of vehicles in the GUBI area but it was impossible to ascertain if they were the Indian Div or the enemy. 3Tp pushing West of the GUBI EL ADEM track reported some vehicles and Marquees in area 409381 which turned out to be an Italian hospital. 1515 – the Bde was ordered to move North to the left of Currie Column which was operating in area 425405, 1Tp acting as right flank guard.
5/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0615 – Nash 3Tp moved to BIR BEUID and contacted a patrol of A Sqn. He then moved North to Pt. 183 and observed from there. Lamb 1Tp moved to Pt. 187 but was replaced by Peacock 4Tp as Lamb's wireless went dis. Paton 2Tp moved to 442398 to observe. SHQ moved to Pt. 194.1000 – nothing to report except Infantry digging at 441401. 1100 – 3Tp moved to Pt. 172 and at 1200 hours patrolled 4 miles West of GAMBUT from where he could see 9 miles West but no movement seen except for a party of 23 MET moving North at 449417. This patrol captured 11 Germans and 1 lorry and returned to Pt. 172 at 1630 hours. Meanwhile 2Tp and 4Tp investigated Pt. 175 and WADI SCIOUMAR and reported 100 Infantry, 2 Field Guns and 80 MET in area 440403 and for about 1 mile around it. 1700 – 3Tp reported he could see 6 tanks and about 120 MET moving West along the 406 grid line at about 460408. Later another column moved West along TRIGH CAPUZZO consisting of 20 tanks and MET. Nash was forced to withdraw to Pt. 192 and at last light he could still see the column of 20 tanks moving West at 455404. 1730 – 1Tp moved to relieve Nash at Pt. 192 and Nash came into SHQ which moved 2 miles South at 1800 hours. B Sqn. At first light 1Tp and 4Tp were ordered to patrol to the East and NE. It was then found that the Sqn had not been issued with the latest orders and that the Bde was returning to BIR BERRANEB. On arrival there 4Tp patrolled 4 miles to the SE and 1Tp 4 miles to the NE. The night was spent with Bde at BIR BERRANEB. In the evening information was received that the German Armd Div was moving West from the SIDI AZEIZ area and at 2100 hours considerable movement was heard to our West and the Sqn 'stood to'.



	for 15 minutes. RHQ. Midday the Support Grp and RHQ moved to BIR REGAN ESSCIRGIE. Cpl Cordery's AC was found in a mud flat and recovered intact except for a tank shell hole.
6/12/41	C Sqn. 0400 – Sqn less 1Tp and 2Tp who were out in observation moved to CHARRABET EZ ZGHEMAT 435388. 0615 – 4Tp Ballingal moved to Pt. 188 and observed an enemy line West of him on EL ADEM BIE EL GOBI track. He remained there all day during which he destroyed one light car and killed 1 Italian. He came into SHQ at 1900 hours. 3Tp Nash moved to 422403 and was in that area most of the day. He was heavily shelled on about six occasions and succeeded in capturing 50 Italian prisoners, 1 gun and 4 lorries. He came into SHQ at 2000 hours. 0800 – 1Tp Lamb came into SHQ from Pt. 192, refuelled and replenished and moved to relieve 2Tp Paton who had moved at first light to 437399 and had pushed North and was observing 150 MET moving West under the escarpment. 1100 – Lamb changed over with Paton who came into SHQ. 1110 – Lamb joined up with A Sqn patrol and together they rounded up 100 prisoners in SIDI REZEGH area. Lamb then pushed West to 424405 and then North and slightly NE. 1600 – Lamb joined up with a Bty of 1st RHA from Tobruk and communication was established between Lt Colonel Williams and Brigadier Campbell. Lamb remained with this Regt for communication purposes. 1730 – Peacock moved out to BIR HAID area and remained at 425394 for the night. 1915 – Ballingal returned to SHQ. 2000 – nothing further to report. During the day Sqn captured 56 prisoners (some German), 5 lorries, 1 German field gun and destroyed by fire 1 Italian light car. B Sqn. Owing to wireless trouble the Sqn was not informed of the overnight change of plan of the 4th Armd Bde, and, instead of patrolling to the East and NE as had been arranged the previous night, it was not until 0630 hours when the Bde began to move, that the Sqn learnt that the Bde was moving West towards BIR EL GUBI. 3Tp was ordered as right flank guard, 2Tp as advance guard and 5Tp as left flank guard to the force, but the Bde had advanced approx 5 miles before these 3 Tps got to the head of the Bde. 0715 – 2Tp reported 50 vehicles at 420384 and there were 5 M13 tanks in this column. A few minutes later he stated there were 20 to 20 tanks. 2Tp was ordered to observe this column from the SE and 3Tp from the NE, whilst 4th Armd Bde engaged with tanks and artillery. 4Tp was ordered to proceed 4 miles to the NE of SHQ which was then at Bde HQ at Pt. 181 426377 to watch the North and East. 2Tp was engaged by artillery and forced back a little. 0837 – the column showed signs of retiring. 0852 – 5Tp reported he was at BIR EL GUBI. the enemy column was by this time moving NW and 3Tp was held up by 3 ACs. 2Tp had also got some way behind and touch was temporarily lost. 1335 – 2Tp reported 20 lorries halted at 412387. 3Tp was ordered to move West and confirmed this report. 1343 – 2Tp reported considerable number of lorries with Infantry digging 413392, and 3 or 4 guns in this area. 1425 – 2Tp reported more vehicles and men digging at 413386. All these vehicles had moved down from the North and it appeared as though the enemy was establishing a defensive line on the EL ADEM – GUBI track. 5Tp was ordered to proceed West on the X tracks 414378 but was fired on by the tanks and forced back. 1519 – He reported 15 tanks halted at 413370. During the day 5Tp reported a minor action in the GUBI area, between 4th Armd Bde and enemy vehicles. The Sqn withdrew 3 miles East for the night. RHQ. Still in same place. At 1030 hours 4 Me 109's ground strafed this area. No casualties on RHQ but the fitters and petrol lorries were burnt out. Also Major Snail's Ford which was returning to camp at the beginning of the attack on Support Grp AFV base and set on fire, but put out without much damage.



7/12/41	C Sqn. 0600 – no movement seen during the night. 0615 – Peacock 4Tp moved West to Pt. 183 to observe the enemy lines, he estimated 400 MET and men stretching from 412398 to 412386. There was only local movement in this line. 1800 – nothing further to report. B Sqn. At first light 2Tp swept to the West to Pt. 184, 4Tp was directed on GUBL and 1Tp on Pt. 169. At 0717 hours 4Tp reported 2 men standing by a derelict Cruiser tank in area 417375 and 4 minutes later he reported 200 MET to the SW of these men. At 0745 hours 4Tp reported 50 MET moving South at 414380. At 0748 hours 2Tp reported 150 MET at 416382. By this time 4Tp was being heavily engaged and moved NE and then NW, 2Tp being about 3 miles to his North. The 4th Armd Bde then formed up to attack but immediately came under heavy fire, Bde HQ who were sitting on a ranging point, also getting their share. It was therefore decided to move the HQ ½ mile. The enemy situation at this stage was that they were holding the line GUBL – EL ADEM track from 413397 to a point about 1 mile South of GUBL. There were about 800 – 1000 vehicles on this line and considerable numbers of Infantry dug-in. During the day 4th Armd Bde kept up a ceaseless fire, one Bty firing 1700 rounds. On the right of the Bde Col Currie's column was also engaging the enemy. In the afternoon 1Tp managed to get across the wadi to Pt. 179 and got a good view of about 400 vehicles stationary 3 miles SW of GUBL, but as soon as he was detected he was heavily shelled and forced back. During the afternoon 4Tp reported 46 tanks in area Pt. 182 and later these were heavily shelled. The Sqn withdrew 3 miles SE for the night. The 2i/c had been having a lot of trouble with desert sores on his face and boils on his arms. It was decided that he should return to Cairo. Lt Horsford therefore took over the duties of 2i/c and L/Sgt White took over 4Tp. RHQ. In the afternoon RHQ moved SW to BIR BELCOMPOSS South of EL GUBL the enemy having retired from there. Two burnt out German tanks were passed and several planes of both sides.
8/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0600 – Paton 2Tp moved to 415398 to observe enemy lines in HAQFETEN NEZH area. Nash moved to Pt. 188 and kept observation on 30 enemy MET and 35 tanks at 400400. Ballingal 5Tp moved to 406391 and observed enemy in BIR GEMADEZ area. These patrols remained out all day and were withdrawn at last light. Lamb 1Tp moved out at 1730 hours and remained out in observation for the night at 416395. SHQ leaguered at HAQFETHAIAD. B Sqn. At first light the Sqn was ordered to get in touch with the enemy who were thought possibly to have retired during the night. 4Tp Sgt White was ordered to proceed to Pt. 184 and 5Tp to BIR EL GOBI and 1Tp to Pt. 179. A considerable number of Indian Div were making it very difficult for the forward Troops. At 0757 hours 4Tp reported 50 MET at 414388 and 5Tp reported 40 MET at 414378 but 4Tp's party turned out to be friendly. 5Tp in the meantime was held up as a shell landed near him, it was assumed that the party to his front were hostile. At 0811 hours 1Tp reported 7 tanks stationary at 402379. In the meantime the Bde were pushing forward South of GOBI and was then directed on HAQFETEL GENADER. As a result of 1Tp information a Sqn of tanks were sent to investigate the 7 tanks and they later turned out to be derelict M13 tanks. At 0900 hours 1Tp on the left and 4Tp on the right were still pushing on, but 5Tp was held up owing to vehicles to his front. At 0956 hours 1Tp reported 4 ACs and 30 lorries at 397385. In the meantime 5Tp was pushing slowly NW up to the track running NW from GOBI. At 0958 hours 4Tp reported an enemy position at 400387 and 5Tp confirmed this a few minutes later. 4Tp estimated 50 to 60 MET in this concentration. At 1200 hours 1Tp reported some MET to his SW and 2Tp was ordered to investigate but found they were part of the Indian Div. The situation in the morning was most confused owing to the complete lack of liaison between the



	Indian Div and ourselves who subsequently engaged the enemy column at 397385. Part of 4th Armd Bde also engaged this party but met some enemy tanks and were forced back. The Sqn Ldr then went forward to 5Tp at 410385 where there was a large collection of abandoned diesel lorries carrying petrol and oil, 8 of these lorries and 5000 gallons of petrol and diesel were destroyed. At 1400 hours 5Tp was ordered to move MW to get better observation of the German position which was later shelled and engaged by 4th Armd Bde. The Sqn leaguered about 5 miles West of GOBI. RHQ. Twenty miles North of BIR BUAR without too many incidents, the enemy having retreated on the same line. Two Me 109's flew low over the camp at the breakfast halt but only fired a few bursts. Later the column halted to watch a dogfight between Me 109's and Tomahawks—one of each crashed.
9/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0615 – Peacock 4Tp moved West to Pt. 185 and Ballingal 5Tp to Pt. 188 and Lamb 2Tp pushed forward a mile. 0700 – 4Tp reported that enemy at 400400 had disappeared and then pushed forward to Pt. 170 402404 where he captured 4 lorries and 2 Ju 87's on the ground. Ballingal pushed West and contacted 4th Armd Bde who were moving North. 0800 – SHQ and Col Wilson's column moved West to Pt. 169. 1400 – 3Tp Nash moved to Pt. 167 while SHQ moved forward to 397409. Nothing further to report during the afternoon. B Sqn. The 4th Armd Bde was ordered to proceed to track junc 380413 and the Sqn was ordered out in front with 4Tp on the right, 5Tp centre and 2Tp on the left. At 0715 hours it was reported that there were some lorries still in the GENADAD area. The situation was again obscure owing to the Indian Div having moved into the area during the night and complete lack of liaison. At 0905 hours 4Tp reported 5 lorries and 1 gun at 402404. At 0955 hours 2Tp reported 50 to 60 vehicles at 385395. At 1045 hours 2Tp reported 120 MET in the area 374404 in the meantime 3Tp was reporting considerable numbers of enemy vehicles at 398404 but this was found to be incorrect as they were much further North. At 1103 hours 5Tp reported an enemy line stretching from BIR EL HARMAT to BIR BELLEFAA. 3Tp still appeared to be confused with his area in the North and the Sqn Ldr went up to investigate in the area Pt. 169 where he met Major Payne Gallway. As far as could be made out the enemy on this flank extended their line from BIR BELLEFAA NE to 390415. The guns of 4th Armd Bde shelled various points of this line during the day and the Indian Div also engaged them on BIR HARMAT area, 2Tp remaining in observation. 5Tp in the area NADURET EL GHESCUASC. Information was then received that 4th Armd Bde were about to launch an attack on the left of the enemy position and Major Payne Gallway and the Sqn Ldr went forward to a point 4 miles NE of NADURET EL GHESCUASC to see the outcome. A tank attack was launched but they came under very heavy fire and withdrew East. Bde HQ was seen to be advancing NNE but on being informed as to the extent of the enemy line they changed to NE and halted at BIR LEFA. From this position the enemy line was again shelled. At 1606 hours 5Tp reported 20 tanks moving East two miles West of BIR BELLEFAA and these disappeared from view 1 mile West of this BIR. Part of 4th Armd Bde therefore went West to engage and at last light engaged the enemy tanks, the battle lasting until dark. All Tps were then recalled to SHQ who leaguered 2 miles NE of BIR LEFA. RHQ. Support Grp moved at first light to BIR HARMAT, RHQ very nearly being left behind. The column stayed there for most of the day and then moved North to Pt. 166 and stayed the night in a wadi on top of the escarpment. Several batches of Stukas were seen during the day but no attack was made on RHQ.
10/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night.



	0630 – Sqn moved to 381413 with 2Tp Paton and 1Tp Lamb out in advance with OP of Wilson Column. 0800 – 1Tp captured and destroyed 11 lorries and captured 50 prisoners. Unfortunately he was engaged by A/Tk fire and had to withdraw and leave the prisoners who were picked up later. 1200 – 2Tp pushed on and reached Pt. 209 374431 and reported 200 Infantry and 6 guns at 374434. He was joined by 4Tp Peacock who had moved to 375425 and together they observed this column. 1230 – 1Tp who had been moving with left OP up to AVET ET TAMER reported 300 MET in area 358432. At 1300 hours he rejoined SHQ at 374430. 1245 – 4Tp reported a further 300 Infantry at 374433 and he captured 50 and destroyed 8 A/Tk guns. The party were heavily shelled by Wilson Column and the enemy shelled Peacock in return. 1500 – Peacock remained in observation of this enemy Infantry and 2Tp Paton moved NE to 378435 from where he observed North. 1600 – Sqn ordered to concentrate and join RHQ at 377415. 1730 – Sqn concentrated at Pt. 166 and leaguered for the night. B Sqn. The Sqn was ordered out at first light to regain touch with the enemy, 5Tp going to Pt. 176 and 1Tp to NADURET EL CHESCEUASC and again there was considerable confusion as the Indian Div had moved up during the night. At 0716 hours 3Tp reported 20 vehicles at 387416 and 1Tp also reported this party. 3Tp soon identified them as part of the Indian Div. The Sqn Ldr went forward in order to contact an officer from them in order to become acquainted with the situation. A Bde of the Infantry Div was evacuated at a point West of 394416. The Colonel of this Regt stated that he was advancing due North and that to his knowledge there were no further elements of the Indian Div to his West. 3Tp therefore pushed on as fast as possible to area BIR EL RIGEL and 1Tp to BIR EL TAMAR. 3Tp reported a column of 50 MET at ELUET TAMAR these were soon engaged by artillery and it only required 1 shell to dislodge them and they moved off out of sight to the West. 4th Armd Bde was then ordered to take up a battle position in the area X tracks 380413 and SHQ therefore proceeded there leaving 3Tp and 1Tp to cover the West and NW. at 1600 hours orders were received from 4th Armd Bde that the Sqn was to leave them and come under orders of the Regt and at 1700 hours patrols were withdrawn and the Sqn rejoined RHQ at Pt. 166 and spent the night with them and C Sqn. RHQ. At 1030 hours the inward and rear flanks in company with the Brigadier went forward for 25 miles along the Trigh. 40 MET were encountered and engaged by B Sqn who had returned to the Regt. The front and rear flanks made a desperate effort to engage these but were heavily engaged themselves by A/Tk guns. The remainder of RHQ moved with the ACV 2 miles West along the Trigh and were shelled intermittently all day by 35 M13 tanks some 3 miles to their South. The Colonel returned at 1800 hours and the night passed without incident.
11/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0630 – 1Tp Lamb moved to 360425 and kept observation on a column of approx 200 MET, guns and tanks in area 357428. 5Tp Ballingal moved to 365428 and kept observation on a column in area 360431 consisting of 300 MET and guns. 1000 – Lamb and his Tp had a battle with three M13 tanks at extreme range. No damage. 1100 – SHQ concentrated and moved to U8768 where contact with Hugo Column was made at 1630 hours. Patrols were pushed out North and West and contact with enemy gained. Sqn and Hugo Column came under heavy shellfire and suffered one attack by 3 ME 110's. no damage or casualties to the Sqn. 1800 hours 1Tp remained in observation on Trigh ENVER BEY and 4Tp Peacock remained at U8568. Leaguered with Hugo at U8963. B Sqn. Orders had been received that our advance was to continue West and the Regt was ordered to move on a two Sqn front with C Sqn right and B Sqn left. At first light the Sqn moved off. At 0720 hours after proceeding 8 miles 2Tp was informed by some RB's that the enemy were holding a ridge in area 360420 and that he could see 6 lorries a mile in front of this position. 5Tp immediately confirmed the presence of the 6 lorries and drove up to them. The enemy which seemed to be taken



	completely by surprise, surrendered without a shot being exchanged. At this moment the enemy column of approx 40 vehicles was seen 1 ½ miles away on a ridge to the West and they opened fire with artillery. 5Tp quickly got the prisoners on to their lorries and made them drive East to rear SHQ. 2Tp remained in observation of these vehicles on the ridge with SHQ about 2 miles to his South. In the meantime 4Tp after going 7 miles along the Trigh Capuzzo captured an Italian staff car with 1 officer and 1 OR. He was ordered to take the staff car with one of his crew driving along with him and put the prisoners on his AC with the object of handing them over to A Sqn who were believed to be about 2 miles to his West. However, on proceeding 2 miles he encountered 2 enemy ACs at close range who opened fire; putting the staff car out of action and during the ensuing melee the prisoners escaped. At 0845 hours 4Tp reported 30 MET at 362413 and in the meantime the enemy on the ridge at 360420 were intermittently shelling, SHQ was accurately ranged on 2 or 3 occasions. At 0930 hours 2Tp reported 8 enemy tanks moving East from the column. About this time Col Currie's Column arrived on the scene and engaged the enemy. At 0920 hours a Tac R report was received that there were 2000 MET in area 360406 and 3Tp was ordered to investigate. In the meantime 5Tp reported an enemy column of 30 MET moving West at 355415 and at the same time 4Tp reported his column moving NW and it was presumed this was the same column. Col Currie's Column was ordered to move West and get round the enemy and the Sqn came under his orders forthwith. This column proceeded to CHEBIR and then turned NW to GABREL HABIDI with 5Tp acting advance guard with 1Tp on his right. 3Tp had seen no enemy reported by Tac R and he, with 2Tp, rejoined SHQ. From HABIDI the column went NNW to Pt. 204 where it halted for 20 minutes. 4Tp on the left had been reporting various columns on his left but they moved off West and he was ordered to leave them. At 1400 hours 1Tp reported Infantry on a ridge and several lorries to our immediate right; these were not engaged as Col Currie had been ordered to push on North. 5Tp was sent 2 miles North of Pt. 204 and reported 40 lorries moving West across his front. These he engaged and destroyed 8 of them and brought in 2 prisoners, others he handed over to some RB lorries in the vicinity. Currie Column then went on North with the object of cutting the main road West of GAZALA and eventually the column arrived in the area U8390. It was then getting late and as not much traffic was seen on the road it was decided to discontinue the advance. About 8 aeroplanes were observed on the aerodrome and 100 MET in the TMIMI area. The column then rallied and after dark withdrew 10 miles to Pt. 204 where it leaguered for the night. During the night the sounds of several enemy vehicles were heard moving in very close proximity and were fired on by the outposts. Many Verrey lights were seen during the night and it was thought that we were leaguering very close to the enemy. RHQ. RHQ moved 1 ½ miles South and at 0500 hours, after a brief encounter with 3 Me 110's, moved NNW to U9065. On the way a Ju 88 on recce was severely dealt with by the column and was later seen to crash. Intermittent shelling to our West continued throughout the day but luckily the range was about 1000 yards short.
12/12/41	C Sqn. 0600 – movement heard during the previous hour by Lamb to his left. 0630 – 2Tp Paton moved to relieve Lamb who came into SHQ. 0700 – 3Tp Nash and 5Tp Ballingal moved out North to attack an enemy leaguer reported 2 miles North of SHQ. Nash captured 2 Italian officers and 4 ORs, 1 field gun and a lorry. Ballingal captured 1 gun and 2 towers and 2 lorries but men got away. 1000 – SHQ and Hugo were still in leaguer area, 2Tp Paton was observing enemy column of MET and gun halted astride track at U8163 and 5Tp was observing enemy Infantry who were dug-in at U9575. Nash rejoined SHQ. 4Tp Peacock still in observation at U8271. The 3 Tps remained in observation all day and nothing further of importance was reported. 1745 – Tps withdrawn from observation and Sqn concentrated at U8963 and leaguered for the night with Hugo Column. B Sqn.



Currie Column was ordered to continue the advance northwards with the object of cutting the main GAZALA road. Therefore 1Tp was ordered to proceed due North and 4Tp NNW; 3Tp to the East with a view to observing the enemy positions reported by 1Tp the previous day.

3Tp had only gone ¼ mile when he reported 7 lorries moving North. It was still very dull and dark and it was thought that these must be part of our column. However 3Tp was ordered to remain where he was until the light improved. Five minutes later he reported a column of 20 vehicles stationary about 500 yards to his East.

5Tp was therefore ordered up to 3Tp who was on a ridge ¼ mile from our leaguer position. 5Tp confirmed the position of the lorries but owing to the close proximity it was still thought that these were friends.

The Sqn Ldr then went up on to the ridge with 2Tp and sent Lt Horsford to stop Col Currie commencing his northwards march.

5Tp was then ordered to take up a position 500 yards North of the enemy, 3Tp 500 yards to the South and 2Tp to remain in his position 500 yards to the West.

Lt Col Currie then arrived on the scene and said it could not possibly be part of his column. The light was still very bad and although by this time it was pretty certain they were enemy, there was just a chance it might be another friendly column, some having been known to be operating in close proximity the previous day.

Meanwhile, a section of A/Tk guns under Major O'Brien Butler (3rd RHA) was placed between 3Tp and 5Tp, 2Tp was then ordered to move up and definitely establish the identity of this column. After going 100 yards a Motor bicycle was discovered and this was considered adequate proof.

All three Tps were now in position with guns trained on the column and on the command 'fire', immediately opened up.

Two minutes before the order to fire was given 5Tp had reported a further 150 MET ½ mile to his NE. his role was firstly to engage the column of 30 MET and then to turn his attention to the 150 MET, with 2Tp coming on his right to support him.

Immediately the Tps opened fire considerable confusion was caused amongst the enemy. 5Tp moving across and engaging the MET came under very heavy A/Tk fire as did 2Tp.

Both these Tps withdrew slightly West and 3Tp was ordered further South to watch that flank. By this time the enemy had opened up on us with artillery. 3Tp proceeded a few hundred miles [yards?] further South and reported another column of 150 MET stationary ½ mile to his SE.

Meanwhile 1Tp after proceeding 2 miles North encountered a force of 3 field guns and 4 lorries. He at once engaged these and captured the guns and lorries as well as taking 3 officers and 40 ORs prisoner. He was being shelled from the East and brought the prisoners back.

3Tp then reported that his column of 150 MET were moving NW. 2Tp was immediately ordered to proceed SW to watch this column and report on this flank.

He reported this column skirting the southern edge of Currie Column and moving in a westerly direction. A few minutes later 3Tp reported a second column of 150 MET moving NW. 2Tp realised that this column, if left alone, would come straight into Currie Column, and on his own initiative immediately engaged the head. The column scattered and then retired SE down a wadi passing to the South of 3Tp who also engaged them. SHQ could then see 21 tanks stationary about 3 miles to the NNE.

4Tp had by this time gone 5 miles NW and captured several DRs. He was ordered to move 3 miles SE and observe the tanks, which he did.

5Tp was ordered to move 2 miles West and he then reported a column of 100 MET stationary about 2 miles to his West. 1Tp moved ½ mile East to watch that flank.

For the next 3 hours various of these columns were engaged by Currie Column artillery and the tanks were seen to withdraw NE there was a lot of Infantry on the ground ½ mile to the East and NE of 1Tp who went forward with the object of mopping them up; but was driven off by A/Tk fire.

An Italian officer was then seen leaving this column on a MC and he drove into SHQ and gave himself up.

At about 1015 hours Col Currie ordered the advance to the road to be continued and the Sqn moved on a three Tp front, 5Tp on the left, 4Tp in the centre and 1Tp on the right.

4Tp soon reported a column of 100 MET in area U9284. This was soon confirmed by 1Tp and 4Tp and 5Tp pushed on North to the escarpment overlooking the main road and to TMIMI aerodrome. They reported very little movement on the road.

In the meantime Currie Column engaged the column at U9284. 2Tp was ordered 3 miles West to watch that flank and encountered 3 enemy ACs which engaged him.

At 1300 hours information was received that the enemy were holding a line running East and West about 5 miles to our South. The enemy being reported being engaged by our columns from the South



	and our orders were to proceed South and fight our way through the enemy from the North. The column therefore moved South, with the Sqn acting as the advance guard, 5Tp on the right, 4Tp centre and 1Tp on the left. After proceeding about 5 miles, 5Tp came under heavy and accurate artillery fire but could not locate the enemy guns. At the same time 4Tp encountered a Tp of C Sqn and it was then realised that there must have been a gap in the enemy line. Column was then ordered to rejoin Support Grp HQ at U9262. The Sqn rejoined RHQ in the same position and leaguered for the night. The bag for the Sqn for this day was 15 lorries, 8 field guns, 2 A/Tk guns, 5 officers & 80 ORs prisoners. RHQ. Shelling continued as on the 11th and during the day the area was bombed by Ju 87's and Ju 88's consistently, no damage.
13/12/41	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0630 – 2Tp Paton moved to U8463 to observe enemy to the West of him and 1Tp Lamb moved to a position at U17956 to observe. 5Tp Ballingal moved to U8274 and observed enemy in SIDI BRECHISC area and reported 200 MET and 24 tanks in this area. 1100 – nothing to report except local movement. 1500 – Ballingal recalled to SHQ as Indian Div had taken over his area. 1700 – Nothing further to report. Enemy still remained on their present line and apart from 8 heavy and 24 light German tanks reported by Lamb just South of SIDI BERGHISC there was little change in this situation. 1800 – Sqn less 2Tp Paton, who remained in same location all night, leaguered for the night. B Sqn. The Sqn remained in reserve all day. During the afternoon it was bombed by about 20 Stukas but no damage except for 1 or 2 tyres resulted. RHQ. No shelling but plenty of Ju 87's in force in the area. A party of 12th Lancer officers arrived and spent the night with B Sqn. In the evening about 2100 hours the whole of Mayfield Column came through our leaguer, luckily no-one was hurt but considerable shouting occurred, followed by even greater confusion in the column as the traffic was diverted in another direction.
14/12/41	C Sqn. 0630 – 3Tp Smedley moved to U8267 and reported observation on area in SIDI BREGHISC area, while 2Tp Paton remained in the same place as the day before. 0830 – 4Tp Peacock relieved 2Tp. 1000 – no change in the situation. Enemy still in position as previous day. Both sides shelled each other. 1300 – KDG relieved the Sqn, which concentrated and at 1400 hours moved to join RHQ 3 miles West of BIR HARMAT arriving at 1730 hours. B Sqn. Sqn remained in reserve and at 1400 hours moved to 3 miles West of BIR HARMAT where the whole Regt concentrated. RHQ. At 1430 hours 11th Hussars were relieved by the Kings Dragoon Guards and the Regt retired along the Trigh Capuzzo X tracks and thence to 273406 where they spent the night.
15 – 16	Regt remained in same location and spent the time in maintenance.
17/12/41	C Sqn. 1130 – Regt moved 42 miles West and on arrival at 7th Armd Div Battle HQ at 1400 hours were told to return back to our original location. 1430 – Regt started to return and the Sqn was Stuka dive bombed just as it moved off and the following casualties resulted:- - Li P Stewart -wounded in the neck - Sgt Chambers-wounded in the face - Tpr Smith-wounded in the leg and arm, - LCpl Attwood-wounded in the arm.



	One AC (Paton on tow with LAD). LCpl Attwood was driving petrol lorry while Chambers and Smith were in an AC of 5Tp. Two bombs landed within a few feet, shrapnel penetrating the car. Lt Stewart was wounded by a piece of shrapnel from a bomb 50 yards away. All 4 casualties were evacuated to MDS at Div HQ and at 1630 hours the Sqn commenced to move back. After proceeding 30 miles Sqn halted for the night. 2000 – nothing further to report. Tpr Henriksen on petrol lorry was very lucky to escape injury other than a burnt hand. A Sqn. Sqn with the Regt moved nearly due West for 38 miles and on arrival returned to starting point. B Sqn. Sqn was informed that the Regt would be in reserve all day. However at 1045 hours orders were received to proceed 48 miles West. The Sqn acted as advance guard to the Regt and moved at 1130 hours, reaching the destination at 1525 hours. Orders were then received to move back to the place we had just vacated and just as we started C Sqn appeared to get involved in a Suka attack intended for somebody else. The Sqn proceeded 30 miles East and halted at dark. Lt Horsford shot a camel which was cut up and divided amongst the troops. RHQ. At 1130 hours owing to conditions at the front, the Regt was ordered to move forthwith to the Divisional column 42 miles West. This was carried out without a hitch. On arrival we were told that the situation had been cleared up and that we must return whence we had come, and return to 22nd Armd Bde. This we did but not before on leaving the Div area a heavy attack by 14 Ju 87's resulting in the wounding of the doctor Capt Kellock and some casualties in C Sqn. We spent the night at 356404 30 miles East of Div HQ.
18/12/41	C Sqn. 0645 – commenced move on back. 0830 – Sqn arrived in old position 3 miles West of BIR HARMAT and remained there with the remainder of the Regt. A Sqn. Sqn with Regt 372405. B Sqn. Sqn moved at 0645 hours and reached a position 4 miles West of BIR EL HARMAT where it spent the day in reserve with the remainder of the Regt. RHQ. At first light moved back to original position.
19/12/41	C Sqn. – Nothing to report. A Sqn. – Nothing to report. B Sqn. Sqn in reserve all day. 2Lt Turner joined the Sqn and was posted to 5Tp as gunner. RHQ. RHQ was ordered to leave BIR HARMAT at first light in front of Guards Bde. Late in starting owing to postponement by Brigadier. Left at 0730 hours and moved on bearing 25° for 2 hours and halted for breakfast. Halted again at 1500 hours having covered 80 miles. Connected with the Bde LO and the Echelon arrived.
20/12/41	C Sqn. 0645 – Regt moved to U0216 to co-operate with Bde. B Sqn did advance guard and A & C Sqn followed RHQ. Sqn arrived at 1530 hours, total mileage covered 85. Smedley (3Tp) never left the start point and after 25 miles Wills and Graham, his other 2 car commanders, were sent back to contact him and tow him on. A Sqn. Moved from 372405 at 0645 hours to T9616 which was reached at 1500 hours. No breakdowns en-route, distance 85 miles. B Sqn. The Regt moved at 0645 hours for a distance of 86 miles to T9716 where it arrived at 1430 hours and



	spent the afternoon on maintenance. RHQ. Continued the march until early afternoon and halted West of the bog X7889. Great difficulty in getting the Echelon in owing to the bog. Echelon finally arrived at 0500 hours the next day.
21/12/41	C Sqn. 0615 - Nothing to report. 0700 – Sqn moved with the Regt to T6008 arriving at 0900 hours. 0915 – Smedley reported that the AC towing him had struck a mine and damaged the front axle and wounded the crew. He contacted Major K Ames who fixed them up and towed the AC on with him. Major Ames was attached to the Guards Bde with whom we were working. 1000 – Regt divided into different areas. C Sqn to observe on line BIR BELHASAN – SCELEIDIMA. Sqn moved concentrated to ALAM HAGAR from where at 1430 hours 1Tp Lamb moved to BIR BELHASAN and 5Tp Ballingal moved to ABIRA EL CRENEISA. SHQ moved to S6093 and leaguered there. Both patrols reported no movement seen for the positions they were at, but reported that the escarpment appeared difficult to get down. A Sqn. Sqn went to MSUS where we found A Sqn 12th Lancers doing the job that we had been ordered to do. Col Burne and RHQ 12th Lancers arrived at 1530 hours. Orders at night for us to await arrival of Brigadier John Marriott and the Scots Guards. It appears that the Hun left Fort ZTMSUS in a hurry. Note: We were somewhat surprised to find the 12th Lancers as the plan had been for the Guards Bde to come through South of Bengazi and cut off the line of retreat with 11th Hussars doing advance guard to them. However Rodney Palmer's Sqn has been here since 0800 hours yesterday, and this afternoon appears to have been duplicated and his Sqn has gone South into B & C Sqn areas, while William Brown Clayton's Sqn is in my area. 12th Lancers RHQ are in close proximity. Two Me 109Fs paid some attention to this place at 1200 hours and machine gunned 12th Lancer ambulance. B Sqn. The Regt moved at 0700 hours to RGUBET EL AGEREMIA. From there the Sqn was directed on ANTELAT and SAUNU. On arrival in area X8383 3Tp was ordered to proceed West to ABIAR EL CHARAZ, 2Tp to SAUNU and the remainder of the Sqn with 4Tp and 5Tp as advance guard to ANTELAT. At 1500 hours a fort thought to be ANTELAT was sighted and 4Tp and 5Tp went forward to investigate. At the same time 2Tp reported seeing a fort to his West with several lorries moving. SHQ then sighted a fort to the South and 1Tp was ordered to investigate and decided that it was ANTELAT. A fire was still burning indicating that the enemy had only just vacated. 5Tp investigated a blockhouse to the West of ANTELAT and encountered 3 or 4 enemy MET which moved off West and also saw a column of enemy MET about 8 miles to his NW. 2Tp had been unable to locate SAUNU, this was all caused by the Sqn being about 8 miles further North than was reckoned. The Sqn leaguered 1 mile South of ANTELAT fort, 2Tp being about 6 miles to the East and 3Tp 10 miles to the NW. cold rainy night. RHQ. We moved 6 miles SW to X6681 where RHQ remained until Dec 24th, close to Bde HQ. The camp was attacked once by Me 109's but no damage done to 11th Hussars vehicles. On Dec 24th Major Alexander arrived with the Christmas NAAFI kit having nearly been into the enemy lines.
22/12/41	C Sqn. 0730 – Sqn moved to ECUET ABDULLA. 1Tp Lamb moved to within 5 miles of BEDA FOMM and 5Tp Ballingal moved to BIR UMME LCHANUS from where he could observe MAGRUN landing ground which was being used a lot. Lamb observed approx 150 MET 3 miles NE of BEDA FOMM. During the day 1Tp reported little change in his area except for local movement and a few vehicles moving North, one of which, a German lorry, was captured by Ballingal at 1530 hours. The driver was killed and the only other occupant captured. 1430 – 2Tp Paton was sent to X3476 from where he could see 7 tanks which Major Forbes column had engaged earlier. Forbes column consisted of four 25 pdrs and four A/Tk guns in area X3075 and later engaged enemy in BEDA FOMM area, but without much apparent success. 1Tp drove off an enemy OP which appeared West of him and in turn was attacked by 3 ACs which



he drove off. Later he was shelled and a direct hit was made on Lamb's car by a small shell hitting a wheel, damaging same and breaking his W/T battery outside the car. During the afternoon SHQ was attacked by 3 Me 109's Coombes and Tpr Scaddan sustained minor injuries.

A Sqn.

Sqn at ZTMSUS. Sgt Mullins watched X tracks T0720 for last night, nothing to report.

Col Mayfield at first light gave information that SOLUCH was supposed to hold remnants of German Arm'd Forces, (yesterday Long Range Desert patrols arrived from there and reported Germans doing their Xmas shopping, so this may be true!), also that German air force was using MAGRUN landing ground with their full strength.

5Tp Poston had left already to contact 12th Lancers in SCELEDIMA which yesterday they reported clear.

1Tp Petch was also despatched and in fact passed by 5Tp who were getting latest information from HQ 12th Lancers.

Mr Petch ran into A/Tk guns on track 3 miles East of SCELEDIMA and his car was hit through the petrol tank. He was therefore withdrawn and Mr Poston took over his patrol and remained in observation of the position which appeared to be only lightly held but in an inaccessible and difficult place.

SHQ was moving to 5Tp area. SSM Clarke was left to contact the Echelon at fort MSUS and also Sgt Mullins, and also to meet Mr Petch who had fallen back East to have his car repaired.

SHQ with 3 & 4Tp to a position 4 miles East of SCELEDIMA and waited there for Scots Guards, who shelled Infantry and A/Tk guns at approx 1330 hours to 1430 hours. A lot of time was then wasted as it appeared that the enemy retired West. 5Tp was sent further forward to observe from the South and 3Tp to approach by the track after Sqn Ldr had decided that the A/Tk position had been evacuated.

The fort appeared to be unoccupied and 3Tp held off enemy that were trying to reach the road. Guns were again in action after the OP had been placed in position and our W/T used for fire orders. One Coy Scots Guards and 3Tp and 5Tp proceeded to a position 3 miles right of the fort for the night. Enemy weak elements were West of the fort at last light. A wasted day.

B Sqn.

The Sqn was ordered to move West and cut the main BENGAZI – AGEDABIA road. 2Tp was therefore called in, but on reaching the fort, orders were received to the effect that SAUNNA was to be investigated. Therefore 2Tp was ordered to return to that place.

3Tp in the meantime had gone South to X3070 where he reported a force of 400 MET in the area X1560.

At about 0900 hours the Coldstream Guards under Colonel Moubray were seen arriving at the fort and contact was made. He sent out a column of artillery and Infantry to a position about 8 miles SW of the fort. 4Tp who was in that area acted as advance guard to that column. 1Tp was ordered to act as advance guard to another column moving West to BEDA FOMM, (Major Forbes Coldstream Guards).

At about ??? hours 3Tp reported 9 tanks and 6 lorries moving East to the Blockhouse X3573. These were engaged by the northern column and eventually retired West.

During the afternoon 4Tp confirmed the presence of the 400 MET in area X1560. By this time 1Tp had located 60 MET in the area SE of BEDA FOMM and these were engaged by the column with him during the evening.

At approx 1700 hours 4Tp reported the column of 400 MET was moving North. Shortly after this was confirmed by 1Tp who stated that the column was headed by 30 tanks and at last light they joined the 65 MET SE of BEDA FOMM.

2Tp had located SAUNNA at about 0900 hours and found it to be a small fort placed on top of a high plateau with 2 tracks leading up to it, one from the East and one from the North. He saw one or two men moving about in the fort area and saw a large wireless mast. His Tp consisted of only 2 cars and he decided to attack with one car on each track. On getting to within 80 yards of the fort his engine stopped and he was unable to start it. His other car was not in sight and the enemy opened fire from loop holes in the fort. He wirelessed this info back to SHQ and 5Tp was immediately ordered to his assistance, but as they were 20 miles away the situation did not look too good.

About 10 minutes later his other 2Tp car reached him and pushed him back about 100 yards and then towed him. It transpired later that this car had got to within 100 yards of the fort and was firing on it and waiting for the Tp Ldr's car to appear. 2Tp then retired down the hill North of the fort and 5Tp reached him at about 1100 hours. About an hour was spent trying to repair the car but 5Tp decided it was advisable to attack on his own which he did, sending 1 car up the East track and 2 cars up the North track. The cars opened fire at 200 yards and shortly after white flags appeared and the enemy



	surrendered. The garrison consisted of 1 officer and 23 ORs. Both Tps then returned to SHQ. RHQ. Nothing to report.
23/12/41	C Sqn. 0645 – 2Tp Paton moved to BEDA FOMM area and meanwhile 30 more German tanks and 60 MET moved East from X2567 and engaged Forbes Column and SHQ. 9th Glos Hussars (13 Honey tanks) who all withdrew East towards ANTELAT. 0700 – 1Tp Lamb moved West and observed 31 German tanks (including 3 Mark IV) moving East at X3578. 0715 – 5Tp Ballingal sent off to area X2197. 0730 – SHQ withdrew to join B Sqn at ANTELAT. Meanwhile the German tanks continued on East and were followed by 400 MET. Our tanks engaged them but enemy continued on East until they reached X5067 where they halted at 1100 hours. Meanwhile SHQ moved with Moubray Column and B Sqn to X5668 and remained in that area all day. 1000 – 2Tp moved NE to X4785 and observed the column at 5067 from the North. 5Tp meanwhile had abandoned a Humber AC with a broken stub axle and was ordered to contact A Sqn at SCELEDIMA which he did at 1300 hours. He filled up here and escorted A Sqn Echelon to RHQ arriving there at 1700 hours. He then collected C & B Sqn Echelon and brought them to SHQ at ANTELAT arriving there at 1930 hours. 1Tp kept observation on enemy column until they halted at X5067 and was then withdrawn as B Sqn were in observation. 1500 – 2Tp moved to SIDI GREBEL where he contacted Wilson Column and Brigadier Campbell who sent Paton on a job to recce an enemy artillery position in area 3562. Paton carried out his recce and returned to report to Brigadier Campbell at X2874. 1700 – 2Tp moved to join SHQ at ANTELAT. 1800 – SHQ leaguered at X4668 and Paton 2Tp joined SHQ there. A Sqn. Sqn 3 miles East of SCELEDIMA for the night. 3Tp and 5Tp spent the night in company of the Scots Guards (Capt Drury Lowe) below the fort. They recced West of the fort and found enemy Infantry to the North in the hills. SHQ and 1Tp moved to a position of observation overlooking the fort, 3Tp and 5Tp were sent to a position overlooking the valley. For the next hour 3Tp and 5Tp operated against the enemy and in spite of enemy ACs drove them back West. 1Tp was ordered to recce North to SIDI BRAMAN and then West along the track to SOLOCH. In doing so they captured a staff car and a lorry (3 prisoners and 2 killed). They reported no movement seen in SOLOCH. Meanwhile 5Tp was proceeding West with 4Tp to his South. A pocket of enemy was found at the Mosque S2317 and from here the two Tps operating together took 60 prisoners including 3 officers. They also picked up men they had wounded in the first engagement and found 3 A/Tk guns, 1 lorry filled with ammunition and bombs which they destroyed and one filled with MGs which they brought back. These Germans had been only 20 days in the country and had been flown from Crete and were very young. 3Tp and 2Tp were ordered to recce to MAGRUN to see if the landing ground was still being used, and to harass the road, while 1Tp, 5Tp and 4Tp were withdrawn as the 12th Lancers came into the area. SHQ had been throughout the day at SCELEDIMA fort which was filthy in the extreme, but from which place they had a wonderful view. 3Tp and 2Tp reached the main road at 1630 hours and reported it as being used to some extent with 20 MET and 2 tanks South of MAGRUN landing ground which was not being used. Mayfield and Grant Columns moved to 2604 for the night and SHQ moved there as well. Sgt Hutchinson and Sgt Mullins remained on the road (bag 70 odd Germans and kit as reported). Plan for tomorrow for Columns to operate against enemy travelling South on the road. B Sqn. 1Tp had leaguered with Forbes Column in area X3077 and went forward at first light to gain contact. At 0712 hours he reported tanks in the area 2 miles West of the column. It was thought that these might be either a Sqn of the Glos Hussars or 22nd Armd Bde who were expected in the area. 1Tp got to within shouting distance of one of them and asked him who he was. The reply came back in German but as he did not open fire he presumably did not realise 1Tp was British. There was



	considerable mist and visibility was almost nil. There was an OP with 1Tp and the column immediately opened fire on the enemy tanks which numbered 30 and were moving East. In the meantime 3Tp had been sent out to HASHASHA and 4Tp to a position about 6 miles SW of ANTELAT fort. 5Tp had been ordered to a position on the ANELAT – SAUNNA road to observe the SE. At 0730 hours orders were received to proceed to AGEDABIA and that C Sqn would relieve us. In view of the situation it was suggested that no move be made till C Sqn arrived and this was agreed to. 5Tp however was ordered to area ELUETEL MTUMIAL X4354 with a view to moving to AGEDABIA. In the meantime the enemy tanks had overrun the 4 guns in Forbes Column and were still advancing East. At 0817 hours the leading elements had reached 3580. 2Tp was sent to a view point on top of ANELAT hill and confirmed 1Tp's information and at the same time contacted a SA AC from Brigadier Reid's force who had marched North of JIALO. About this time Major Payne Gallway DSO arrived with C Sqn HQ. At 0849 hours 4Tp reported 50 MET at X2860 and 40 MET at X3464. At 1009 hours the enemy tanks had reached 5279 and 2Tp reported 400 MET moving in rear. 3Tp was ordered to retire to the fort and 4Tp move back to 5Tp. The tanks were by this time in sight of SHQ and Column HQ moved 6 miles East where our guns were brought into action again. 5Tp was ordered to recce SAUNNA but was hampered by 2 enemy ACs and the Tp of Glos Hussars went to their assistance. At 1052 hours 2Tp reported the fort being shelled and moved back SE. At 1115 hours 3Tp relieved 1Tp who was running short of petrol. At 1141 hours 2Tp reported 7 vehicles in the fort area and at approx 1400 hours the tanks and MET were seen moving South to the fort. They then appeared to move West but observation was difficult owing to the enemy posting a rear guard of tanks. The enemy was subsequently engaged by Currie Column and retired West. At 1730 hours 2Tp contacted a patrol of C Sqn in the fort area and reported it clear. The Sqn leaguered 2 miles NW of the fort. RHQ. Nothing to report.
24/12/41	C Sqn. 0630 – 4Tp Peacock moved to try and get on to the road at 0865. He reported enemy in that area and on the road. At 1300 hours he was moved up to BEDA FOMM area to observe the enemy there. 0630 – 1Tp Lamb moved to SIDI GREVIL and observed enemy in BEDA FOMM area all day. Enemy estimated as 200 in BEDA FOMM AREA. Peacock while down in SIDI SALEH area reported 200 MET with some tanks 4 miles South of SIDI SALEH. Both patrols were withdrawn at 1730 hours. SHQ leaguered 3 miles NE of ANTELAT fort. A Sqn. Plan changed during the night and columns were ordered South. Sgt Hutchinson and Sgt Mullins made sorties into surprised German positions on the main road, but whilst collecting their prisoners had to withdraw because of a column of 50 MET travelling South and containing tanks and ACs. SHQ with one Tp in front ran into enemy in area X2381 and came under A/Tk and artillery fire and were forced to withdraw. 200 MET and Infantry formed a rearguard position in that area. Mayfield Column who had passed through enemy smoke screen without seeing the enemy were informed and came under heavy artillery fire themselves. 3Tp, 5Tp and 1Tp observed and reported on this column and were harassed and continually being driven back by artillery fire and strong A/Tk batteries. 4Tp Lt Palin Evans drove off 3 ACs which looked like a threat to B1 Echelon. Advance SHQ was also moved off their position by artillery fire. Sgt Hutchinson reported no movement seen between 0900 and 1100 hours. At 1200 hours OPs Mayfield Column reached us and were sent to patrol but only shelled badly, enemy had despatched a column of 36 MET including guns to 1585 and 5Tp Mr Poston observed these and was continually harassed by them. At 1600 hours Mayfield's guns came into action against the enemy column. At 1630 hours the column of 36 moved West and then South. 3Tp and 2Tp were withdrawn then main column was slightly harassed and dispersed but it cannot be said that much action was carried out against them during the day. Guns and OPs were depressingly slow enemy used smoke to blind out OPs our smoke for ranging (the sign of bad guns). SHQ concentrated for the night which was spent at 3782. Mayfield provided listening posts. SQMS



	Smith arrived with Echelon at 2030 hours, thinking that we were tanks and fleeing from us. The work of the Echelon all through has been magnificent. Mr Petch and Mr Poston extremely brave and cool in all their work. They showed complete disregard to shell fire which is a hard thing to do. B Sqn. During the night orders were received to proceed to AGEDABIA and moved at first light with 2Tp on the right, 5Tp centre and 1Tp on the left. At 0715 hours 2 enemy ACs were encountered in front of the centre Tp at 4060. Assistance was asked for and at 0913 hours 2 Tps of tanks arrived whereupon the ACs retired. The Sqn went forward for another mile and then came under artillery fire from several guns in the area X3858. 1Tp was ordered to push on to the SW and eventually arrived at position SE of the enemy and reported 16 vehicles. In the meantime our guns were ordered into action after considerable delay forced the enemy to retire at 1500 hours. Whilst waiting for this 5Tp had engaged 2 ACs and driven them back. The Sqn then carried on SW and a force of 100 MET was observed at X1555 with 30 MET to their East. RHQ. Nothing to report.
25/12/41	C Sqn. 0630 – 3Tp Smedley and 5Tp Ballingal moved to try and get on the road at X0870 and X0760 respectively. This they achieved at 1200 hours as the enemy in BEDA FOMM had withdrawn during the night. B Sqn pushed SW towards AGEDABIA and reported no movement seen. Both Ballingal and Smedley joined together and moved South down the road capturing an Italian lorry, 1 Italian officer and 2 ORs. They contacted B Sqn patrol at SIDI FRAG at 1600 hours and were withdrawn to SHQ at 1700 hours. 1800 hours Sqn leaguered at BIRBUH FETTAH. A Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp were sent out at first light to contact enemy who had withdrawn during the night. They continued West to the main road and found no sign of them but picked up 2 Italians in a German lorry. Sqn was then ordered to work South of the main road West bound 25 Grid East. No sign of the enemy as far South as the 50 Grid. B & C Sqn reported them as being in a heavily defended position around BU MUGRA South to AGEDABIA. At 1400 hours Sqn was ordered to concentrate as too many patrols were on the ground and we moved to RHQ area at X5453, where the night was spent. A most excellent Xmas fare was brought up by Major Alexander with which the men were delighted. He had taken 6 days from Cairo, a good performance but nearly marred by his running into the enemy. Babe and I visited RHQ and drank several glasses of champagne and kummel also an excellent cigar. The news reported Hong Kong falling and the situation in Libya appears to be 150,000 Germans in Bardia, 3,500 in Halfaya being supplied by motor boat from Bardia and some cut-off Italians NE of Bengazi. Jocks Column operating in GHEMINES area. Eggs were boiled for tea with the Bedouins here, which is a change and there were plenty of sheep. B Sqn. The march to AGEDABIA was continued at first light. 2Tp reported the 130 MET of the previous night no longer there. 4Tp was directed on SRET BANDAR, 5Tp on AGEDABIA and 3Tp on the left. 3Tp broke down and was relieved by 1Tp. At 0900 hours a force of about 20 vehicles was seen at SIDI EZ ZORA. 5Tp and 4Tp were sent forward to investigate and found that these were a small column of Brigadier Reid's force. This column fired a gun shot at 5Tp before identity was established. The Sqn then continued SW and at 1040 hours 1Tp reported seeing AGEDABIA with 50 MET to the South and the same number to the North. Shortly afterwards 5Tp got into position at SIDI JNES. At 1105 hours 4Tp reached SIDI FARG on the main road and reported it clear, he then proceeded South down the road and soon encountered an enemy vehicle which moved off South. 2Tp was ordered to a position SE of AGEDABIA having previously contacted further vehicles of Brigadier Reid's force. The remainder of the day was spent in observation the AGEDABIA position which appeared to be strongly held by Infantry and artillery stretching from the sand dunes X0737 to a point about 3 miles SE



	of the town. Our artillery came into action during the afternoon. Sqn leaguered 3 miles NE of SIDI LINES and 3Tp relieved 1Tp and remained in observation. RHQ. RHQ moved SW again to below DUKELAT. Some trouble with cars.
26/12/41	C Sqn. Sqn remained concentrated in same area. 1430 – RHQ and A Sqn arrived in same area. A Sqn. Sqn at X5453, the morning spent in maintenance and general cleaning of guns. In the afternoon we moved to area X3544 where RHQ had moved during the morning. C Sqn who had also come out of the line leaguered alongside and the two Sqn's fraternised, Peter, Babe, Van and I discussed tactics and a new formation of all arms and then other things. B Sqn. At first light 4Tp proceeded to BU NOGRA area, 2Tp to SIDI LINES and 5Tp to a position West of SIDI EL HAMAR. During the day 5Tp was periodically shelled from the South of the town. He reported 200 vehicles in area X0832. 1Tp escorted Brigadier Marriott Commanding Guards Bde to the Scots Guards in area X1545. The AGEDABIA position remained unchanged and our artillery engaged at intervals during the day. The Sqn leaguered 2 miles NE of SIDI LINES with 1Tp in observation of the town from the ENE. During the afternoon 5Tp had contacted a patrol of the Royal Dragoons who stated they were advance guard to 22nd Arm'd Bde. RHQ. RHQ moved on SW to BIR BU FETTAH and stopped below a Bedouin camp 5 miles from Bde who laid a telephone line. RHQ remained in this place with one short move up to half mile until Jan 8th. During this time there were 2 extremely bad sandstorms and some rain. Enemy aircraft were often overhead but never attacked this HQ, usually bombing further back. Six tanks advanced from the South and pushed our forces back a little way.
27/12/41	C Sqn. Sqn remained in same position and area with RHQ. A Sqn. Sqn in same position. A gap appeared to stretch between B Sqn left patrol and the right patrol of Bob Hemmis Sqn (Royals), we were ordered to fill this gap. 5Tp Poston was therefore sent out to contact B Sqn left patrol at X2018 and he then proceeded South and took up a position at X2510 from where he could see the Royal right and also 45 stationary MET at X1402 with OPs out in front in ACs. The enemy positions at AGEDABIA appeared to be fairly strong and 1000 and more MET have been reported by Air Recce today, and also more to the South. The Scots Guards apparently got a bit of a dusting this morning, losing their way after a night attack and as the day broke finding themselves in close proximity to the enemy position. We heard that Roger Harvey and Johnnie Crichley (the General's son) were missing. Advance GHQ went to meet the Colonel at B Sqn HQ at SIDI LINES and Harry Petch took the Sqn to BIR EL VESCECA where SHQ joined them later, picking up Wadsworth enemy route. Babe shot a "rabbit" for the pot which sat for him and was eventually dismissed with the 5th shot with his revolver. I missed a gazelle. More NAAFI kit this evening. The men are being done extremely well – Babe and I had canned American oysters before lunch with sherry, they were excellent. I heard the reason we found SCELEDIMA occupied, after the 12th Lancers had reported it clear. Sgt Lamb (C Sqn) found a young officer of 12th Lancers sitting 15 miles to the South, very pleased with himself, saying "I am here before you and have captured the place which the enemy are supposed to be holding". This slight miscalculation necessitated Harry Petch running into an A/Tk gun at close range, also told that in Cairo half of this Sqn and myself are reported as being in the bog – which we were told caused some disconcertion. B Sqn. Observation of AGEDABIA, 3Tp on the North, 5Tp from the NE, 1Tp ENE and 2Tp from the South. The Scots Guards had attacked the northern end of the position during the night without much



	success. 3Tp contacted them about 0830 hours. 2Tp reported 1000 MET SW of the town. Only local movement amongst the enemy was seen during the day. Contact by wireless had been made with a Sqn of the Royals and it was realised that a considerable gap existed between us. A Sqn therefore despatched a Tp to fill this gap. The Sqn moved back 3 miles to a leaguer position. 2Tp and 4Tp remained out for the night. RHQ. In the same area. Nothing of importance to report.
28/ 12/ 41	C Sqn. 1200 – Sqn moved to relieve B Sqn who were working with Lt Col Mowbary Column NE of AGEDABIA. 1300 – arrived at BIR SEBICA and took over B Sqn patrols. 2Tp Paton moved to X2730, 1Tp Lamb to X2236 and 3Tp Smedley to X2043 in order to watch the North. Patrols had little to report other than local movement amongst the enemy positions, which appeared to run from BU NOORA to AGEDABIA and then SW to EL GEDID. 1800 – 1Tp and 3Tp withdrawn, 2Tp left out in same position for the night. Sqn moved 2 miles back from day position and leaguered. A Sqn. Sqn at X3220, 5Tp at X2510 and 3Tp was sent to SIDI EL HAMAR but could not reach it as elements of the enemy were already there. 4Tp Palin Evans was sent to X3801 to try and contact the Royals who were supposed to be on a line of observation to our South. Information from the South had been extremely difficult to obtain, although we knew that 22nd Armd Bde were operating there. At 0812 hours 5Tp reported vehicle movement to his NW and a few minutes later reported 10 MET approaching the position that 3Tp was supposed to take up. These 10 MET were forward left flank guard to a very strong enemy column of 500 MET which then started to move from the SW corner of AGEDABIA down the track until it reached X3005 and then turned SW. This force was observed from 0830 to 1100 hours by 3Tp, 5Tp and 4Tp who were at times harassed by the enemy left flank guard, only about 6 tanks (M13) were noted in the column but it was extremely strong in A/Tk guns of all description. Some artillery was also noted. 5Tp had followed the head of the column but owing to lack of oil his job had to be taken over by 4Tp and 1Tp came into the centre of our line in the area X2215 and captured there a staff Charabang (the equivalent of our ACV) belonging to the Major General commanding 21st Panzer Div and important papers and maps. It appears that the object of this column was to attack 22nd Armd Bde from the North as they were threatening the enemy retreat by being across their line of communication. None of this column retired to AGEDABIA and the MET there was greatly decreased. During the afternoon a column under Major Sainthill (Coldstream Guards) came to us with the object of harassing the enemy column, they were however too late and were sent to area X2425 to have an artillery shoot into AGEDABIA. This they did at extreme range and not knowing the results. There was no further movement from the enemy during the afternoon although they held the line of the track running SW from AGEDABIA to EL GHANAN with A/Tk guns. During the morning Rear SHQ had been moved East 3 miles, Advance SHQ stayed at BIR VESCECA. 4Tp returned for the night but 1Tp and 3Tp remained in the locality of their day position. Heard definitely that Roger Harvey and Jimmy Critchley are missing. Also that 22nd Armd Bde had a battle today destroying 30 enemy tanks. B Sqn. At first light 3Tp proceeded 3 miles North of 1Tp to a position NE of the town and 4Tp remained ENE of the town. A Sqn took over our South patrol and during the morning A Sqn reported considerable SE movement of approx 500 MET. slight movement South of AGEDABIA was noted by our patrols. At about midday C Sqn arrived to relieve us and the Sqn retired to RHQ into reserve in area X3343. RHQ. In same position, Nothing to report.
29/ 12/ 41	C Sqn. 0640 – 1Tp Lamb moved to same position at X2236 and 5Tp Ballingal moved to X2043, while SHQ moved to same day position at BIR SEBICA. 2Tp Paton remained in same position. Little to report during the day except local movement in AGEDABIA position. Our artillery slightly



	harassed the enemy but otherwise there was nothing further to report. 1800 – 1Tp and 5Tp rejoined SHQ. 4Tp Peacock relieved 2Tp who came into SHQ. Peacock remained out the night in observation. SHQ leaguered in the same place. A Sqn. Sqn at X3819. 3Tp at X2019, 1Tp West to 2013 and 2Tp Sgt Mullinsto X3004. Both 3Tp and 1Tp reported a decrease in the numbers of MET in AGEDABIA, there appeared to be 150 in one group, another 50 on the main road on the South of the town. 1Tp could see right across on the main road and they reported next to no traffic on it. At 1000 hours 3Tp captured 5 lorries and 30 prisoners at X1820 and a short time later, 2 DPs. (This makes 3Tp total up to 68 lorries and approx 90 prisoners since the start of the campaign). Meanwhile at 1030 hours 1Tp was forcing a very surprised lorry back into AGEDABIA and at about 1130 hours 3Tp nearly captured an OP. 2Tp's day was made extremely difficult by lack of any information from the South and by differentiating between friend and foe. At 1500 hours the 22nd Armd Bde complete moved North along the track from EL HASEIAT into area X2511. 4Tp was sent to contact the Bde on his way to relieve 3Tp and at 1600 hours I spoke to Charlie Spencer, Brigade Major, who gave the following information. Successful tank battle yesterday, 30 to 40 German tanks knocked out (did they recover them?). the remnants of 21st Panzer Div at CHORESSUFAN moving NE large German column, supposed remnants of 15th Panzer Div, at EL HASEIAT facing SE Royal watching former, 12th Lancers watching latter. I arranged to leave my two northern patrols and to withdraw my southern one as his task was superfluous. 2Tp was therefore ordered to withdraw. 5Tp had by now relieved 3Tp and at 1900 hours 5Tp reported 100 MET moving South at X1015, 1Tp a short time before this had reported 36 MET travelling South by the same route (does this mean enemy evacuating AGEDABIA?). 4Tp relieved 1Tp for the night. 5Tp at X1922 4Tp X2215. SHQ and the remainder X3819. Sainthill Column operated in the area throughout the day but there were no targets. Intend tomorrow to get in close contact with 22 Armd Bde to make information on the whole front quicker and easier. Heavy coastal rain during the afternoon and evening. We heard a rumour of the part we play in the next move. RHQ. Nothing to report.
30/12/41	C Sqn. No change in AGEDABIA area but at 0800 hours a battle developed South of BIR EL VESCECA between 41 German tanks and 22nd Armd Bde. A Sqn who were on their left were slightly involved in the battle and at 1200 hours lost touch with the tanks. 4Tp Peacock left 1 AC in his position and moved of SE as far as Z2923 from where he could see the battlefield of the morning, also 60 MET South of him. A patrol of A Sqn took over from him and he returned to his normal position. While he was away, Cpl Nash (commander of the car he left) was attacked by 2 ME 109's but no damage other than 2 punctures and a severed petrol pipe. 1700 – Nothing further to report. 4Tp remained out in observation and Ballingal was recalled. 1800 – SHQ leaguered at X2439. A Sqn. During last night 4Tp Palin Evans was disturbed by 4 or 5 vehicles travelling SE down the track from AGEDABIA and came under A/Tk fire from them. He therefore had to move his position. Forward elements of 22nd Armd Bde were at X2510 during the night. After 4Tp troubles with A/Tk guns he was attacked by a flock of sheep which caused some chaos. The remnants of 15th and 21st Panzer Divs joined up during the night and were following up the withdrawal of 22nd Armd Bde along the line of the track running NW to AGEDABIA, and a tank battle took place in the area South of BELANDAN. At 1000 hours 5Tp Poston captured an Italian staff officer and 2 NCOs of the Trieste Div who had come from AGEDABIA to recce for a position. The Sgt NCO on handing over his revolver tried to stab Cpl Andrews but only gave him a slight bruise. The Sgt was revolvered by Mr Poston but refused to die. At 1005 hours 4Tp was ordered to contact 22nd Armd Bde to obtain information as there had been none from the South, also to inform them of the location of the Guards Bde left flank. By now things were moving fast and accurate information became impossible owing to the fact that the whole of the 22nd Armd Bde were passing through our lines of observation in a northerly direction.



	By 1130 hours the enemy were on a line from AGEDABIA along the track eastwards to BIR EL VESCECA and George Kidston was in touch with 40 enemy tanks in area X3025. 22nd Arm'd Bde were ordered to withdraw and we were left to observe on the enemy line with Sainthill Column in close attendance. SHQ had moved back 7 miles North to area X3530. Advance SHQ moved to X3027. It was now possible to recce forward and clear up the situation. 3Tp at this time detached as a link with 22nd Arm'd Bde but he was ordered to return. 4Tp was sent South to BIR EL VESCECA and then West along the track. 2Tp Sgt Mullins to ELUET GERBIA and 1Tp Mr Petch to CHOREL AUD to ensure there was no movement eastwards. By 1530 hours the line South of the track was reported clear of enemy. At 1602 hours 4Tp engaged 2 lorries packed with Infantry with some success. By last light it was seen that the enemy were holding the track SE from AGEDABIA to BELENGAH and there were no enemy East or NE of that line. 12th Lancers were on a line of observation to our East from 1630 hours onwards. During the late afternoon advance SHQ was strafed by Me 109's but the ACs satisfactorily kept out needle and explosive bullets although Babe Roberts and his crew lost a good deal of their kit. At 1745 hours 30 MET moved SE from AGEDABIA to their line. 4Tp for the night at X3021 and 2Tp at X3521, the rest and SHQ at X3231.
31/12/41	C Sqn. 0640 – 2Tp Paton moved to a position of observation at BIR SEBICA and 1Tp Lamb moved to relieve 4Tp who came into SHQ. 0700 – SHQ moved half a mile South. 0900 – there appeared to be little change in the enemy front in our area except for fewer MET North of the town. The landing ground SW of AGEDABIA was used, and at one time there were 13 Sukas and 6 Me 109's on the ground. 1200 – Nothing further to report until about 1730 hours when a column of 6 tanks, 30 MET and 8 guns on tow moved NE out of AGEDABIA and made their way to area BIR SC EIGH where they halted and eventually leaguered. 1Tp kept them under observation and remained within 2 ½ miles of them for the night. A Tp of A Sqn were observing them from the East. 1800 – 2Tp came back to SHQ which leaguered in the same position as the previous night. A Sqn. Sqn worked in close contact with Sainthill Column which moved 3 miles South at first light. At first light, 4Tp from his position X2823 reported an enemy concentration along the line X2418 SE to X2912. This line had been taken up during the night by the enemy who also held the line from AGEDABIA to BELENGAH. The new position was successfully shelled by our artillery in the morning. The enemy were digging in and A/Tk gun positions were seen on the line. 2Tp was at X4010 during the day, watching for any more of the enemy East or NE. 3Tp was in close proximity to the gun positions and watching the centre. 4Tp Mr Palin Evans nearly captured a German OP during the morning and at midday was having active skirmishes with enemy Infantry in lorries with A/Tk guns. No artillery fire from the enemy of any note, and anyway they appeared to be unable to find our position and shelled Bedouin tents. At 1615 hours C Sqn reported a column headed by 5 M13 tanks moving East from X2726. This was a definite threat to our gun position and Sainthill decided to move NE to another position. The going was appalling and the column which now consisted of approx 40 vehicles was moving fast NE. 4Tp was withdrawn to prevent him being cut off, and from 1630 onwards 1Tp Mr Petch was reporting on this column. Sainthill guns were never able to get into position before dark and the Sqn kept enemy column under observation. Enemy reached high ground at X3027 and halted. 2Tp was withdrawn and 3Tp observed from the East. At last light the column was still at X3027 and had apparently secured this position to prevent us overlooking him and being able to shell and harass him. 3Tp and 1Tp remained in observation during the night and SHQ was with Sainthill at X3433. 1Tp reported vehicle movements from his SW during the night and there was a good deal of small arms fire. We hear that Jock Column had returned to the area which is good news. The enemy are definitely pushing all their strength into the AGEDABIA area and making dug-in Infantry positions. Three sorties of our bombers, in strength, were seen during the day, the first attack definitely on target. The enemy Ju 87's are using the drome AGEDABIA, very close up to their front line.



Missing :- 1942, February to August missing.	
January 1942	CO: Lt Col WI Leetham
Jan 42	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/1/42	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night, except for local movement in the enemy column and AA fire at 0100 hours which was thought to be the Axis celebrating the New Year. 0640 – 2Tp Paton moved to take up position at BIR SEBICA. 0700 – 1Tp Lamb reported enemy column in BIR SECICH area unchanged but later they commenced digging operations. 0715 – 2Tp reported 4 enemy MET moving NE up the AGEDABIA – ANTELAT track. These MET came on NE and at 0730 hours were moving up a ridge which was bringing them behind 1Tp. Lamb saw them and engaged, destroying 1 MET with 3 officers and 6 ORs, all of whom were captured. The remaining 3 MET turned back and were chased by Lamb's 2 ACs. Paton moved towards them from the West, and, Forward and Rear Link (who were watching the operation) closed in from the North. After a slight battle, the lorries were rounded up and totalled 12 ORs and 3 lorries, which were handed over to the RA. There were several important documents – namely Order of Battle and Plan of AGEDABIA – captured with the officer by Lamb. 0830 – 5Tp Ballingal had moved to 2Tp position at BIR SEBICA and Paton moved to a position of observation at X3830 to get observation on AGEDABIA area, which Lamb could not get as he was observing enemy column. 1300 – 4Tp Peacock relieved 1Tp who came into SHQ. During the afternoon visibility became bad owing to dust storms, but considerable numbers of MET were observed South and SE of AGEDABIA, totalling 250. Part of these were seen to move East during the late afternoon. 1800 – 2Tp and 5Tp came back to SHQ which leaguered in the same position. 4Tp remained in observation 1 mile North of day position. A Sqn. SHQ with Sainthill Column moved at first light to X3431 to find 6 M13's on the northern slopes of X3027 position. These were shelled back as were Infantry who attempted to make recce sorties during the morning. 1Tp was observing them from a position 1 mile South of SHQ and 3Tp was attempting to move round the SE flank of the X3027 position to see what the enemy had in behind. He reported 40 MET including 13 M13's at the SE corner of the X3027 position and remained in position of observation of them during the morning. Brigadier Campbell DSO came up during the morning and put us in the picture. Four Columns working South to our East:- Colonel J Boulton, Colonel Purdon, Colonel Currie, Colonel Wilson and 12th Lancers feeling South on their front. Reid Column was coming in from the East further South. On our front the position remained the same throughout the day. 4Tp Mr Palin Evans relieved 3Tp in the late afternoon and 2Tp Sgt Mullins relieved 1Tp Mr Petch. 2Tp considered that enemy OPs were dressing themselves as Bedouins, he engaged and stated that they retired like good Aryans and not like nomads of the desert. An unfortunate accident occurred while 3Tp were returning to SHQ. They were engaged by a 2pdr gun belonging to Northumberland Hussars at 400 yards range. One shell entered the car below the small Besa and hit LCpl Luke in the shoulder and smashing the car. Sgt Hutchinson also received minor wounds. Thank god neither of them was reported as being bad. LCpl Luke apparently wanted to talk to me on his set to tell me that he could take it. This I knew already. Luke was evacuated immediately and Hutchinson brought his Tp to SHQ which I had gone out to meet, but returned when I heard that he was coming back. His car was a bad mess inside and surprising that they were not



	both killed. There is too much "quickness of the trigger" by the inexperienced and anyway by now they should know the Humber ACs at this range. 4Tp and 2Tp remained in their position for the night and SHQ moved back 4 miles to X3434 with Sainthill Column. 5Tp Mr Poston was away all day collecting new cars, his own becoming impossible through using excessive oil. Sgt Hutchinson evacuated and Sgt Bailey takes over what is now a 2 car Tp. Hutchinson the best Troop Sgt Commander that I have ever seen. B Sqn. In reserve all day. RHQ. Nothing to report.
2/1/42	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 5Tp Ballingal moved to normal position of observation at BIR SEBICA. 0730 – 4Tp Peacock in observation at BIR ESSEZICH was shelled and one AC received a direct hit, turret being blown off and car badly damaged but towable. Tpr Stewart was wounded in the head and leg but Tpr Woodhead and Cpl Combes miraculously escaped. Only local movement reported during the day until 1715 hours, when 6 M13 tanks moved out NE from 3027. They were engaged by our artillery and 2 tanks destroyed. 1800 – 3Tp Nash who had relieved 4Tp Peacock remained in same area for the night, Ballingal came into SHQ who leaguered in same position. B Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0900 hours to relieve A Sqn who were operating in conjunction with a column of artillery and Infantry commanded by Major Sainthill, Coldstream Guards. The Sqn moved to area X3534 and 5Tp proceeded 5 miles South. 3Tp proceeded 1 mile to the SW of SHQ. The enemy artillery were fairly active and 5Tp were constantly prevented on getting observation on the enemy in area BIR EL UESCECA. He did report 20 men and 2 or 3 MET in that area during the day. Our artillery intermittently engaged a hilltop in area X2327 on which men were seen moving. At approx 1600 hours about 100 men were seen standing on a ridge SW of BIR EL UESCECA and at 1647 hours 6 enemy tanks were seen moving NE towards SHQ who were slightly in advance of a Tp of artillery. The tanks were about 2 and half miles away when first seen and were moving very rapidly. They got to a position about 800 yards in front of the guns where two of them halted, the remaining 4 turning NE towards another Tp of guns about a mile away. All this time the tanks were being engaged by 25pdrs. The 4 tanks overran this second Tp of guns, one of the tanks being knocked out, the remaining 3 tanks turned North and carried on for another mile. SHQ were retiring in front of these tanks which halted, 2 of them retiring, the remaining one remained stationary. Just before dark this last tank turned towards the first Tp of guns where it was engaged over open sights and knocked out. The Sqn leaguered with Sainthill Column in area X3437 with 3Tp and 5Tp remaining in observation to the South and SW. A Sqn. Sqn with Sainthill column moved from X3434 to X3431 and found the enemy in the same position as yesterday but not showing themselves. 4Tp found very soon that they had extended their eastern flank and could not regain their position of observation he was in yesterday as he bumped into enemy heavy ACs and A/Tk guns and was shelled. This occurred on several occasions, enemy OPs were in ACs, one of which was a Humber with a large Swastika flag placed over the spare wheel. At 1000 hours Major Wainman arrived with B Sqn to take over from us. Mr Dier took over from Mr Palin Evans and Sgt Parker from Sgt Mullins. Observation from the eastern flank was by now extremely difficult. Sqn moved into an area in close proximity to RHQ at X3541. In the evening 6 M13 tanks penetrated the line of B Sqn and 3 of these came as far North as X3338. They were seeking the whereabouts of our tanks (they would have to go a fair distance), 3 were knocked out by our artillery. On account of this I asked whether we could move 5 miles further back in order to do jobs unhampered by the idea of always having to pack up quickly. Permission was obtained. A letter was received from John Cookson apologising for the shelling of Sgt Hutchinson, apparently those responsible were Rhodesians and brand new. RHQ. Nothing to report.
3/1/42	C Sqn. 0640 – 1Tp Lamb moved to BIR SEBICA position.



	0715 – 3Tp Nash at BIR SELICH position reported enemy were less than the previous day. He could only see 5 MET and some men. These were engaged and withdrew SW and he pushed forward 3 miles to 2828, just as he arrived he was attacked by an Me 109. He suffered no serious damage other than 5 punctures and wireless batteries damaged. Enemy appeared to be fewer in numbers in AGEDABIA area but still held strong posts running from 2030 SE. Enemy air was again active, the landing ground at AGEDABIA being used for the 4th day in succession. 1400 – nothing of importance to report other than local movements. 5Tp Ballingal relieved 3Tp. Nothing of importance in the afternoon other than 2 large enemy guns located about 1227. The enemy appeared to be holding a defended line running from 2023 to 2030 then NW to 2434. 1800 – 1Tp returned to SHQ and 5Tp remained out in observation. A Sqn. Sqn moved back 5 miles to X3848. The day spent in gun cleaning and maintenance etc. there was plenty of water and Babe and I had stripped down baths. We killed 3 sheep which were divided up amongst the Sqn and proved a change from Bully. B Sqn. At 0719 hours 5Tp reported 20 MET moving NW and at the same time these were engaged by artillery from Purdon Column which was operating on our left. These MET subsequently proved to be friendly. 5Tp then pushed on SW but kept coming under fire from enemy artillery in the area X2715. In the meantime the ridge 2 ½ miles to the SW which had been held by the enemy the previous day appeared to be clear and 3Tp, pushing on, confirmed this. At about midday 1Tp relieved 5Tp and 2Tp relieved 3Tp. 1Tp then moved to BIR ESUESCECA and 2Tp to a position about 3 miles to the NW. both these Tps reported about 20 MET with Infantry dug in in area X2715. During the afternoon C Sqn reported 3 ACs moving East towards 2Tp and these were engaged by our artillery. 1Tp was twice shelled out of position and consequently lost observation of the enemy at about 1700 hours. 2Tp was also shelled out of position and also lost observation. During the day our artillery made several attempts to shell the enemy position but the range was too great. Sqn leaguered in area X3229 with Sainthill Column, 2Tp remaining in observation about 3 miles to the SW. RHQ. Nothing of importance to report.
4/1/42	C Sqn. 0640 – 1Tp Lamb moved to BIR SEBICA position of observation. 1030 – 5Tp Ballingal reported no change in his area except that the enemy defended line appeared less in number of MT and Infantry. 0830 – 2Tp (McHardy who had arrived the evening before to replace Paton who had gone back sick with piles) moved to relieve 5Tp in BIR SECICH position, 5Tp came back to SHQ. Nothing of importance to report during the day except movement up and down the AGEDABIA – BECANDAH track and local movement on the defended line in AGEDABIA town area. 1800 – 4Tp Peacock returned to SHQ and 2Tp stayed out in observation. A Sqn. Sqn at 3848. The day spent as yesterday. I went with LCpl Maxwell to RHQ, also Harry Petch and Sgt Lovett. Maxwell was asleep on sentinel. A clear cut case of which he does not realise the seriousness. He has deteriorated as a soldier as he was extremely promising. A bullock was killed and we drew more water from the BU FETTAH well. I had a captured German wireless set fixed into my car which proves a great boon, and seven of us, Babe Roberts, Harry Petch, John Poston, Pete Paton, Mr Palin Evans, John Turner, Brewin and self listen to the 8 o'clock news. Turner and Brewin doing their work well acting as Gunnery on cars, responsible for gun cleaning and helping with the cooking. Perhaps a hard school but they have not the experience yet to command Tps, or even cars. Peter Palin Evans improved out of all knowledge and is now a good Tp Ldr – very bold and cool. We listened to propaganda by Lord “Haw Haw” Joyce and as Peter said it is dangerous material and cleverly exploited. Heard on one German broadcast that Delmi Seymour Evans and Pip Watson were PoW, thousand odd (ours) from Bardia, perhaps LCpl Cordery and Pollard there. B Sqn. 4Tp proceeded to BIR EL UESCECA. At first light 2Tp returned to his position of the previous day where he reported 5 of the MET in area X2715. The light was bad and as it improved he was able to see 18. 4Tp attempted to have a look over the ridge but was shelled every time he got into position. Shortly



	afterwards 2Tp was shelled out of his position. At 1100 hours 5Tp relieved 2Tp and he was shelled further back still. 5Tp and 4Tp remained in observation during the rest of the day but were unable to get into good positions owing to the enemy artillery. The Sqn leaguered in the position of the previous night. 5Tp remaining out on the track about 3 miles to the SW. RHQ. In same position, nothing of importance to report.
5/1/42	A Sqn. Sqn at 3848. The day, which was extremely cold and windy, was spent in finishing off the maintenance on cars, guns etc. and in general tidying up. C Sqn. 0640 – 4Tp Peacock moved to BIR SEBICA position and reported visibility bad but that he could see local movement in the enemy defended line. McHardy reported no movement seen. 0800 – 2Tp McHardy was shelled but no damage done. 1300 – 1Tp Lamb moved to relieve 2Tp who came into SHQ. 1600 – 1Tp was shelled and had to move slightly. 1730 – movement on the defended line noticed between 1827 and 2228 and slight movement in the town area. 1800 – nothing further to report. B Sqn. 5Tp wireless broke down during the night and 1Tp was ordered out at first light to contact him, which he did. 1Tp then proceeded to BIR EL UESCECA but was unable to see over the ridge owing to enemy artillery and therefore took up a position on a ridge about 2 miles to the East where he remained all day. In the meantime 5Tp had moved to a position about 3 miles NW and shortly after 3Tp arrived to relieve him. 5Tp moved West and observed considerable MET in the AGEDABIA area and then returned to 3Tp where both Tps were fired on by a British 2pdr which was in enemy hands. This A/Tk gun then moved South and attacked an OP party of Purdon Column. 3Tp was not in a good position of observation during most of the day but in the afternoon he moved SW and reported 6 MET in area X2715. Some movement each way was observed by SHQ on the AGEDABIA – BELANDAH track. 1Tp remained on the track 3 miles to the SW during the night and the Sqn leaguered in the usual place. RHQ. In reserve.
6/1/42	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. Sandstorm blew all night. 0640 – 5Tp Ballingal left for BIR SEBICA position. 0700 – Sandstorm started again and visibility all day was nil. 1Tp Lamb at BIR SECICH and 5Tp at BIR SEBICA position remained out all day but could see nothing. 1745 – 5Tp returned to SHQ. 1Tp remained out in observation. A Sqn. Sqn at X3848. Orders were received for the Sqn to move at 0800 hours to take over from C Sqn. We therefore moved into area X2438 and at 0930 hours were in close proximity, but unable to see C Sqn owing to a high wind and sandstorm. By 1000 hours we were with C Sqn but visibility had dropped to 50 yards and it was decided by Major Payne Gallway and Major Lawson that it was not feasible for patrols to contact each other and certainly not possible to hand over patrols. Sqn therefore remained in C Sqn area and, as the day certainly needed cheering up, 2 bottles of Port were partaken of by Babe, Van and self and a luncheon made of plum pudding. During the afternoon there was heavy rain and it was decided that C Sqn would remain on their positions until the following morning. Sqn spent a miserable night with heavy rain. Electrical storms had rendered wireless impossible during the day, distances of 300 to 400 yards could often not be reached. B Sqn. A very windy night and by 0700 hours severe sandstorm was blowing. 1Tp remained on the track, 5Tp proceeded to high ground 3 miles East of BIR EL UESCECA and 2Tp proceeded to area NW of BIR EL



	UESCECA. Visibility was bad during the day, down to 20 yards at the worst times. No contact with the enemy. Rain commenced at about 1630 hours when 4Tp relieved 1Tp. The Sqn leaguered in the usual place with 4Tp in observation on the track 3 miles to the SW. A very wet night. RHQ. Still in same position. Nothing to report.
7/1/42	C Sqn. Paton returned from RHQ with the Echelon on the previous afternoon. 0640 - 2Tp Paton moved to BIR SEBICA position. 0730 – 1Tp and 2Tp reported that they could see nothing so both patrols pushed forward. 2Tp reached AGEDABIA and reported no movement seen. Shortly afterwards he blew up two of his carson mines, no casualties, but the two cars damaged and untowable. 1Tp pushed forward and found enemy line empty but encountered enemy minefield. He got through part of this and encountered another one. Meanwhile A Sqn patrol arrived to take over from us and Lamb started to return to SHQ and on the way got petrol stoppages and while trying to mend it broke one of his fingers in the engine cover and had to be evacuated. Paton meanwhile was surrounded with mines and could not move until the RE's arrived, which they did at about 1430 hours. Meanwhile he was trying to make one runner out of his two disabled cars. This he did at 1715 hours having changed a complete front axle, this being done by the Tp alone, Paton started to join SHQ. He proceeded 6 miles from AGEDABIA and then halted for the night and rejoined the next day. A Sqn. SHQ moved at first light to X2438 to contact C Sqn SHQ and at the same time 1Tp Mr Petch and 5Tp left to take over from C Sqn patrols. Sqn were to work under Colonel J Moubray and Advance SHQ at his HQ reported that during the night that foot patrols had reported that the enemy, during yesterday's sandstorm, had vacated the whole of the AGEDABIA position and at 0300 hours C Sqn patrols were reporting enemy. They were therefore ordered to push on SW to catch them up. 5Tp met C Sqn 1Tp in the middle of the enemy minefield which was successfully negotiated and Mr Poston pushed on to X1423 and saw 40 MET astride the main road at X1023. Meanwhile 1Tp had crossed the AGEDABIA aerodrome and were contacting Mr Ballingal of C Sqn. Mr Petch skirted the village and joined Mr Poston. Mr Petch was then ordered to proceed 1 mile North and see if the enemy position extended in any way westwards. But a few minutes later reported his own car being blown up on mines. Tpr Page was slightly wounded and Mr Petch slightly shocked and cut. He had by this time picked up a wounded Hurricane pilot of the SAAF. He was ordered to stop and evacuate his AC which was irreparable. Advance HQ was by this time moving with 3Tp in attendance to join Sainthill Column at SIDI HAMAR and rear SHQ was moving to BIR UESCECA. SHQ joined Sainthill at 1400 hours having negotiated minefields. 1Tp was ordered to join rear SHQ but dropped off the wounded pilot at Sainthill enemy route. 5Tp Mr Poston was in observation of 60 MET at X1023 and was joined there by an OP of Sainthill Column. The enemy position which contained 2 88mm guns came under our fire at 1430 hours and we continued shelling throughout the afternoon. Mayfield and Mowbray Columns advancing from the North were held up by minefields in the AGEDABIA area. Rear SHQ at BIR UESCECA were heavily dive bombed at 1500 hours and unfortunately Thomas Short and Howells were killed. They were 1st and 2nd drivers of the petrol lorry and were approx 75 yards from their vehicle when a 500 lb bomb fell within 10 yards of them. They both died instantaneously and were buried at BIR UESCECA in the same grave. Vehicles were extremely well dispersed and only 10 or so in all. God knows why they were picked as a target for a concentrated attack by Ju 87's. After replenishing Rear SHQ moved to X2318 and at last light Advance SHQ met them there. We leaguered close to Sainthill Column. 5Tp was out for the night and helped a foot patrol of Coldstream Guards who had been ordered to obtain a prisoner from the enemy at X1023. Foot patrol on arrival at the position reported that the enemy had gone. They returned to 5Tp who were waiting for them with their transport at X1423. B Sqn. At first light 4Tp proceeded on to the ridge SW of BIR UESCECA and 3Tp to a position NW of the BIR. As the light improved neither Tp was able to see any enemy and it was believed they must have retired. Both Tps therefore moved forward followed by SHQ. 5Tp was ordered to proceed to BELANDAH to



	report that clear. At 1145 hours SHQ reached SDI EL HAMAR where a concentration of 50 MET was observed at X0723 on the main road running SW from AGEDABIA. A further party of enemy MET was observed SW of this. On information from Support Grp that BELANDAH was clear 5Tp returned to SHQ. In the meantime 3Tp had moved on to the SW and on reaching the area SDI HAMEIDA reported 2 enemy ACs to his NE, these moved SW towards them and he moved West for 1 mile where he encountered 4 enemy tanks moving North. Later on in the afternoon 3 enemy ACs got to the East of 3Tp and he was forced East slightly. During this time 4Tp had moved South to the area C1589 and reported considerable movement to his South. This later turned out to be Currie Column. During the afternoon SHQ moved 3 miles South and watched Sainthill Column engaging the enemy on the main road. Sqn withdrew at last light, 3Tp remaining in position about 7 miles to the SW. RHQ. Nothing of importance to report. In the same position.
8/1/42	C Sqn. 0600 – no movement seen during the night. Sqn remained concentrated at X2539 and at 1400 hours moved to join RHQ at BIR UESCECA arriving there at 1630 hours, leaguering there for the night. A Sqn. Advance SHQ moved to X1927 with Sainthill Column. As the foot patrol reported last night the enemy had left their position. 3Tp Sgt Bailey (Sgt Hutchinson still being sick with his leg wound) was ordered to recce to the main rd W9810 and 4Tp Mr Palin Evan to X0517 while 5Tp Mr Poston came SW down the main rd. 4Tp and 5Tp met in area X0517 without seeing any enemy but shortly afterwards 3Tp reported 4 lorries on the road at W9808 and men working. This turned out to be a position in a defile and the men probably laying mines. 4Tp was ordered to cross the road to the West and observe his position from the North. In so doing he got one car hopelessly bogged and an hour later another was in the same condition. The cars were immobile except for winching out. 2Tp Sgt Mullins was sent out to replace him. 3Tp ran into an enemy AC and A/Tk gun patrol in area X0505 while trying to work round South of the enemy position and as this therefore became impossible he returned to the area W9808 and observed from there. At this point the road ran through a cutting for about 2 miles with a high ridge on the East side which the enemy held. Observation from the North or MW was impossible for ACs because of the going and the South not feasible because of enemy patrols. Therefore 3Tp's position was the only one possible. Enemy appeared to have 88mm dual purpose gun. 2Tp was ordered to X0405 to observe from the South for any movement and he reported a gun in action firing South at X0003 and the AC A/Tk patrol at X0300. 4Tp was by now returning to SHQ having been helped by 1Tp to remove all the kit from the car. Sainthill fired no shots at the enemy but ranged on my patrol until stopped by me. 3Tp was visited by an OP but he said that the visibility was too bad. The BBC reported that the Scots and Coldstream Guards were pursuing the enemy relentlessly. This has not been the case so far. SHQ spent the night at X0813, 3Tp and 2Tp moved 1 mile East and spent the night in those positions. Now we have only four operative Tps and Sgt Bailey has today broken a front shock absorber. The going is terribly bad and one must expect high vehicle casualties. B Sqn. Sqn in reserve. RHQ. No movement seen during the day. In same position.
9/1/42	C Sqn. 0630 – Sqn concentrated at BIR UESCECA. 1000 – RHQ moved on 4 miles West. Sqn remained in present position. A Sqn. Sqn still in area X0813, 3Tp in area W9808, 2Tp in area X0405. Enemy still in position on ridge on East side of main road from W9907 to W9801. Guns appeared to be in position at each end and at the southern end the enemy had AC patrols. It was seen that the observation from the North by OPs was impossible and therefore it was suggested to Major Sainthill that a troop of 25pdrs and gun the enemy light opposition from their position so that our OPs could gain high ground and so get some observation. A curious warfare where 25pdrs have to be used for this kind of work, and one would give all one had for a few tanks.



	The operation was fairly successful and by 1500 hours the enemy ACs and A/Tk gun had moved West. 2Tp therefore gained the enemy observation point, and a very fine one it was too. The enemy AC patrol had moved West but could not be engaged again as it meant moving the gun which was thought not to be possible. At this time 5Tp relieved 2Tp and 1Tp had relieved 3Tp. The situation on the 1Tp position was static and OPs could not gain positions of observation. Colonel J Mowbray Coldstream Guards, moved up to the position of the Sainthill column and SHQ was asked to remain with him. This is always inconvenient as one becomes too far behind one's patrols. SHQ in area X0510 and 1Tp for the night 2 miles East of W9808 and 5Tp at SIDI HAMEDA. B Sqn. Sqn in reserve all day. RHQ. The enemy seems to be evacuating. RHQ moved South to BIR EL KESCAESA. They remained on the hill above the BIR for one night. Bde HQ passed RHQ and moved further along the track.
10/1/42	C Sqn. Sqn remained in same position, sandstorm blew most of the day, cold. A Sqn. SHQ at X0813. Enemy appeared still to be holding a rear guard position from W9707 to W9801. 1Tp could not therefore advance and again OPs were very much at a disadvantage. They appeared to need manpack sets and then they could operate further from their vehicles or in country inaccessible to MT. 5Tp Mr Poston was told to feel forward SW but seeing vehicles in the area X0035 he went South to investigate and 1 ½ miles NW from that place one of his cars was blown up on a mine. Tpr Cahill had an eye injury. This was at approx 1000 hours and at about this time also 1Tp Mr Petch was feeling forward on the line of the main road, the enemy having evacuated their position. He reached area 8598 but by this time, 1030 hours, a sandstorm was blowing and visibility was 500 yards. 3Tp Sgt Bailey had been ordered to relieve 5Tp who was busy dismantling his blown up car. 3Tp was stopped as visibility would not guarantee finding 5Tp. Everything came to a standstill and perhaps nature again helped the enemy as the situation was a boon for a forced withdrawal, impossible for one following up a withdrawal. Lt White, OME 11th Hussars, arrived from RHQ during the sandstorm. At 1500 hours the storm had somewhat abated and Mr Palin Evans was sent out with Mr White to unstick the 2 cars which had been bogged two days ago. They had been gone only half an hour when there was a large explosion and we heard by wireless that the recovery lorry had hit a mine in the middle of the main road. No casualties to personnel but extremely bad luck at the AC had already passed over this mine, which was buried right under the Macadam surface. This party returned. 3Tp was despatched at 1600 hours to relieve 5Tp. SHQ and Mowbray moved 1 mile North where the night was spent. A particularly bloody day. Managed to reform 2Tp and Mr Palin Evans took this over from Sgt Mullins who was sent back to have his eyes seen to as he had been suffering from frantic headaches. 4Tp, less Mr Palin Evans, went back to Echelon, their cars residing in the bog. B Sqn. Sqn in reserve. RHQ. To catch up Bde HQ we moved SW to X2516 in the morning and stopped on high ground.
11/1/42	C Sqn. 0800 – Sqn moved to join RHQ. Very cold. 0900 – Sqn joined RHQ and moved to contact A Sqn on BIR CHASCELET which we did at 1300 hours. From there Sqn moved to S9082 and 4Tp Peacock moved to B7577 and 5Tp Ballingal moved to B8070. SHQ moved to 7078 and contacted Buster Column of Coldstream Guards. A Sqn were on our right and Support Grp on our left. 1700 – Peacock at B7577 could see 2 enemy guns at B6580 engaging him and Buster Column at B7878. 1800 – Ballingal and Peacock leaguered in their position and SHQ moved ½ mile SE and leaguered there. Nash was left at B9082 to contact the Echelon and bring it up to SHQ, which he did and they arrived at 2300 hours having covered 20 miles from RHQ. A Sqn. Mowbray force now divided into 3 columns. Major Ingledew in the North working the line of the main



	road. Capt Forbes column in the centre and Capt Luard in the South. 1Tp Mr Petch came into contact with the enemy in W6891 and found hem holding another rear guard position. 3Tp Sgt Bailey was ordered to recce to BIR UMMBEIRA and thence westwards. 3Tp came into contact with enemy AC screen at W7084 and was held up. 4Tp Mr Palin Evans had already been despatched to relieve 1Tp and by 1215 hours he had taken over. As there appeared to be a big gap between 4Tp and 3Tp, 5Tp was ordered to clear the ground between those two. The gap in front of that was never very big but looked bigger because of the approx alignment of the metalled road on the map. By 1251 hours 5Tp had contacted 4Tp and was then ordered to return to SHQ. At 1400 hours 3Tp reported a gun position in area 6984, and enemy OPs working from ACs. These targets could not be taken on as our guns were not firing far enough up. The same situation was occurring in the North. By 1553 hours OPs from Luards Column had contacted 3Tp and by 1627 hours enemy in 6984 area were being engaged and moved off in a SW direction. 4Tp had become tired of the inactivity on their front. The trouble being that our 25pdrs would have to come down a very forward exposed slope to get into action, and so therefore when AC stalking surprised 3 in their rear which made off at 1700 hours. In this fluster 3 more made off but thought better of it and came back. Mr Palin Evans had two cars with bad gun stoppages and so unfortunately had to retire. 3Tp had reached W6981 and reported no movement seen. The enemy still held the unchanged position in the North, and had not changed all day. C Sqn in the South made no contact with the enemy. 3Tp and 4Tp dropped back 2 miles for the night and SHQ was at BIR CHESELEK. We heard that our Doctor had died in TOBRUK from head injuries which he received when jumping from a truck during a Stuka raid about a month ago. Very bad luck as he was a charming man (Kellog). Also heard that my "write ups" for awards had been forwarded from Guards Bde. They were mentioning Harry Petch, John Poston and Sgt Hutchinson. I hope they get something as they certainly deserve all that is going. B Sqn. The Sqn and RHQ moved 15 miles SW during the morning to area C0595 and spent the remainder of the day there. RHQ. After contacting Bde RHQ moved on SW to BIR EL AANMA and halted for the night.
12/1/42	C Sqn. 0645 – 5Tp Ballingal pushed forward West but after going 2 miles one of his ACs broke down and the fitter had to be sent. 1Tp Suggitt (who had taken over command since Lamb had gone back with a broken finger) was sent to take 5Tp place and 1Tp pushed forward to X 6568 where he saw 30 MET at BIR SESRA. 4Tp Peacock moved forward to X6073 and reported no movement seen. 0715 – SQMS Moore and B2 Echelon left for RHQ but on their way ran into a minefield at GHETANNIA area and 2 lorries were destroyed but no casualties. 0800 – SHQ contacted Buster Column and remained with them all day. During the day there was nothing to report except local movement amongst the 30 MET. 1000 – 5Tp having been repaired by the fitter contacted 1Tp and then moved South to contact Currie Column which he did at 1430 hours at B6560. He then moved to X7668 to get petrol and commenced to rejoin SHQ, which he failed to do, and leaguered by himself just short of SHQ. 1800 – Suggitt reported the 30 MET moving West. He remained in the same area for the night. 4Tp was withdrawn to SHQ. 1900 – Sgt Horrocks and B2a Echelon arrived under the guidance of SSM Scrivener from RHQ after having covered 24 miles from RHQ making a total of 33 miles from Echelon HQ. 2000 – Nothing further to report. A Sqn. 3Tp and 4Tp returned to their position of observation with OPs from Forbes and Ingledew Columns. B Sqn was ordered to take over from us but started the operation by moving into the GHETANNIA minefield where they blew up one AC, at the same time C Sqn Echelon had entered the minefield returning from the Sqn and blew up 2 lorries. Mines in the last 4 days claim from us all – 4 ACs and 2 lorries also one breakdown lorry. These mines are impossible to see after the sandstorm of 2 days ago.



	3Tp had by now got in South of enemy elements and at 1150 hours reported himself in an excellent position at W6381 from where he could see all movement to and from the enemy position, along the road to SIGHEGA he could also see the MARSA BRIGGA area. During the course of the afternoon 41 lorries left the position and 5 entered it. 4Tp was watching the position from the East, he was relieved by a Tp from B Sqn at 1600 hours. SHQ had moved to BIR UMM SCEIBA to meet Major Wainman, leaving a link with Colonel Mowbray who himself moved to SCEIBA at 1400 hours. At 1430 hours Major Wainman arrived. At 1700 hours 3Tp reported an enemy gun position at W6387. At 1730 hours 3Tp was relieved by B Sqn. As there was no chance of him reaching SHQ that night, he was ordered to spend the night with B Sqn. SHQ returned to rear SHQ at BIR CHESPELEK and came into reserve. B Sqn. In the morning the Sqn was ordered to relieve A Sqn who were working in conjunction with 4 columns composed of Coldstream Guards and Royal Artillery. At 0915 hours the Sqn moved SW but hit a minefield in the GHETANNIA area and Lt Wingfield Digby's car was blown up but no damage to the crew. It was necessary to make a detour and at about 1400 hours A Sqn HQ was contacted at BIR UMM SCEIBA. A Sqn had 2 patrols out, both of which were in touch with the enemy. C Sqn were operating on the left of the Sqn. 1Tp proceeded to B7790 just South of the road and 3Tp to area about 2 miles East of BIR EL GINN. 1Tp could see Infantry moving about on the hilltops North of the road and 3Tp reported about 30 vehicles on the road in the BREGA Blockhouse. SHQ and the Btn HQ of the Coldstream Guards moved 5 miles SW during the afternoon. In the evening one of our columns engaged the enemy North of the road but came under heavy artillery fire from the enemy. 1Tp and 3Tp remained out for the night and SHQ leaguered with the Btn HQ. RHQ. RHQ went to CHEMAIN to join A Sqn. Shortly after arrival 9 CR42's strafed the 60 pdrs close to our position. No attempt was made on RHQ who put up a heavy barrage. The next day was a very bad sandstorm and was spent in the same place.
13/1/42	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0645 - 2Tp McHardy moved out to recce BIR GINN which he reported no movement seen at 0800 hours. He then moved to B6375 and remained in observation there. 0715 – 1Tp Suggett reported 15 MET in the BIR ESJERA area, he remained there in observation. 1500 – 4Tp Peacock moved to relieve Suggett who came into reserve. 1600 – 2Tp moved forward 5 miles and reported no movement seen. 2000 – 2Tp and 4Tp remained out in same position. A Sqn. Sqn in reserve. 2Tp returned early and the day was spent in thinking of good food. The rations were very bad and have been throughout, no imagination on somebody's part. Plenty of bulk but no variety. We heard that the Colonel had got the DSO which is a fine show. B Sqn. As the light improved 1Tp was able to see a few men on the hilltop on the North of the road. 3Tp was able to see a few vehicles and Infantry in the BREGA Blockhouse area. At 0900 hours the Sqn Ldr carried out a recce of the area and determined that the maps were very inaccurate. At midday 5Tp relieved 1Tp and 4Tp relieved 3Tp then pushed forward NW and took up a position in area B5777. During the afternoon he reported 300 – 400 Infantry and approx 30 vehicles in the BREGA Blockhouse area. Before being relieved 1Tp pushed forward 3 miles to area B5889 and reported 20 Infantry in area B6593. These were later engaged by our artillery and they moved North. 4Tp and 5Tp remained out during the night and Sqn leaguered in the same position as the previous night.
14/1/42	C Sqn. 0700 4Tp Peacock and 2Tp McHardy reported the situation the same as the previous day.



	0800 – 2Tp moved West 5 miles then South to B5869 from where he could see enemy movement between BIR ESSUERA and EL BARALMAI also between SUERA and SIDI MOHAMMED SCERIF. 1045 – SHQ moved to B6366. 1100 – 4Tp moved a little South to B6264 and could see 10 enemy MET in BIR ESSUERA area and also a line of Infantry running SE for 2 miles from the BIR. 1600 – Situation remained the same. Sight enemy movement and local movement amongst the 10 MET in SUERA area. 1630 – Column of 40 MET seen moving SE at 4766. This column turned South at B5065 and disappeared from sight. 1800 – 5Tp Ballingal relieved 2Tp who came into reserve. 1830 – 4Tp and 5Tp remained out for the night. A Sqn. Sqn in reserve at BIR CHESREPEREK. In the morning Peter Palin Evans went and recovered the 2 cars that had been bogged. This took the whole day but he returned successfully and beaming as usual having been stopped by RE's from going into another minefield. Harry Petch to a Court Martial on LCpl Maxwell who got away scot free. The Sqn moved at midday to be closer to RHQ. Position 3 miles NW of BIR SCEIBA. B Sqn. 3Tp reported the situation unchanged in the BREGA Blockhouse area. 5Tp was unable to see any enemy in their area and pushed on slightly West and then moved North across the road. At midday 1Tp relieved 5Tp and 2Tp relieved 4Tp. At 1430 hours SHQ moved 8 miles SW to BIR EL GINN area. During the afternoon 1Tp reported 4 vehicles, 20 men and 1 gun 2 miles East of the Blockhouse. The enemy around the Blockhouse were engaged by our artillery in the evening. 2Tp had a good point of observation but he was given away by our artillery. 1Tp and 2Tp remained out all night and the remainder of the Sqn leaguered in the BIR EL GINN area. RHQ. RHQ moved SW, avoiding minefield. The day was spent in maintenance. Very little activity. Sqn leaguered in the same position.
15/1/42	C Sqn. 0730 – situation was the same as on the previous day. 0830 – 1Tp Suggett moved to relieve 4Tp Peacock at B6242 who came into reserve. During the day there was no change in the situation. Normal amount of movement in BIR ESSUERA and BARRACHEIN area. 1800 – No change in the situation. 1Tp and 2Tp remained out for the night. A Sqn. Sqn in same position. A bad sandstorm raged all day, maintenance done when possible. The evening was better. Ken Alexander and Tony Crankshaw came over, plus their dinner, and had it with Babe and I, they also spent the night with us. B Sqn. A bad sandstorm. 1Tp and 2Tp reported the situation unchanged. 2Tp had taken up a position about 2 miles South of his previous position as 2 guns were sent out to that position before dawn and it was decided to leave that view point entirely for the OP. A troop of 6 pdr's took up a position 1 mile East of SHQ and engaged the enemy in the Blockhouse at 1000 hours. The sandstorm developed and visibility became bad. 1300 – 3Tp relieved 2Tp and 5Tp relieved 1Tp. Forward SHQ moved about 2 miles North during the day. The Sqn leaguered in the usual position with 3Tp and 5Tp out all night.
16/1/42	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0730 – Situation the same as on the previous day. 0830 – 2Tp moved to relieve 5Tp who came into reserve. 1Tp remained in the same position. No change during the day which was one of poor visibility owing to a sandstorm. 1800 – No change in the situation, 1Tp and 2Tp remained out for the night. A Sqn. Sqn in same position. I was summoned to the colonel in the afternoon. He told me that all Armd Car



	units were to be moved from this part of the desert and that the Carriers were to take over our work. This was good news as the country we were in was unsuitable for our cars. My Sqn was to stay with the Guards Bde until the Carriers arrived. I thought this was unfair, and said so, as this Sqn had been a month longer in the field during the summer. The Colonel said he would consider it. B Sqn. A bad sandstorm all day. 2Tp relieved 3Tp and 4Tp relieved 5Tp. Nothing was seen of the enemy till the evening and the situation in the Blockhouse area seemed to be the same as previously. Sqn leaguered in the usual place with 2Tp and 4Tp out all night.
17/1/42	C Sqn. 0730 – No change in the situation. 4Tp Peacock moved to relieve Suggett who came into SHQ. 0930 – 2Tp McHardy captured a German staff car and 1 OR which was one of a party of 2 cars which appeared from the NW. the other car escaped although it came under heavy fire. 1800 – situation unchanged. A Sqn. Sqn in same position. I saw the colonel who told me that he had decided that B Sqn should stay up in this area. C Sqn and ourselves were to give them 2 cars each. The colonel and I went up to see Bill in the morning, Peter was also there and a Sqn Ldrs conference took place. B Sqn. 2Tp and 4Tp reported the situation unchanged at first light. At midday 1Tp relieved 2Tp and 3Tp relieved 4Tp. No change in the situation all day. Our artillery shelled the enemy at intervals during the day to which the enemy replied. Sqn leaguered in the usual place with 1Tp and 3Tp remaining out all night.
18/1/42	C Sqn. No movement seen during the night. 0700 – 5Tp Ballingal relieved McHardy who came into SHQ. 1200 – B Sqn took over patrols and the Sqn moved to RHQ and spent the night there. A Sqn. Sqn in the same position. In the morning I was told to move my Sqn to the Echelon area. B Sqn men arrived to take over our cars. Sqn moved at 1430 hours and reached Echelon area where we replenished and then moved on another 5 miles. Night was spent at SIDI HAMEIDA. B Sqn. At approx 0900 hours orders were received that the Sqn was to come under orders of the Guards Bde and was to relieve C Sqn. 1Tp and 2Tp were therefore called in and the Sqn reached C Sqn HQ at approx 1330 hours. 5Tp proceeded to a position 3 miles South of ESSUERA where he could observe an enemy Infantry position extending South from the bog. 4Tp proceeded to a position about 3 miles NNW of SUERA where he could observe a considerable number of enemy vehicles scattered over the area West of the bog and extending North towards the BREGA Blockhouse. C Sqn then moved back to RHQ in reserve. Lateral communication was established between the Sqn and 7th Support Grp who were operating on the left, but, in the evening a message was received from him stating that they were going out of the line the following morning. During the late afternoon 4Tp came under artillery fire thought to be enemy tanks and was forced to retire. 5Tp reported the presence of an enemy camp to his West. Capt Luard's Column, who were situated about 1 mile to our South, engaged the enemy till last light. 4Tp and 5Tp remained out all night and the remainder of the Sqn withdrew approx 1 mile in a NE direction and leaguered for the night.
19/1/42	C Sqn. 0845 – Sqn marched to ANTELAT and remained there for the night. A Sqn. Sqn moved at first light via BIR UESCECA, BU FETTAH, ANTELAT to ZI MSUS. After the heavy rain of the last fortnight, cars were stuck several times. ZI MSUS was reached about 1700 hours. It rained for a considerable part of the journey. The night was spent close to the aerodrome. B Sqn.



	At first light 4Tp reported several enemy vehicles moving in the area about 2 miles to his West. 5Tp reported no change in the situation since last night. At 0900 hours the Sqn Ldr visited 4Tp and a more suitable position was found approx 1 mile NNE of his former position. The light was extremely good and approx 500 MET could be seen on the West side of the bog. At midday 1Tp relieved 5Tp and 2Tp was ordered to relieve 4Tp. 2Tp however met with difficulty in the boggy ground. Ran a big end on his wireless car. 3Tp therefore relieved 4Tp. No change in the situation for the rest of the day. Orders were received from the Guards Bde that a thorough recce of the ground was required. Large maps of the enemy were therefore made. Owing to the inaccuracy of the maps, a Surveyor was also asked for by the Sqn in order that the positions could be correctly adjusted. At last light 1Tp reported small arms fire in his area but no movement seen. The Sqn less 1Tp and 3Tp leaguered in the normal place. Attempts to establish W/T communication with the Support Grp on our left were made during the day but with no result.
20/1/42	C Sqn. 0900 – Sqn marched to ZMEUS and arrived there at 1200 hours and remained there in rest. A Sqn. Sqn at Zi MSUS. I went early to contact 30th Corp to find out where we were expected to go. Saw the AGG who told me Trevor was with the Royals and that he knew our pitch. He had arrived from Cairo with a load of NAAF kit. Contacted him and then returned to Sqn where I found the Colonel at RHQ. By this time it was pouring with rain and I led RHQ and the Sqn to their position. This was found at about 1430 hours in really torrential rain. We situated ourselves in a very pleasant position with C Sqn and RHQ. Good shelters were erected for each Troop. It was a joy to be able to turn the W/Toff and have little responsibility. We have done 8 weeks continually in the first line. B Sqn. Both 1Tp and 3Tp reported no change. The light was bad and all the MET of the previous day was not visible. 2Tp relieved 3Tp at 0700 hours and 5Tp relieved 1Tp at midday. During the morning Brigadier Marriott (commander Guards Bde) arrived and had lunch at SHQ. During most of the day a fairly severe sandstorm was blowing and no further contact with the enemy was made. 5Tp reported hearing the usual small arms fire in his area at last light. 2Tp and 5Tp remained out all night and SHQ leaguered in the usual place. RHQ. RHQ left for Zi MSUS in the rain and it rained practically continuously until we reached the aerodrome. Here we were forced to wait until the area was found. Then everyone attempted to dry themselves and their bedding. The Echelon was out and remained out for the night. Our area was next to the Royals and Major Smail was there with the NAAF lorries.
21/1/42	C Sqn. Nothing to report. A Sqn. A conference at RHQ. The Colonel and Peter to Cairo, I am to send Babe and John T. I could not go because Peter goes and Harry did not want to go. He and John P's urgency seemed more that Peter Palin Evans, we planned to organise a trip to the hills also shooting matches etc. Four of my cars go into LRS today. Babe and John T busy making arrangements for their trip. I have said that Sgt Bailey can go with them to obtain stuff for the Sgts. A fine day, I collected wood, read and wrote, and walked round the Troops in the evening, who appeared comfortable, rightly pleased with their kit. B Sqn. SHQ heard considerable movement during the night but it appeared to be a long way off. At 0700 hours 4Tp relieved 2Tp. At 0800 hours the enemy commenced very heavy shelling in the area of our columns and 4Tp located 6 guns near the road SW of BREGA. At 0800 hours Sgt Emery proceeded 4 miles North to Major Forbes (Coldstream Guards) column to meet Brigadier Biggs (commander of a Bde in the 4th Indian Div) who wished to make a recce of the SUERA position. At 1000 hours a report was received from the Guards Bde that 20 tanks were moving East from the Blockhouse on the North side of the road. The Sqn was asked to send a patrol to this area but it was



considered that the distance (of very bad going) was too great.

At 1055 hours a report was received that 25 tanks and 40 MET were moving East at B6559, about 4 miles SE of 5Tp. 5Tp was in touch with some Infantry carriers of 1st Support Grp on his left but they were unable to throw any light on the situation.

Reports of the northern enemy party were scarce but it appeared that there were approx 60 tanks moving East and in view of this 4Tp was ordered to move back 2 miles.

1Tp was also sent out 5 miles in a SE direction to endeavour to get contact with the southern enemy about which no further reports had been received.

At 1119 hours 4Tp reported 100 MET stationary on the road immediately West of BREGA Blockhouse and at 1140 hours he reported a further 100 vehicles in the same area. He had not however seen any enemy tanks which as it transpired later, had moved rapidly and got in behind us.

It was realised then that the enemy must have got past us both on the North and the South and 4Tp and 5Tp were both ordered to move in a NE direction. SHQ also moved back NE.

At 1200 hours reports were received that the enemy North and South columns had got as far as 75 Grid. They were by now a considerable distance behind us.

At 1256 hours 1Tp who had broken a front spring on the W/T car located 9 enemy tanks B7380 and at 1316 hours 4Tp reported 15 tanks at B7890. 3Tp was ordered to relieve 1Tp and 5Tp was ordered to a position midway between 1 and 4Tp.

At 1330 hours 1Tp reported 25 tanks moving NE at B1860. 5Tp had been held up by bad going and it looked as though the tanks could get between him and 1Tp.

Shortly after this 1Tp reported that the 25 tanks were being engaged by one of our columns and they turned West out of sight into dead ground.

At 1430 hours 4Tp reported 30 tanks and 400 MET moving East at B7592, these tanks also being engaged by one of our columns.

It was thought at this stage that this was the eastern limit to the northern party, but a few minutes later SHQ could see considerable numbers of vehicles about 3 miles to the NE, with shells landing further to the East.

At 1540 hours 4Tp reported a total of 60 tanks stationary in his area.

At 1558 hours 5Tp reported the same 60 tanks about 1 mile to his NNE.

At 1605 hours the Sqn Echelon under TSM Dyson who were at X1505 (about 10 miles East of SHQ) reported being engaged by tanks. It was then definitely realised that the leading enemy northern party had never been seen by us and must have moved East along the road before 4Tp had arrived on the scene.

By this time SHQ had joined up with HQ of the Coldstream Guards who confirmed the information about enemy tanks to the NE and 2Tp was ordered to proceed North to MESSAMHUIA to try and gain contact.

At 1640 hours 4Tp reported approx 25 tanks to the East of 1Tp and 5Tp. Consequently 3Tp was unable to reach 1Tp. These 25 tanks must have been the same party which 1Tp had seen previously, but owing to the broken spring had been unable to maintain contact. They had apparently moved South and then East unbeknown to him.

2Tp in the meantime was in touch with a few tanks in the SANHUDIA area and during this time 4Tp reported the northern enemy party of 60 tanks moving South from the road and he was forced to retire slightly.

At last light all Tps were ordered to rejoin SHQ which was then 2 miles West of GHETANIA. 2, 3 and 4 Tps rejoined but 1Tp and 5Tp, who had joined up, found themselves completely cut-off by enemy tanks, so it was decided that they should try and get round them after dark.

At 1900 hours orders were received that the entire force, including the Sqn, was to retire 15 miles during the night.

However, owing to 1Tp and 5Tp being very short of petrol it was found not practical to go as far as this and the Sqn therefore moved 7 miles during the night to a position about 4 miles East of GHETANIA.

1Tp and 5Tp met with the greatest difficulty trying to get through the enemy. At one period all their vehicles were stuck in the sand with the enemy tanks 200 yards away. They were forced to abandon 2 cars during the night with mechanical defects and one stuck in soft sand. They travelled a distance of 30 miles before they got clear of the enemy.

After the initial report in the morning, no further news was heard from 1st Support Grp on our left and there was no idea as to their position.

RHQ.

A fine drying day. The Colonel decided to go to Cairo with Major Payne Gallway and the Adjutant. A report came in the evening that the enemy were advancing towards AGEDABIA but it was not



	considered serious.
22/1/42	A Sqn. Babe and John P leave at first light or nearly, anyway I was still in bed. From collected rain water in the WADI I had a fine bath. Tony Pepys came over from the Royals and we had an hour talk, and drank sherry. The afternoon was spent quietly. In the evening Trevor and Ken visited and then when getting dark went on over to Corps. In the evening we were put at 3 hours notice to move. It appears that there has been some sort of enemy advance in the South. I attempted to go to RHQ but got slightly lost. B Sqn. At first light 3Tp moved North to observe the main road, 4Tp went into position about 4 miles to his SW and 2Tp 2 miles to the South of 4Tp. At 0850 hours 3Tp reported large numbers of enemy vehicles moving East along the road and 2Tp reported 70 or 80 vehicles to his West. The columns of the Guards Bde were in action to our NE against enemy vehicles on the road SW to AGEDABIA. Wireless touch had been lost with 1Tp and 5Tp during the night but at 0800 hours communication was established and they stated they were about 20 miles to our South. SSM Kitchen took down a petrol lorry and met them after 10 miles, the ACs were very short of petrol, one car having only ½ gallon left. There was still no news of 1st Support Grp on our left and it was therefore decided to move the Sqn back slightly. At about midday it was learnt that the Guards Bde were withdrawing to the line of BELANDAH – AGEDABIA track. During the morning 3Tp estimated that a total of 700 MET were moving East along the road. 2Tp and 4Tp also reported approx 150 MET moving North towards the road. At about 1400 hours the Sqn commenced to retire to the track which was reached at about 1630 hours. 2Tp and 4Tp consequently lost contact with the enemy but 3Tp remained in observation of the road during the withdrawal and reported considerable movement during the afternoon. On reaching SIDI EL HAMAR 3Tp broke a spring and 4Tp went North to relieve him. The Sqn joined up with HQ Sqn Coldstream Guards at a point about 2 miles SE of BIR ES UESCECA after dark and leaguered there for the night. The Echelon under TSM Dyson was waiting at this position when the Sqn arrived. RHQ. The Colonel and party left early and Capt Roberts and Lt Poston left as well. In the evening news came that the enemy were in AGEDABIA and we were on 3 hours notice. A lot of cars and lorries were put into workshops and Major Smail was in command of the Regt.
23/1/42	A Sqn. Tony Crankshaw came round while I was still in bed and told us we were to be ready to move as soon as possible. C & A Sqn formed a composite Sqn, two Tps of C and three of mine. Peter, Harry, Hutchinson and C Sqn (Peacock and John B), Van Burdon doing 2i/c to me. After reorganising we were ready to move by 1000 hours and we were ordered to move South down the ANTELAT track. The situation was pretty obscure. We had some vehicle trouble before long, it appears that when one rests for a few days vehicles rug-up completely. Tasks of Tps had to be intermittently exchanged and eventually after a certain amount of who was friend and who was foe, the light AC element of the latter were met by Sgt Hutchinson's Tp about 8 miles North of ANTELAT. At 1200 hours it was found that part of the 7th Support Grp were East of the track 10 miles North of ANTELAT. This column which contained four 25pdrs and twelve 2pdrs had already engaged four 8 wheeled ACs and driven them back. A light enemy screen held the high ground overlooking ANTELAT, but Mr Petch's Tp had at one time a foothold on this ground and engaged enemy MET, recovering 4 of our men who had been taken prisoner. Mr Palin Evans Tp was in position at X4695 and Sgt Hutchinson was at X6865. The former reported approx 150 MET in the ANTELAT position and probably more behind the ridge. All Tp tasks were made extremely difficult because of large numbers of our own B vehicles which were moving North throughout the early afternoon and which came to all appearances from the enemy lines. Pomfret's 25pdrs never got into position to shell the enemy during the day. His OP was originally to Mr Petch's Tp who were outside the road 6 miles North of ANTELAT and from there to Mr Palin Evans. We were worried as we had heard no word of B Sqn who had been with the Guards Bde away down in the South.



	In the late afternoon the 2nd Armd Bde, who had fought a running battle with enemy tanks all the way North from BU FETTAH, moved into the area East of ANTELAT. 1Tp Mr Petch and 4Tp Mr Palin Evans maintained their position during the night. Sgt Hutchinson returned to SHQ who spent the night at X6278. B Sqn. During the night orders were received that the Coldstream Guards were going to hold the line of the BELANDAH – AGEDABIA track facing SW at first light. It was known however that there were considerable numbers of enemy tanks to the North of BU FETTAH. 5Tp was therefore ordered to a position South of BELANDAH. 4Tp to a position about 4 miles to his NW and 2Tp to a position overlooking AGEDABIA. 2Tp reported 300 – 400 MET in and around AGEDABIA and during the morning these moved NE towards ANTELAT and North up the road towards BENGASI. At 0900 hours orders were received that the Coldstream Guards were to retire North to ANTELAT but their Echelon had not arrived from the previous night and it was found necessary to wait for petrol. At about 1000 hours reports were received that SAUNNU was occupied by 700 vehicles of the enemy and in view of this the Coldstream Guards were directed on SAUNNU instead. It was 1400 hours before we eventually moved. 3Tp acted as left guard, 5Tp as right flank guard and 4Tp as rear guard. 3Tp encountered an enemy column shortly after starting but avoided it by turning East. After proceeding 10 miles the head of the column encountered 50 enemy tanks which were engaged until dark. At the same time 5Tp reported a large enemy column of approx 100 vehicles with 5 or 6 tanks moving North about 4 miles to our East. All columns were ordered to move to a position 10 miles NE of SAUNNU, the Sqn was ordered to lead the Coldstream Guards HQ to this position. On darkness enemy Very lights could be seen going up all around and all cars took a course which would lead South of SAUNNU. All Tps were called in and refuelled and the march commenced about 2130 hours. The march was uneventful and enemy leaguers occasionally fired. 30 miles were covered and the Sqn then leaguered for the night in the correct position. RHQ. In the morning orders were received to move to ANTELAT area as the enemy were there. Much reorganisation was needed. A & C Sqns were combined and RHQ moved down the track to X7594 and the Sqn made contact. The Regt was under 1st Armd Div and wireless contact was made with them in the afternoon and they moved to our area in the evening.
24/1/42	A Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp were in the same positions. Soon after first light the former was able to move a few miles further South on to a ridge overlooking ANTELAT itself and reported the situation there apparently the same as yesterday, although fewer vehicles could be seen. Sgt Hutchinson was sent out to his position of yesterday and contacted the Bays. As the approach to ANTELAT, the NE and East were covered by the Bays, Sgt Hutchinson was withdrawn. The OP from Mr Palin Evans remained a while longer and then returned to Mr Petch and shelled the ANTELAT area from 0900 to 1000 hours. At 0910 hours Mr Palin Evans had reported 100 men in threes, marching West from ANTELAT. These were probably prisoners taken by the enemy. B Sqn (Major Wainman) came on the air during the morning and reported all OK except for a few cars which had to be abandoned. At 1100 hours advance SHQ (Major Lawson) and Capt Burdon moved to contact the Bays which they did and found Brigadier Briggs at that position. The plan was rather obscure. SANNU was reported no movement seen. 10th Hussar had suffered heavy tank casualties the day before. 9th Lancers were to the East of the Bays and Guards Bde were NW of SANNU. It appeared that the enemy had the initiative. Advance SHQ moved to 1Tp and saw a small enemy force consisting of 20 MET including 3 A/Tk guns operating North of ANTELAT. This force behaved with great tenacity and skill and appeared to quite unworried by 6 tanks of the Bays and the 25pdrs with them. They carried out their recce and withdrew after seeing what strength the Bays were in at any cost to themselves. They were extremely brave. During the afternoon Mr Palin Evans Tp was ordered to work round the rest of the ANTELAT position to discover what force the enemy were in. this recce was well carried out. 150 to 200 MET were seen but no tanks. The enemy were not, as reported, using the ANTELAT aerodrome and Mr Palin Evans had several skirmishes with light enemy patrols. Sgt Peacock relieved Mr Palin Evans and Mr Ballingal relieved Mr Petch at 1600 hours. Position during



	the evening was unchanged and no enemy tanks showed themselves during the day. SHQ spent the night at X5873. Pomfrets force came under the Bays at 1700 hours. Mr Ballingal and Sgt Peacock were out for the night. B Sqn were today operating to the East of our line of observation. B Sqn. At first light Tps were sent out on a 2 mile radius to sort out the situation. The enemy were seen and all the columns of 22nd Bde were located. It was thought that RHQ, who had been in reserve at MSUS, would be in the area and it was decided to try and establish W/T contact which was made at about 0900 hours. Orders were then received from RHQ to take up a position of observation on the left of A Sqn. As a result 3Tp proceeded about 3 miles NE of SANNU, 4Tp 4 miles NW and 5Tp 5 miles WNW of him. 4Tp met Colonel Harvey of the 10th Hussars who was trying to locate his Bde HQ. Shortly after this 4Tp reported mechanical trouble on his own car and 2Tp relieved him. All Tps reported that columns of the 1st Support Grp were operating in the area. 2Tp pushed forward and reported an enemy position about 2 miles NW of SAUNNU but he was then shelled and forced back. There was considerable Stuka activity against the 22nd Guards Bde column in the area of SHQ. At least 4 raids being made. The Echelon arrived during the afternoon as petrol was getting very low. In the evening 3Tp reported a column of approx 50 vehicles moving North in the SAUNNU area. A troop of the Royals arrived and SHQ stated they had been ordered to get in touch with us. All Tps rejoined SHQ for the night. RHQ. The Div came to RHQ and codes were given and the Regt began to operate normally. Lt Horsford was acting Adj in the forward link. RHQ remained by Div all day and at night. In the afternoon Stukas came down the track, strafing, but did no damage and 2 were shot down later. The night passed quietly.
25/1/42	A Sqn. At 0700 hours Mr Ballingal reported that there had been movements of the enemy during the night from ANTELAT to a position 6 miles down the SAUNNU track. At 0715 hours he reported a large enemy column of about 120 vehs moving North on the MSUS track. There was another column formed up facing East, no tanks were seen in this column. By 0815 hours the column had reached the high ground 4 miles North of ANTELAT and Mr Ballingal was forced to withdraw slightly. Rear SHQ had been ordered to move back North along the track. At this time Pomfrets column was seen to be moving in close proximity of Advance SHQ. Pomfret was contacted and the enemy pointed out to him and his 25pdrs engaged the column who were advancing, led by a staff car. Pomfrets column now became involved at closer range with the enemy and the 25pdrs withdrew followed by the 2pdrs. Mr Ballingal had moved to the East flank of the enemy and gave exceptionally good reports on them. Sgt Peacock was watching this column from the West. There was no northwards movement on his front. At 0900 hours Mr Ballingal reported a tank battle to the East of him. This was to be explained later, and to be expected as the Bays were in that area. The enemy tanks however, which had come from SANNU, drove through the Bays who moved North. Mr Ballingal saw that he was likely to be cut-off and started moving NW, stopping to pick up a disabled tank crew. He was by this time under heavy tank fire but he was still passing information with great coolness and accuracy. At 0915 hours he reported one of his cars knocked out and proceeded to pick up the crew. A few minutes later, he reported himself as certain to be in the bog and passed extremely coolly his last information, then reported his own car hit, that he was destroying his papers and that the tank crew with him had dismounted and surrendered. His conduct throughout deserved the highest praise and he was unbelievably cool. Contact with the enemy was lost for a few minutes but Sgt Hutchinson was ordered to pick up the centre of the enemy column while Mr Petch found the head. Sgt Peacock remained where he was. Pomfret column had ceased to operate and Advance SHQ travelled on the West flank of the enemy column. By 1000 hours the situation was:- the enemy now had two columns, one travelling North to the MSUS containing 250 MET and 20 tanks, the other travelling NE with 500 MET and about the same number of tanks. B Sqn was shadowing the latter.



The column heading due North for Z MSUS met little, or no, opposition and stopped for nothing, with 20 tanks leading them. The idea apparently being to produce chaos, which they did, and not become involved on route.

At 1115 hours Mr Petch reported that the enemy tanks were on the Z MSUS landing ground. Our own troop had retired North and East. The Sqn was to the West of Z MSUS.

Mr Petch continued in observation of the enemy and Sgt Hutchinson moved up and did the same. Sgt Peacock had seen no signs of enemy except the elements in his area. He was ordered to withdraw and join SHQ. He was shadowed North by enemy ACs.

Mr Petch reported the enemy column moving NE at 1300 hours. He and Sgt Hutchinson were ordered across the wadi and keep contact. They attempted this but were driven North by mobile A/Tk guns. They also reported further enemy columns coming into Z MSUS from the South and they were therefore both ordered to withdraw West.

Z MSUS was a fair shambles. Dumps burning and MT and tanks and ACs in Ordnance Parks. W/T touch with RHQ was now non-existent as RHQ and B Sqn had withdrawn East.

It was therefore decided to move West down the track to SCELEDIMA and then turn North. Sqn less Sgt Hutchinson and Mr Petch moved North from X6814 and reached BIR BALACH at 1600 hours. Sqn halted there until 1730 hours to wait for the two Tps who were still wending their way around enemy columns.

At 1730 hours Sqn complete except for Mr Ballingal's Tp commenced to move the 55 miles to BIR EL GERRARI. The enemy situation was quite unknown but skirting all enemy leaguers to the North, the trip was carried out uneventfully and the destination reached at 0030 hours.

RHQ was out of touch with Div and we had no orders for tomorrow. However we were in touch with the Royals and we formed a plan to watch the enemy from the North for any advance in that direction, and the Royals to observe from the East.

Trevor Smail now commanding, the Colonel being on leave, although himself far from being well. B Sqn.

Orders were received during the night that the Royals were coming in on the left of A Sqn and that the Sqn was to go into reserve. Until, however, touch had been made between A Sqn and the Royals, the Sqn was ordered to send out a patrol to a position about 6 miles NW of SAUNNU and 4Tp was detailed for this duty.

At about 0900 hours SHQ was ordered to proceed NW to a position closer to RHQ and at 0930 the Sqn less 4Tp commenced moving NW.

At the same time 4Tp reported 25 enemy tanks moving North at X6670. He was ordered to keep contact with the eastern flank as A Sqn was reporting their head.

The course of the Sqn was altered to strike the BALATABD EL HAFID lake at the southern extremity and the Sqn would move from that position in either an easterly or westerly direction according to the position of the tanks.

Unfortunately when the lake was sighted it was apparent that the Sqn was too far to the West and was 2 miles North of the southern end on the western side. The Sqn therefore turned East towards the lake. By this time 4Tp reported the enemy tanks to be in the area X8082 moving North, fast. At the same time a report was received that an enemy column had moved NE from SAUNNU.

It was decided to move 2 miles South to the bottom end of the lake and operate on the eastern side.

5Tp who was doing rearguard reported the leading elements of the enemy column about 1 1/2 miles to his SW. during this time 4Tp had not been able to keep up with the enemy and, as it looked as though he would not be able to get round the northern end of the lake, permission was asked of RHQ if he could break contact and move to the South of the lake. This was granted but he had hardly commenced moving when SHQ encountered the above mentioned force to the South of the lake. 4Tp was therefore ordered to find a gap across the middle of the lake which he did.

The remainder of the Sqn dropped back in front of the enemy column which was moving in a NE direction. 5Tp operating at their head and 3Tp on their East flank. The enemy fired a few shells. The column consisted of 25 tanks and about 600 MET. Brigadier Reid's Column was visible to the East of the lake and 1Tp was ordered to contact him and acquaint him of the situation and this he did. Brigadier Reid, having only 3 guns left, did not engage and he retired to the NE, 1Tp remaining with him.

The enemy still continued advancing NE at a fairly rapid rate and after about 5 miles 5Tp reported he was having considerable trouble with one of his ACs. 2Tp therefore relieved him. The enemy halted on reaching BEZ ZMARIZ where their head appeared to be engaged by some of our own troops. Their tail had concentrated up on their head and they presented a fine target for either air or artillery. A few minutes later considerable artillery fire could be seen at the tail. This it transpired later was Colonel Purdon's (RB) column.



	At about 1500 hours orders were received from RHQ to break contact with this column and to rejoin RHQ in the North. A Tp of Royals arrived at the same moment and they took over observation of the enemy. At the same time, part of the enemy column about 100 strong commenced moving East and it therefore appeared as though there might be some difficulty in getting to the North of the enemy. 2Tp remained in observation of the enemy whilst the remainder of the Sqn moved about 10 miles East and then North, crossing the head of the enemy column 2 miles in front. 2Tp was called in and the Sqn joined up with RHQ 6 miles West of GERRARA shortly after dark. RHQ. No change in the situation.
26/1/42	A Sqn. At first light Mr Palin Evans moved to T1040 and Sgt Hutchinson to T2040 and started moving South. It appeared now that there had been no northward movement of the enemy from their concentration in area T track T0720. SHQ moved to T3050 and on route found the Luard column, positioned them, and sent them off to CHARUBBA. We also found a brand new staff car belonging to Wyne of 2nd Armd Bde Staff. His documents were also left in it. The car will do fine for Trevor who wants one. Sam White our OME collected it and it was at once put into commission. Mr Palin Evans and Sgt Hutchinson were both moving South and contacted light enemy patrol elements on the 30 N/S Grid line. At 1130 hours SHQ moved to T1244 where a tank workshop was found. The amount of kit left behind in the last few days by our troops is past all belief. We shall never win the war if this state continues, and men and officers go entirely unpunished for their gross negligence. LCpl Mitchell put one A15 on the road within 30 minutes and we will take this back tonight. We also collected as much water as we wanted and an uncased charging engine. B wants one. During the morning Peter Palin Evans Tp engaged a small column of 7 vehicles, killed the officer and the column dispersed in confusion. From the back of the last lorry jumped 7 men. These were collected and proved to be men of our taken yesterday by the enemy. At midday I heard that the SAAC Regt was to take over our piece of line. One of theirs certainly arrived during the afternoon and sailed in to attack us. We did not return their fire and they soon realised their error. Bob Reeves Morris's Sqn picked up John B and his Tp complete this morning. I await the story of his escape with interest. Sgt Peacock went out in the afternoon to take over from Sgt Hutchinson. We skirmished with the enemy throughout the day, difficult as they were in our vehicles the whole of the time, but returned many of them South in clouds of dust. No enemy in a major way from the North but no doubt they are having a marvellous time at our dumps and they are certainly sending out small parties destroying our abandoned vehicles. Sqn concentrated at last light, the 4th SAAC having taken over. We moved to T3050 with 1 tank, 1 Humber AC and 1 Dingo all of which Mitchell had fixed up during the day. He is a most brilliant mechanic and worker. Arrived at 2030 hours and RHQ arrived an hour later, Trevor a very sick man. RHQ. A line was established running NW & SE with the Royals in the South. B Sqn had returned the night before. RHQ moved NW to T2852 to get in the centre. one Hurricane out of 6 machine gunned RHQ and hit a petrol lorry without setting fire to it. Orders were received to take over the northern end of the line and the 4th SAAC arrived in the area. B Sqn remained to guide the Echelon and RHQ moved 5 miles to join A Sqn. The Echelon did not arrive that night. B Sqn. During the night orders were received that the Sqn was to regain touch with the BIR ZMARIZ party with the Royals on our left and A Sqn on our right. 1Tp, 2Tp and 3Tp therefore moved West at first light. Colonel Purdon's column, which had been seen breaking through the previous day, was encountered moving East about 4 miles West of SHQ and they later came into SHQ. Visibility was bad during the day but isolated enemy recce parties were observed by all Tps in the area East and NE of BIR ZMARIZ, one of these parties engaged 2Tp with small arms fire. As the light cleared in the evening about 400 MET could be seen in the ZMARIZ area. All Tps rejoined SHQ at last light. SAAC Regt arriving to take over that bit of the line. Orders were received that the Sqn were to await the arrival of the Echelon, and then move NW for about 12 miles and join RHQ. By midnight however, as the Echelon had not arrived, it was decided to league for the night.



27/1/42	B Sqn. The Sqn moved about 13 miles NW at first light and joined up with RHQ. Orders were then received to the effect that the Sqn was to operate to the SW of EL CHARRUBA with A Sqn on the right and a SA Regt on the left. 4Tp therefore proceeded to the area of the two cisterns S8462 with 5Tp about 5 miles to his SE. 5Tp reported approx 50 vehicles moving North at S7544, about 7 miles to his South. These subsequently disappeared. Tps were called in for the night and the Sqn leaguered in the AISLAN area. RHQ. In the morning RHQ moved up the track towards CHARRUBA taking with it one A15 salvaged by the Sqn. They passed through the Guards Bde and halted at T0476 at midday. Rain and sandstorm. We were close to Div and Major Smail who was sick went to Liaison Officer. The night was spent. The Echelon arrived and all replenished.
28/1/42	B Sqn. At first light 1Tp proceeded to the double cistern area and 3Tp to the area to his SE. During the morning a report was received stating that there was a large enemy column moving North in area S6040. 1Tp proceeded about 10 miles West to investigate but was unable to confirm although he saw a large column of smoke considerably further to the West. Both Tps returned to SHQ at last light and the Sqn leaguered in the usual place. RHQ. In the morning RHQ remained in the same place but moved to B Sqn at S9664 in the afternoon, arriving at dusk. A quiet night but news of tanks to the South attacking the Scots Guards.
29/1/42	B Sqn. During the night orders were received that on the following day A Sqn would operate on our left in the area BIR GARUNIS. The Sqn was ordered to do flank guard to the 1st Armd Div which was supposed to be moving South from CHARRUBA to engage the enemy in the MSUS area. 4Tp proceeded to the cistern area, 2Tp to the SE of him and 5Tp to the SW of him. During the morning a report was received that an enemy column was moving East towards EL CHARRUBA from EL ABIAR. 1Tp was therefore ordered to go out to investigate. He reached SDI AZAMUT and reported no movement seen and was recalled. All Tps were called in at last light and orders were then received that the Regt was to move to BIR TENGEGER, a distance of approx 70 miles. The Regt left at 2300 hours, B Sqn leading, and by 0430 hours had covered 50 miles. RHQ. In the same place. The doctor sent out to A Sqn and Lt White arrived from CHARRUBA. Major Smail went to Div and returned with orders to move to TERGEDER area. The start was delayed by orders to send patrol to ABIAR track which was eventually cancelled and the Regt moved at 2300 hours. A good march through the night with good going. Two halts were made and the Regt arrived intact at 0800 hours, passing through the Royals area.
30/1/42	Day spent in resting.
31/1/42	B Sqn. It was decided that owing to the bad condition of the ACs, to form a composite Sqn and Major Lawson found 2 Tps under Lt Horsford and Sgt Parker. The remainder of the Regt in B vehicles moved back to BIR HACHEM under Major Alexander.
Period September 1st to October 15th. For the most part of this period the Regt was operating below the SOMAEA escarpment with patrols forward of the MAGRA area. On the last night of August, Rommel's push began and the enemy came through the minefields North of HIMEMAT. Although during the next few days the 11th Hussars established no contact with the enemy we withdrew to conform with the line of the 4th Light Armd Bde. RHQ fell back on the first night from MUNQUARA FRAN to the neighbourhood of the BLACK HILLS. The next few days would have passed quietly enough as the Regt was not in contact, but Me 109's were active over the Sqn, their crowning achievement being the destruction of Colonel	



Leetham's staff car and kit. On the following day, September 4th, Colonel Leetham went back to Cairo and Major Smail took over command of the Regt. Soon afterwards Colonel Leetham flew home to take up a post in England. At this time the following changes also took place:-

Major Wainman from B Sqn to 2i/c,
Major Alexander from RHQ to a very secret job in Palestine,
Major Grant Thorold from Adjutant to C Sqn,
Capt Crankshaw from PAE to General McCreary to Adjutant,
Lt Stewart from IO to PAE General McCreary,
Capt Roberts from Base to B3,
Capt Dier from B3 to 4th Armoured Bde, as temp Major,
2Lt Brown from LO at 4th Armoured Bde,
2Lt Moore from A Sqn to B2a,
2Lt Frisbee from Base on joining to RHQ AA Tp,
2Lt Williamson on joining to A Sqn,
2Lt Stephen from A Sqn to B3.

Until mid September, when the Germans had fallen back on the MUNASSIB – HIMEIMAT – RALAT line the Regt was playing outside left to the 8th Army and saw little of the game. We were then relieved by the 6th SAAC Regt and moved to take over the line between MUNASSIB and the SOMARA escarpment, having under command 2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry, less one Sqn. The Regt was thus enabled to renew its acquaintance with Lt Col Lord Allenby and Major Wiggin. For this period we came directly under the command of 7th Armoured Div and RHQ were at 438868, and a good enough position until Bde axis for 4th Light Armoured Bde was laid through the centre of it and a bad position when the 51st Highland Div used it for training purposes. The congestion being almost intolerable. There was little activity during this time though travelling was complicated by minefields. RHQ had many visitors including officers from the 2nd and 13th Lancers and the Scout Tp of the Wiltshire and Warwickshire Yeomanry Regts in **Dingos**.

At the end of September the 11th Hussars reverted to 4th Armoured Bde and were relieved for three days by the newly arrived Household Cavalry Regt. We then went on scheme to practice the work of columns. 11th Hussars column under command of Lt Col Smail consisted of RHQ and A Sqn 11th Hussars, A Sqn 4th Hussars (Capt O'Brien), M Bty 3rd RHA (Major O'Brien Butler), D Coy 1st KRR (Capt Cosden) and the usual smaller units.

The column joined up NW of GABALLA and prepared to move at 0200 hours. Fortunately the LO detailed for the job, failed to find us till nearer 0400 hours so the night march was fairly short though not entirely orderly. When the column reformed at daybreak it pushed in the direction of AMRIYA and attacked an imaginary landing ground during the afternoon. An atmospheric storm put an end to radio communication and the scheme was declared closed. On the next day we returned to the starting point, practising formations as we went. The night was spent in the Echelon area near QARET SHIRAB and then RHQ and A Sqn returned South to the SOMARA area, RHQ being at 437229 with the Echelon near EL SAYDADA.

With only one Sqn in the line, the opportunity was taken to re-fit and give leave to as many as possible. There was little ground activity though occasional tank sorties were made by the enemy and reported by us, but the air situation became acute. Groups of two, four, five or nine Me 109's made repeated attacks on the forward troops, on the Sqn HQ at MAGAR and on RHQ. There were several men wounded and even desperate digging failed to prevent a few vehicles from being shot up. These included one of the American Volunteer Ambulances, 2 Scammel breakdowns, the Signal Sgts truck and several punctures in RHQ and more of the same further forward. The new AA Troop under 2Lt Frisbee was formed, consisting of 1 Breda gun, 1 German 20mm and 1 twin MG flak truck, this generally put up a good volume of fire and was a comforting addition to RHQ.

In an effort to fox the Me's RHQ withdrew NE for 3 miles on the 16th and set about digging itself in once more. During September to October 15th period, SSM Beedham, like several others, caught diphtheria and his place was taken by Sgt Emery and later Sgt Whittaker. "X" Troop Royal Signals lost the services of Sgt Walker and Cpl Smith whose stay with RHQ had been a successful one as with C & A Sqn's.

Officers Serving With the Regt in the Field October 1942.

RHQ.

Lt Col A T Smail	CO
Major W Wainman	2i/c
Capt JAN Crankshaw MC	Adjutant
Capt HC Roberts	OC RHQ Sqn
Capt H Petch DCM	Technical Officer



2Lt EK Brown B2
2Lt RH Moore B2a
2Lt DRJ Stephen B3
2Lt RV Frisbee AA Tp
Lt (QM) E Chardwick MBE
Capt TWright RAMC
Lt VC Gabbitass RAOC
C Sqn.
Major RMHM Grant Thorold Lt HF Hutchinson DCM
Capt WV Burdon 2Lt OM Wentworth Stanley
2Lt GJ Lovett 2Lt JDA Woodhouse
2Lt HWJ de Wend Fenton
A Sqn.
Major JCAD Lawson MC Capt JA Friend
Lt PN St.C. Palin Evans Lt JW Peacock DCM MM
Lt JB Turner 2Lt The Viscount DAW Stewart
2Lt DAF Williamson
B Sqn.
Major J Turnbull Capt TC'B Horsford MC
Lt RE Wingfield Digby Lt AC Le H Cockbain
Lt RR Lockett 2Lt NWL Pring
Officers Serving Away from the Regt in the MEF.
Colonel E Forrestier Walker
Lt Col NHN Wild
Major Verelst
Major K Alexander
Major HSCayzer
Major W McG Cunningham MC
Capt FW Ward
Capt A Reid Scott
Capt GEC Dier MC
Capt JW Poston MC
Capt PF Stewart
Capt AJ Newsome
Lt RA Rapp
Lt JW Garradd

OBE MC 10th Army
"A" Force Middle East
APM Haifa
9th Army
Sqn Ldr, 7th Training School
PA General Alexander
2i/c Armd Car Training Sqn.
ADC General Wavell, India.
4th Light Armd Bde
PA General Montgomery
PA General McCreary
AFU Staff
Sck
4th Armd Bde.

September 1942	CO: Lt Col AT Smail
Sep 42	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/9/42	C Sqn. At 0600 hours the Sqn was ordered to go to RUWEL EL GAMUS but were told to halt when they were



	at 456851. The Sqn was put under the command of Colonel Corrett DSO MC, who had a column of two Coys of 60th KRR and two Btys of 3rd Field Regt, but later on this was cancelled and the Sqn were ordered back West a little way to 444844.
2/9/42	C Sqn. At 0630 hours the Sqn was ordered to send out 2 patrols with the object of recceing position of the enemy northwards between ABUD WEIS and QARET EL HUMAR. 1Tp shr McHardy received orders to move West and go up the pass West of MUNQAR RALAT. 4Tp Lt Wentworth Stanley was sent up the escarpment just West of QARET SOMARRA and get into position to observe the area round HIMEIMAT. SHQ moved westwards and were attacked by 4 Me109's; no damage was done although the Forward and Rear Link cars were narrowly missed by some AP shells. 0930 – 1Tp had nearly reached the top of the pass and at 0947 hours reported 30 Infantry at 874251 also 1 MET at 871252. 0955 – 1Tp at 872247 reported 2 OPs at 871251. In the meantime 4Tp had one car badly stuck just South of QARET SOMARRA which held them up. 1008 – 1Tp reported 3 MET had joined the Infantry, who were digging in at 874251. 1158 – 1Tp reported that 1 MET had gone North and that there were now 50 Infantry digging. 1245 – 1Tp reported 1 truck with 6 men walking about at 864250. 1247 – 4Tp had reached a position at 887245 and reported a large concentration of MET South of DEIR EL RAGIL. 1305 – 4Tp reported 12 MET stationary at 883252 and 3 MET moving East from 886250. Later on they went to 880252 where they were joined by 7 MET. The B1 Echelon plus 2Tp and 3Tp were now South of MUNQAR AFFRAN but forward HQ were about 3 miles to their West. They were attacked and strafed by 6 Me109's. Lt Lovett's car was set on fire but his men quickly put it out, no damage being done to it but Tpr Pinfold was slightly wounded in the face and hands. Several cars were hit which caused some punctures. 1433 – 1Tp reported 2 MET moving West and approaching the Infantry position, he then reported 2 more MET moving North up the pass from Pt. 219. Shortly afterwards 1Tp was told to come back to SHQ. 1532 – 4Tp reported 3 tanks moving SW at 881249. They later disappeared in that direction. 1655 – 4Tp was ordered to return to SHQ who were moving back to RHQ at 444844. Both 1Tp and 4Tp had done a good recce.
4/9/42	C Sqn. In reserve, nothing to report. B Sqn. 1Tp in position at 428852 and 4Tp at 430846. 1Tp moved to a better position at 425842. Nothing was reported all day. 1800 – 3Tp relieved 1Tp and 5Tp relieved 4Tp and remained out all night. Major Wainman left the Sqn to take over 2i/c of the Regt and Capt Dier came as 2i/c the Sqn.
5/9/42	B Sqn. 3Tp in position at 428852 and 4Tp at 430846. 1600 – 3Tp was ordered to get in touch with 12th Lancers patrol to his North which he did at 889245. He remained with him till evening and returned to 425852 for the night. 1800 – 1Tp relieved 5Tp at 426845. No enemy reported all day. SHQ was bombed by Me109's three times during the day but no damage was done.
6/9/42	A Sqn. SHQ 436836. During these two days 2 patrols were maintained. One at RASEL BAQAR and the other in area 425842. There was nothing of importance to relate during these two days. B Sqn. 1Tp in position at 426845, 3Tp moved up into a position at 889245 which was just South of the 12th Lancers patrol. 0745 – 3Tp reported 25 MET in the HIMEIMAT area. 1000 – 2Tp relieved 3Tp at 889245.



	1046 – 2Tp reported 7 MET moving North at 889245. 1100 – 2Tp went to 886242 to cover the 12th Lancers left flank and 1Tp moved forward to 888235. 1400 – 2Tp reported some MET at 881246 which our guns were shelling, but the shells were falling short. When told, the gunners got in amongst them and the MET withdrew NNW. 1600 – SHQ, 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp moved to 431846. 1700 – 2Tp reported 1 vehicle at 881247. 1Tp and 2Tp stayed out all night. We had a Tp of C Sqn 4th SAAC Regt attached to the Sqn and they went with 2Tp. They were armed with a 37mm gun, and a German flak gun.
7/9/42	A Sqn. Patrol line moved West. Patrol now maintained at 876226 and another at RASEL BAQARAs, from there it was possible to watch as far South as the 215 northing, which was our responsibility. SHQ moved to MAGHRA and sat taking the waters in the oasis, nothing to report. A Jeep Tp was formed under 2Lt Turner, who returned yesterday from Cairo, and from 2Tp. This was to fill the gap caused by shortage of cars, and also it was considered that longer recesses in this area could be satisfactorily performed by this Tp. B Sqn. 2Tp in position at 886242 and 4Tp at 888235. 0645 – 2Tp reported 4 tanks and some MET round the bottom of HIMEIMAT to the East and South and some guns shelling West from there. 0700 – 2Tp reported 5 MET moving South at 880246. 0710 – 2Tp moved West for 2 miles and reported 5 vehicles at 878243. On his way back to his normal position he was shelled. All day 2Tp reported local enemy movement round HIMEIMAT. 1600 – 3Tp relieved 4Tp at 888235. 2Tp and 3Tp remained out all night. RHQ. RHQ moved West to NE of MUNGARA FRAN, within a mile or two of the leaguer area as it had been before the push of Sept 1st. this move was necessitated by the withdrawal of the enemy to HIMEIMAT and the fact that the Sqns were now patrolling the MAGRA area once more.
8/9/42	C Sqn. 1400 – the Sqn left to take over from B Sqn. 2Tp Lt Hutchinson went to a position SE of the ACACIA TREES at 883234. 4Tp Lt Wentworth Stanley took over from B Sqn patrol at HQ ARMIAGUD. SHQ were just West of MUNQARA FRAN. No movement seen. B Sqn. 2Tp at 886242 and 3Tp at 888235. 0700 – 2Tp reported usual MET and movement round HIMEIMAT. 0715 – 2Tp reported 2 ACs and 1 Portee at 881243. 0730 – 2Tp was heavily shelled for 15 minutes owing to some of our tanks coming up to his position. 1000 – 2Tp was relieved by a Tp of the 12th Royal Lancers. 1500 – Sqn relieved by C Sqn and moved to 437837 with all Tps in.
9/9/42	C Sqn. Lt Wentworth Stanley 4Tp reported an enemy OP just East of HIMEIMAT at 881250. He also reported a line of Infantry and MET stretching from 880925 North to 87962530. 0743 – Lt Hutchinson 2Tp reported 5 MET moved SE to 87722425 where the men dismounted. One MET remained there and 4 MET moved West towing guns to 877242. One lorry towing a gun moved off NE. 0759 – Lt Hutchinson reported one large vehicle and one small truck at 88112428. Later on there was 1 large vehicle (either a tank or AC), one small AC and 1 Portee. The Colonel visited the Sqn and also went round the Tps. 1730 – Lt Wentworth Stanley 4Tp picked up 2 natives and one donkey. No movement seen remainder of the day. A Sqn. As for the 8th. 4Tp Lt Palin Evans at 876226. Sqn Ldr visited him. B Sqn. Remained in rest all day and that night.



10/9/42	C Sqn. 1125 – Lt Hutchinson 2Tp reported 5 men walking North at 876236. Two cars were sent out and these men turned out to be the crew of a Wellington which had raided TOBRUK and had to make a forced landing South of EL DABA. They had been walking for about 36 hours and were pleased when they realised who we were. The 6th South African Regt relieved the Sqn at about 1200 hours as the Regt was ordered to take over from the 12th Royal Lancers and KDG's further North. The Sqn moved off in the afternoon to a position by RHQ and later moved to SE of RUWEL EL GAMUS. A Sqn. During the morning we heard that we were to be relieved by 6th SAAC Regt. The Sqn arrived at 1530 hours. Relieving patrol took 3 hours to go 6 miles to relieve 4Tp. Handover completed after visit of OC 6th SAAC who had lost his map. Sqn moved by 1830 hours and spent the night in area 430840, 4Tp arriving at 2100 hours. B Sqn. The Regt moved to take over the line North of the Escarpment. 1600 – moved to 464854 for the night. Capt Horsford arrived to take over 2i/c from Capt Dier. RHQ. The Regt was relieved by 6th SAAC and that night moved East to the BLACK HILLS and GAMUS area where it leaguered.
11/9/42	C Sqn. The Sqn moved in the morning to EL FATNUNIYA which was reached at 0900 hours and remained there the rest of the day. A Sqn. Sqn moved at 0630 hours to 470850 and halted for breakfast. From there to area EL FATNUNIYA arriving at 1300 hours. Sqn Ldr visited RHQ, 12th Royal Lancers and KDG to arrange to take over on the next day. Cars were also to be taken over from 12th Lancers and 2Lt Turner went to get 5 of these. Night spent in area 445868. B Sqn. Moved to 445867 and remained there all day and night. RHQ. Regt moved NW to QARETSHIRAB and came under command 7th Armd Div to patrol from MUHAID to QORLABRAN.
12/9/42	C Sqn. 0830 – Sqn moved to a place just SE of QARETEL HUMAR. The 12th Royal Lancers were there and the Sqn proceeded to take over from them making SHQ at 427855. 3Tp (Sgt Chambers, Lt Lovett's car having broken down) took over the Northern patrol at 885248. They were shelled proceeding to this position. 1Tp Sgt McHardy took over the centre position at Pt. 215 888246 and 4Tp Lt Wentworth Stanley took over the Southern position at QURELABAN, being heavily shelled whilst doing so. 1220 – all reliefs complete. 1415 – 3Tp Sgt Chambers reported 4 tanks and 1 Portee at 866242. Later on he reported 2 men standing on one of the tanks and one man outside and also 2 men climbing the NW slope of HIMEMAT. 1830 – seven shells fell in area of 3Tp position. 1922 – 3Tp reported 2 men at 880251 walking SW. 1930 – 3Tp at 880251 reported 3 MET moving West also 4 tanks and 1 PV at 883252. 1940 – 3Tp reported 2 lorries and 1 AC moving North from HIMEMAT. 2000 – no movement seen. A Sqn. At 0630 hours the Sqn complete moved to area 430876 to contact Major Hellyer's Sqn of KDG. 1Tp were despatched from there with a guide and took over at 885255. There was also a 12th Royal Lancer patrol in that area. B1 remained at 430867, advance SHQ moved to contact Major Shan's Sqn of 12th Lancers at 427864, accompanied by 3Tp Mr Peacock and 4Tp Mr Palin Evans. These Tps took over patrols at 885258 and 888252. The enemy hold the high ground from HIMEMAT along the line of the track North to MUHAISSIB with a tank screen by day and fairly active artillery. In the nights the Infantry become responsible; they



	appear to sleep by day. The area under the escarpment from 879252 to 872252 hold 80 to 100 MET. The HIMEIMAT area about 40 MET and about 15 tanks in patrols of 2 or 3 to protect the front. The tasks of Patrol Leaders is extremely difficult as the whole area is full of derelicts, from the German advance of 10 days ago. Also in the DEIR EL RACIL area are upwards of 150 German vehicles of all types mostly destroyed by our bombers. Our front is slightly held while the Armour re-groups. 4th Light Armd Bde in the South, Consett Force in the centre and 44th Div in the North. 51st Div in reserve at ALAM EL BUHB area and 22nd Armd Bde in the area to the South of them ready to operate to their South. C Sqn are with 4th Armd Bde, A Sqn on Consett Force front and one Sqn of Derbyshire Yeomanry to our North. This Sqn is under command 11th Hussars who come directly under 7th Armd Div. One Tp of Derbyshire Yeomanry came under command of the Sqn today, Tp Ldr 2Lt Amos. The Tp spent the day getting to know their position and the enemy in front of them. The southern position is extremely bad and will have to be changed. The centre, Sgt Trumper, very exposed and comes in for a great deal of strafing, from 2 groups of 105's. The Northern position is fairly good with a satisfactory vision to the West and the SW. advance SHQ remained in area 422364 and B1 in area 885255. Patrols reported a total of 12 tanks during the day. 30 MET in the HIMEIMAT area and 60 to the West under the escarpment. Sqn Ldr visited Lt Colonel Consett in the evening. Patrol withdrew East of the most westerly minefield for the night. B Sqn. Remained in reserve in the same place.
13/9/42	C Sqn. 0600 – no movement seen. 0630 – 2Tp Lt Hutchinson relieved 3Tp Lt Lovett at position of the northern patrol, 3Tp then relieved 1Tp Sgt McHardy at Pt. 215, 1Tp then relieved 4Tp at QUR EL LABAN who returned to SHQ. 0646 – 1Tp reported 2 MET moving about at the base of HIMEIMAT and were shortly joined by 1 more MET. 0706 – 1Tp reported 2 MET approaching HIMEIMAT, these MET later turned NW. 0725 – 1Tp reported 4 MET moving up ridge of HIMEIMAT. 0825 – 1Tp reported 8 Sukas flying East. 1031 – 2Tp reported 3 tanks at 881251. 1145 – 3Tp reported 5 MET at Pt. 165. 1220 – 3Tp reported 5 MET halted and 1 MET moving and later 2 guns at 880253. 1314 – 3Tp reported movement behind HIMEIMAT and at 879250 1 MET burning. 1815 – 2Tp reported 2 tanks moving West out of sight and at 880257 2 MET moving SW. 1912- 1 Tp reported 3 MET at 881245 moving West and later approached HIMEIMAT from the South. 1930 – 3Tp reported 8 MET at 880250 moving North. 2000 – no movement seen. A Sqn. 1Tp 3Tp and 4Tp in the same positions as yesterday. 4Tp had the misfortune to hit a mine at first light but did little damage. 1Tp Sgt Trumper came in for a great deal of artillery attention from gun position at 879257 (four 105's and one 75mm) and from 880260 (three 105's). there are also guns operating from positions 2000 yards West of HIMEIMAT. The light is only good until about 1000 hours and by that time patrols had seen the same amount of tanks and MET as yesterday. Lt Col Smail and Lord Allenby visited advance SHQ at 1150 hours and at that time there arrived also the Free French column Commander and Lt Col Consett. 1300 – it was decided to change the patrol position of 4Tp and it was decided that a position at 891252 was more advantageous even though slightly further back. Major Wainman visited SHQ in the late afternoon. Nothing further of note occurred during the day. Advance SHQ had moved to 424865 to be in touch with Major Northey's HQ. Tps leaguered behind the minefield, 4Tp with the southern gap protectors and 1Tp and 3Tp together at one of the more northern gaps. SHQ and B1 and reserve Tps behind the second minefield. B Sqn. 0800 - Moved to 442869. RHQ. RHQ moved West to EL FATNUNIYA. In this area sandstorms and flies, especially after the recent fighting an unending curse.



	Capt JAN Crankshaw took over as Adjt from Major RMHM Grant Thorold.
14/9/42	C Sqn. 0600 – No movement seen. 0630 – 5Tp Sgt Keen relieved 2Tp Lt Hutchinson on the northern patrol, 2Tp relieved 3Tp Lt Lovett at Pt. 215 and 3Tp relieved 1Tp Sgt McHardy at QORELLABAN who came into SHQ. 0645 – 1Tp reported at 880250 2 MET at foot of HIMEIMAT. 0646 – 3Tp reported at 882252 1 tank moving West. 0930 – 2Tp reported at 883252 1 tank moving West. At 883251 5 tanks and 1 MET. Between 881255 and 881252 men standing at intervals. 15 minutes later at 883251 there were men walking about amongst the tanks. 1212 – 2Tp reported 879258 4 guns firing, believed to be 105's. At 879256 1 gun ranging. 1444 – 2Tp reported at 873251 1 MET moved SE and later at 876249. Also 1 tank came from West of HIMEIMAT and towed away a light car moving West out of sight behind HIMEIMAT. 1758 – 2Tp reported 882254 8 MET moving South and possibly West. Later on 3 of these MET moved SE to 883257. 1900 – 2Tp reported at 883253 three MET halted. At 884253 two MET halted. At 883254 three MET moving East. 1928 – 3Tp reported 2 tanks left of Escarpment Post at 881242 and now moving North. 2000 – No movement seen. A Sqn. Sqn Ldr with 5Tp 2Lt Lord David Stuart and 6Tp 2Lt Amos D'Yeo left night leaguer area at 0630 hours. 5Tp to take over from 1Tp and 6Tp to take over from 3Tp. This take-over was completed by 0900 hours. There was no change in the situation. 13 tanks were seen and the usual amount of MET in our area. 5Tp and 6Tp did extra well this being their first run out on this type of front which is ideal work for ACs. At 1600 hours 2Tp 2Lt Turner took over having collected 3 12th Royal Lancers cars from 4Tp at 891252. There was nothing unusual to report during the day. The three Tps leaguered each at a minefield gap with patrols of 60th KRR. SHQ in close proximity to Major Northey's night position in area 430866. Major Cayzer and Major Dunlop visited SHQ in the late afternoon. B Sqn. Remained in reserve and carried out some training.
15/9/42	C Sqn. 0600 – No movement seen 0630 – 4Tp Lt Wentworth Stanley relieved 5Tp Sgt Keen who relieved 2Tp Lt Hutchinson who relieved 3Tp Lt Lovett who returned to SHQ. The usual movements of tanks and MET were reported throughout the day. 1634 – 5Tp reported at 882251 4 tanks stationary and being shelled. Later they went off in a westerly direction. 1849 - 5Tp reported at 883253 1 tank, moving North and being shelled. A Sqn. 2Tp, 5Tp and 6Tp to normal positions at first light. There appeared to be a decrease in MET, but as the light improved this was not the case, and things became normal. Tanks however showed themselves less, and only 6 were reported during the morning. There was the usual amount of shelling from both sides during the morning with the enemy in the best position of observation and the light always in their favour. The situation appeared as follows:- A small amount of enemy tank patrols were forward of the enemy Infantry position on the line of our old minefields and just East of it. Guns, generally 105mm, operated from the HIMEIMAT area and from area 880260 and 879257, becoming very active if patrols become inquisitive. 80 plus MET were reported under the escarpment from 872252 to 878252 and some movement from them NW and vice-versa. Patrols withdrew at last light to minefield gaps. Advance SHQ spent the day at 423864 and withdrew at last light to rear RHQ and B1 at 431867.
16/9/42	A Sqn. At first light 2Tp, 5Tp and 6Tp to normal positions. On leaving the minefield gap at 899255 5Tp picked up a German deserter who gave a very open mouth to his questioning, he may have been planted.



	5Tp and 6Tp were relieved by 3Tp and 4Tp. Major Aspinall 13th Lancers went out with 4Tp Mr Palin Evans. At 0900 hours 1Tp Sgt Trumper relieved 2Tp in the southern position. No tanks were reported the whole of this day and it appears the enemy have entirely withdrawn them leaving the front to artillery and OPs by day and Infantry by night. Except for the lack of tanks, MET seen were in normal positions and the same numbers. Patrols were again heavily shelled if the became inquisitive. During the afternoon the enemy used a 150mm gun ranging up past SHQ to the gap at 429866. This gun in the morning had been trying to locate our Medium guns. Whilst withdrawing to night position SHQ was bombed by 109's, near misses and no damage.
17/9/42	A Sqn. Troops as for yesterday except that 6Tp Mr Amos D. Yeo replaced 1Tp in the southern position. A very quiet day. No tanks seen and no change in the enemy disposition. An Indian Army Major was taken out by the Sqn Ldr to 4Tp position, Major Aspinall returning. Sqn Ldr to RHQ. Normal night position. SHQ spent the day in position of Rear HQ and B1. 0600 – 3Tp left for the Northern patrol and 4Tp had trouble with 2 of his cars in bad going by the centre position. By 1000 hours 1Tp had taken over the centre and 4Tp the southern leaving 1Tp car with big end failure for evacuation. 5Tp broke a half-shaft on the way in, Harry had a busy day collecting casualties. Visibility was poor. Sight local movement reported. Occasional shells. 1900 – one MT and 2 ACs left ex post and went home NW by normal route.
18/9/42	A Sqn. At first light Tps went out to their day position. 4Tp carried out a recce from his position 885258 to 882260 and came into close proximity of an enemy party consisting of one 155mm gun, 12 MET, a Portee, 1 W/T truck and 2 Jeeps. He also reported other MET in the NUNA ISSIB depression. The enemy were surprised and so was Mr Palin Evans, it was not until he was withdrawing that he was engaged by the enemy. It appears that the enemy can hide a great deal of kit in this depression without being seen. 2Tp Mr Turner relieved 3Tp and 5Tp relieved 4Tp. While in the South 1Tp relieved 6Tp. At 0900 hours the new 7th Armd Div Commander, General Harding, with Lt Col Smail came out to Advance SHQ at 423864. This party then went out and visited the Southern patrol positions. 5Tp Viscount Stuart explained the area, ground and what he could see to the General in veteran style. Nothing to report from the enemy whose dispositions remained the same. At 1830 hours 2Tp was bombed by 109's and LCpl Firth was slightly wounded by shrapnel and one car slightly damaged. A slight increase of enemy MET movement in the evening and 2Tp was engaged by heavy machine gun fire at a range of 3 miles.
19/9/42	A Sqn. 5Tp took over the North and 2Tp took over the centre with 3Tp South. 0930 – the 6th SAAC Regt was bombed. 0945 – gun flashes were reported at 878250. 1830 – three 109's bombed and strafed 2Tp. No damage or casualties.
20/9/42	A Sqn. 4Tp to the North, 5Tp centre and 2Tp South, 3Tp came in. 0845 – 2Tp reported 3 guns believed to be 75mm at 879250. 1010 – four 109's dropped bombs and strafed. No damage.
21/9/42	A Sqn. 1Tp North, 4Tp Centre and 5Tp South, 2Tp came in. bad visibility early on – a few MET round HIMEMAT. Sight artillery activity in the North. 1900 – 4 ACs were seen to leave escarpment post. Quiet day.
22/9/42	B Sqn. Sqn moved up to 432868 ready to take over from A Sqn next morning.



	A Sqn. 3Tp North, 1Tp Centre and 4Tp South. 1045 - 3Tp was shelled by 105's. No damage. 1235 - 3Tp was bombed by 109's. No damage. 1750 - men seen at 879250 and 879251. Infantry positions here with Bty position slightly West. 1930 - escarpment patrol returned NW.
23/9/42	A Sqn. 2Tp in North, 3Tp Centre and 1Tp South. 0830 - one large and 2 small ACs at escarpment post. 1230 - 10 MET going South from 876250 and local single MET movement. B Sqn. Sqn took over from A Sqn. 1Tp went to 887256 and 2Tp sent out to 892252. SHQ and remainder stayed at 432868. The forward and rear link moved forward to 424865. A column of 1st KRRC were at 424866 with whom we were in close touch. During the day the patrol at 887256 reported small enemy movement both of men and MET all along his front. Our role was to observe the enemy on our front from the 250 Northing to the 258 Northing. In the case of an enemy advance we had to observe the enemy and block two gaps in one of our minefields at 426865 and 426863. At night the patrol at 887256 withdrew to 890255 to help a party of KRRC who were guarding a minefield gap there. The patrol at 892252 went to 890252 to do likewise at another gap. No movement seen during the night.
24/9/42	A Sqn. 5Tp North, 2Tp Centre and 1Tp South. 0900 - visibility poor, no change. 1250 - 105 shells fell near 890244, could not see where from. 1925 - just North of HIMEMATA a large explosion followed by clouds of grey smoke and white very lights, probably an enemy vehicle went over one of our mines left in that area. B Sqn. During the period 24th Sep to 3rd Oct two patrols were maintained at 88256 and 892252 with the Tps relieved every morning, staying out at night. SHQ remained at 432868. Every day both patrols reported local enemy men and MET movement on the front. The patrol at 887256 used to get shelled during the day and occasionally had to move its position about 100 yards. 3Tp Mr Digby having the worst day on Oct 1st when the 44th Div attacked MUNASSIB, and the enemy became more interested in the patrol than usual.
25/9/42	A Sqn. 0645 - very thick mist, visibility 20 to 50 yards, cleared by 0730 hours. 1710 - a long way NW of us vehicles and possibly tanks seen moving. 1910 - our artillery was active in area 878257 causing a fire. Nothing further to report.
26/9/42	C Sqn. 1Tp Sgt McHardy to northern position, 4Tp 2Lt Wentworth Stanley to Centre and 5Tp Sgt Keen to southern position. Single vehicles reported during the morning in 879250 area. In the morning Lt Hutchinson went on leave and 2Lt Woodhouse took over 2Tp. Major Grant Thorold took over the Sqn and went round the patrol positions with Major Cayzer who later went on to RHQ.
28/9/42	C Sqn. 2Tp Lt Woodhouse to northern position, 3Tp to Centre and 1Tp South. At 0710 hours 3 vehicles were seen moving SE at 878245, they went into dead ground. At 0740 hours 1Tp who were still in the Centre were shelled. There was a certain amount of enemy shelling all day, at 0830 area 885245, at 0925 hours area 888247, at 0930 886245, at 1200 area 887243.



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	One vehicle of the enemy patrol at the escarpment 882242 was visible at 0900 hours. This vehicle was visible for the rest of the day. The usual few vehicles and men were seen in the HIMEMAT area and along the ridge running West. Me 109's were again active in the area during the day.
29/9/42	C Sqn. 5Tp Sgt Keen, 2Tp and 3Tp moved out to the usual positions. One tracked vehicle was seen moving SE at 879244, this was followed by another and at 0730 hours both were in position at the escarpment. The usual shelling and bombing took place during the day.
30/9/42	C Sqn. 5Tp moved to the centre and 2Tp to the South. 3Tp returned to SHQ. Usual small parties of vehicles and men were reported throughout the day.
October 1942	CO: Lt Col AT Smail
Oct 42	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/10/42	C Sqn. 1Tp Sgt McHardy moved to North relieving 4Tp who went to centre and 5Tp moved on to the southern position, 2Tp returned to SHQ. Three Tp Ldrs of the Household Cavalry Regt who had spent the previous day and night at SHQ went round the patrol positions. There was heavy mist until 0830 hours and visibility was bad. The usual enemy patrols around the escarpment were seen by the 6th SAAC Regt who were on our South but were not seen by our patrols. 0850 – there was a big explosion at 877250. Vehicles in small numbers were seen in this area all day. 1045 – 5Tp reported 1 vehicle which appeared at 880241 and then moved North. It was believed to be an AC. At 1300 hours 2 vehicles were seen at 882244, and at 1440 hours 1 vehicle moved into dead ground at 882243. Me 109's were fairly active and 1Tp were bombed at 1420 hours. The Sqn Ldr visited 1Tp during the morning and Capt Burdon took their rations to them in the evening. Visibility was again bad during the evening.
2/10/42	C Sqn. 3Tp Lt Lovett moved to Northern position, 1Tp to the Centre and 4Tp to the South. Visibility was fair. The enemy escarpment port patrol could not be seen but at 1200 hours was reported to be there by the 6th SAAC Regt. At 1313 hours 1Tp reported 3 vehicles moving NE at 882243, this was confirmed by 4Tp. They turned East and at 1340 hours reached 885243 where they were engaged with artillery fire. Now identified as 2 Honey tanks and one 8 wheeled AC, they came as far as 886243 before turning round and retiring West. They returned to their usual position at 882242 and went out of sight. There was movement during the day of single vehicles along the ridge between 874250 and HIMEMAT. The Colonel visited the Sqn during the day. Two Tp Ldrs of the Household Cavalry Regt with their ACs went to the Northern patrol position in the evening.
3/10/42	C Sqn. 2Tp 2Lt Woodhouse took over Northern patrol, 3Tp moved to Centre and 1Tp to the South. One Tp Ldr of the HCR with AC went out with 2Tp who only took 2 ACs of his own. The other Tp Ldrs of the HCR moved on to the Centre and Southern patrols. 1Tp and 3Tp both sent back their third cars to SHQ. There was a great deal of activity by 109's between first light and 0930 hours, but none for the rest of



	the day. There was the usual activity along the ridge, running over the 250 grid from HIMEMAT. There was an extremely bad dust storm in the afternoon and during the evening 2 HCR cars went out to each position to join their Tp Ldrs. 1Tp, 2Tp and 3Tp each sent back another car to SHQ, remaining themselves with HCR Tps. There was a wireless silence from 2100 hours onwards.
4/10/42	C Sqn. The Tp Ldrs left out rejoined SHQ by 0900 hours. Sqn moved at 1600 hours to RHQ area 438868. The Sqn Ldr and 8 ACs, without car commanders, remained there to take part in a scheme. The remainder of the Sqn moved back to the Echelon area. A Sqn. From Sep 25th to Oct 4th the Sqn was in reserve at 439869. The time being taken up in extensive training and careful checking of vehicles and equipment. The Derbyshire Yeomanry lent the Sqn a Daimler AC to the Sqn for a short period and classes were held on this vehicle and the 2pdr gun. The 1st RB also gave 6pdr classes to 10 men of the Sqn. The recce Tps of the Wiltshire and Warwickshire Yeomanry were also instructed during this period. Attention was also given to the instruction of Tp Ldrs in Column Warfare which appeared to have become important. B Sqn. We were relieved by Major St George's Sqn of the HCR. For four days before this we had had some of his Tp Ldrs out on patrol with our Tps. 1100 – the hand over was complete and the Sqn was concentrated at SHQ. The Sqn had to supply 8 wireless cars for communication, so these went off with the Sqn Ldr and Mr Cockbain who went out on the scheme. 1500 – the rest of the Sqn went under Capt Horsford to the B3 area.
5/10/42	C Sqn. Capt Burdon, 2Lt Wentworth Stanley, SSM Lamb and 21 ORs went on leave to Cairo. Those who were not out on the scheme remained in the Echelon area. B Sqn. Sqn remained in the B3 area and three composite Tps were organised and the rest of the men went on leave. The cars that were not used were left with the B3 with only one driver per car.
8/10/42	C Sqn. A, B & RHQ Sqn moved down to the MOGRA area and A Sqn took over the line South of the 850 grid from the 6th SAAC Regt. C Sqn remained in the Echelon area. A Sqn. The Sqn moved to MAGHRA and took over from 6th SAAC Regt in area 890228. Patrols were maintained at RASEL BAQAR also at 875229 and 884234. 1Tp Sgt Green, 2Tp Mr Turner and 5Tp viscount Stewart took over these patrols. 6th SAAC stated that the mosquitoes to be extremely bad. B Sqn. The Regt moved South to the MOGRA area to take over from the 6th SAAC Regt. The Sqn of SHQ and three Tps under Sgt Matheson, Sgt White and Mr Cockbain moved to 445847 where they arrived at 1700 hours and stayed the night. Mr Pring's Car was sent out to SOMRA as a link between 4th Armd Bde and the Regt but was not very successful.
9/10/42	C Sqn. Sqn moved to 451841 where it remained in reserve. A Sqn. Patrols as for the 8th. In the afternoon the colonel visited the Sqn and Capt Friend and Mr Peacock proceeded on leave to Cairo. Tps had nothing to report all day. Tps and SHQ were worried considerably by the mosquitoes during the night. B Sqn. At 1100 hours the Sqn moved to 440844 where we were in immediate reserve by RHQ; A Sqn being in



	the line.
10/10/42	C Sqn. Sqn in same position and still in reserve. A Sqn. 4Tp Sgt Fitzpatrick (Mr Palin Evans doing 2i/c), was at RASEL BAQAR. 3Tp and 5Tp relieved 1Tp and 2Tp. Nothing to report all day. B Sqn. Sqn remained at 440840 in reserve. Made up to five Tps again and got six new Mk III Humbers in exchange for our old ones.
12/10/42	C Sqn. Leave party returned and the Sqn reorganised into five Tps. A total of nine new HAC Mk III were received. A Sqn. Tps in their position but nothing to report all day. SHQ was harshly dealt with by 109's (bombers) 3 times during the day at 1000 hours, 1400 hours and 1700 hours. The attack at 1400 hours lasted for 30 minutes and 9 109's took part. This was a fierce attack and the Sqn was lucky to have only two men wounded. Cpl Addis slightly and Tpr Rose fairly seriously. No B vehicles were damaged. ACs were hit but none penetrated except that of Cpl Addis. It would appear that the enemy fighters use the Southern Sqn as a practice ground for their young pilots. They improve slightly. The Sqn shot down a 109 which landed in the area of ACACIA TREES. Enemy planes later bombed and destroyed this machine the pilot was picked up by 2 Heinkel reconnaissance machines.
13/10/42	C Sqn. Sqn moved to 440844 where it remained in reserve. A Sqn. Sqn was relieved by Major Turnbull's Sqn during the morning. The Sqn moved via RHQ to EL FAIYAD which was the Echelon area. B Sqn. Sqn moved to 892228 to take over from A Sqn. 2Tp moved out to 876230, 1Tp to 887236 and 4Tp Mr Pring to 890222. By 1200 hours the take over was complete. 1600 – 2Tp was heavily bombed and strafed by 109's, no damage. 1630 – 1Tp reported 2 heavy tanks coming down the escarpment at 880240. These tanks moved SSW straight for 2Tp who had to withdraw to 880228. When the tanks got to 2Tp original position they stopped and then withdrew North. 1845 – SHQ and Echelon moved 3 miles East. 1Tp and 2Tp remained out and 4Tp returned to SHQ.
14/10/42	C Sqn. Sqn in reserve. A Sqn. Oct 14th to 22nd. At 1200 hours on the 14th Mr Palin Evans and Viscount Stewart set out for Cairo with 12 Humber ACs and 35 ORs to draw new Humber ACs and for leave. Capt Friend returned by 1400 hours from Cairo after a motor accident on route. He and Sgt Trumper unhurt but Tpr Fearn slightly hurt. Major Lawson proceeded to Cairo at 1500 hours. During the period to the 22nd Troop training and W/T training was carried out by the Sqn which consisted of only three Tps. Mr Peacock attended Div minefield gapping scheme. On Oct 21st the men returned from leave in Cairo with new ACs. B Sqn. 14th Oct to 18th Oct. During this period the Sqn kept the three patrols out at 876230, 887236 and 890222 during the day. During this period the only enemy patrols seen was a normal tank patrol of Honeys at 882242 with some Infantry. Also occasional MET were seen at 880241. On the 16th we were told to verify a report of 150 MET at 878242. 4Tp went to 876236 where he could see them and then returned to his normal position.



15/10/42	C Sqn. In reserve in area 440844. RHQ in area 436839 were bombed twice by Me 109's, the second time the planes flew over the Sqn and were engaged.
16/10/42	C Sqn. In reserve.
17/10/42	C Sqn. In reserve.
18/10/42	C Sqn. The Sqn moved at first light to take over from B Sqn. 5Tp Sgt Lawrence to the Northern position, 1Tp Sgt McHardy the Centre and 3Tp Sgt Christmas the southern position. SHQ at 424839 and the B1 and reserves Tps at 430861. Two 109's circled SHQ at about 0900 hours (B Sqn were still there) but they took no action and went off and machine gunned the B Sqn Tp still at the Southern position and then onto the centre and gave 1Tp a burst. The usual enemy patrols at the escarpment port were seen and reported, it consisted of 2 Honey tanks. Odd vehicles and men were seen in area 880242. The Sqn leaguered at 428838, 3Tp coming in and 1Tp and 2Tp staying out for the night. B Sqn. 18th Oct to 19th Oct. During this period the Sqn were heavily bombed and strafed by 109's. An average of 5 attacks being made per day, divided evenly between the patrols and SHQ. Three ACs were knocked out, two in 3Tp Mr Digby and one in 5Tp Mr Copeland. Also the charging lorry was knocked out and the ambulance, when it was waiting at SHQ. All these were got back to SHQ. 3Tp had three men wounded, Cpl Stewart, LCpl Palmer and Tpr Whittington, all three only slightly wounded. 5Tp had 1 man killed, Tpr Sadd and 1 man wounded, LCpl Peckett. Each time the attacks were made every available gun was let off but without any visible result. On the 19th the Sqn was relieved by C Sqn.
19/10/42	C Sqn. 5Tp stayed at the Northern position, 2Tp Lt Hutchinson relieved 1Tp in the Centre and 4Tp 2Lt Wentworth Stanley went to the Southern position. The enemy escarpment port patrol was seen and also a few off vehicles in that area. RALAT pass was bombed by our planes in the afternoon. Sgt Lawrence's car was machine gunned by a single 109. Sqn leaguered in the same position, 4Tp coming in and 2Tp and 5Tp remaining out for the night. B Sqn. The Sqn were relieved by C Sqn and at 1200 hours moved out to sit in reserve just by RHQ at 443845.
20/10/42	C Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Christmas took over the Northern patrol, 2Tp remained in the centre and 1Tp Sgt McHardy went to the South. Two Honey tanks were seen at the escarpment port. At about 1230 hours our fighter bombers bombed the North end of RALAT position and started a large fire. At 1530 hours 3 Me 109's bombed B1 Echelon. There was a large number of our fighters in the sky at the same time but they failed to do any good. Only one attacked and he was damaged by the 109's. Sgt Lawrence's car received a direct hit from a bomb which knocked off the water can and headlamp and marked the mudguard but failed to go off. Two vehicles were seen to leave the escarpment port just before last light and go West. The Sqn leaguered in the same place, 1Tp coming in. B Sqn. Sqn in reserve in the same place and got heavily smitten once more. The petrol lorry went up also A Sqn charging lorry which was lent to us and our 15cwt office truck was rendered useless. There were no casualties.



21/10/42	C Sqn. 3Tp remained in the North, 4Tp relieved 2Tp in the centre and 5Tp went South. One Honey tank and another vehicle were seen at the escarpment post. At 0830 hours 4 Me 109's dropped bombs in the HUMAR area and 3Tp was machine gunned by two of these on their way home, puncturing 3 tyres on LCpl Whitehead's car. At 1100 hours 4 109's bombed and machine gunned the B1 Echelon and reserve Tps. 2Tp came in for the chief attention, one radiator being damaged and some tyres punctured. The 15cwt office truck was also damaged. Shortly afterwards Major General Harding visited the Sqn with the Colonel. At about 1530 hours the 4 109's appeared again and machine gunned SHQ. The forward link was badly damaged and the rear link had all its tyres punctured and most of the external fittings blown off. Luckily no one was hurt. In the evening 2 109's bombed and strafed 4Tp but caused no damage. The Sqn leaguered in the same position.
22/10/44	C Sqn. The Household Cavalry Regt took over the front. The Sqn moved to the B Echelon area at EL FAIYADA where it was made up with ACs and later to 443861 where it spent the night. A Sqn. 0800 - Major Lawson with Major Turnbull and Mr Palin Evans arrived. Capt Friend was attending a conference at RHQ. By 1500 hours the Sqn, who had drawn new cars and reorganised tps, were ready to move. 1530 - Sqn moved North up the escarpment to area 439866, under Capt Friend. Major Lawson had gone on ahead to contact Colonel Corbett Winder and Brigadier Roberts, 22nd Armd Bde. Sqn spent the night in area 439866, less 5Tp Sgt Lovett and 1Tp Sgt Thumper who had difficulties on route. B Sqn. The whole Regt moved to the central sector ready for the big push. The Sqn moved up to 439863 next door to RHQ at 1400 hours, arriving at 1700 hours to be greeted by our friends the 109's who for a change dropped their bombs on someone else and all got shot down for their pains.
23/10/42	A Sqn. Sqn was concentrated by 1000 hours. 2Tp Mr Turner and 3Tp Mr Peacock with Mr Palin Evans and Major Lawson went to contact 44th Div Recce Regt (Colonel Corbett Winder) with whom they were to work during the attack which is to start tonight. The Sqn of 44th Div Recce are responsible for gapping enemy minefields and each Sqn is to make 2 gaps 400 yards apart, in the January and February minefields in area 882255. This gap from the North will be called hereafter January 1-2-3-4 and February 1-2-3-4. 2Tp and 3Tp were to operate with the Sqn responsible for gapping January 3-4 and February 3-4 while two Tps of the Derbyshire Yeomanry under command of 11th Hussars were to be with the Sqn operating at January 1-2 and February 1-2. Mr Palin Evans with 2 HACs from his Tp was to act as link and co-ordinator with Brigadier Roberts, 22nd Armd Bde. Advance SHQ was to act as a further co-ordinator and give instructions and advice as necessary. Once penetration had been made, the Tps on the gaps were to act as gap control posts and general conformation bureaus. 1900 - 44th Div Recce Regt with 11th Hussars Tp and with 22nd Armd Bde and 4th Armd Bde moved through our own mine fields into concentration area 885254. 2200 - The attack on the minefields commenced. Penetration and clearing of mines was made by Matilda tanks with a mine clearing device. 2330 - 44th Div Recce Regt W/T broke down and 11th Hussars and Derbyshire Yeomanry Tps maintained communication between assault troops and Bde and Div. B Sqn. 23rd to 30th During this time the Regt were in reserve and we sat in the same place listening to the opening barrages of the push which were terrific. During this time the Sqn were ready to go to the 4th Armd Bde if they needed us when they got through the minefields. They failed to get through so we were not required.



24/10/42	A Sqn. 0200 – January minefield was clear and gapped and assault had moved on to February. The Greys and 5th RTR passed through January into a position 1500 yards from February. 3Tp Mr Peacock moved with assault troops to February and 2Tp Mr Turner remained on the West side of January. Assault troops were not able to penetrate February during the night. All troops were under continual heavy and accurate fire and the work done by 2Tp and 3Tp and the two Tps of the Derbyshire Yeomanry was beyond praise, their information and the communication they maintained was at all times excellent and the Div Commander has since stated that without their work the success of this first night would not have been possible. Mr Palin Evans at Bde was tireless and his work was again of the highest standard. One car from Mr Peacock's Tp, L/Sgt Dobson, was blown up by a mine and had to be evacuated, the crew returned to Mr Palin Evans. Derbyshire Yeomanry Tps lost 2 cars, one evacuated after a very near shell miss, and another hit by A/Tk fire. The second making its own way to Derbyshire Yeomanry SHQ. No Derbyshire Yeomanry or 11th Hussars casualties during the night. The 44th Div Recce Regt suffered fairly heavy casualties. Situation at first light. 2Tp at January 3-4, 3Tp East of February 3-4 and Derbyshire Yeomanry Tps placed in the same way. It became apparent that February could not be bridged until the following night. Greys and 5th RTR remained 1500 yards to the East of February, and 3Tp and a Tp of Derbyshire Yeomanry were given the order to withdraw from February. 2Tp and the other Tp of the Derbyshire Yeomanry were to remain at January gaps. It was during this withdrawal, and while approaching January 1-2, that Mr Peacock was killed. He was hit while he was in his AC turret by an A/Tk shell fired from the NW. He died immediately and was buried 300 yards SE of the South Bedford gap. A very fine, bold leader holding the DCM and MM and a fine 11th Hussars. His loss in the Regt and in the Sqn is deeply felt. The day was spent in resting and getting the men meals, under some shellfire and bombing. SHQ had been situated at 424864. 1000 – Major Lawson went up to see Mr Palin Evans and picked up Brigadier Roddick on route. Plans were made for the operating of the troops for the assault in the night Oct 24/25th and it was decided that advance SHQ should travel with Mr Palin Evans, or at least move up to him. Major Lawson returned to 424864 after sending one of the Derbyshire Yeomanry Tps back, as only two Tps were needed for the night's work as only 2 gaps were to be made in February. Half an hour after arrival at SHQ Mr Turner, by W/T, reported that Mr Palin Evans had been killed while sitting by the side of his AC resting at 1400 hours. He was hit by a piece of shrapnel from a shell that landed within 15 yards, he died within 5 minutes. He had joined the Sqn on September 3rd 1941 and had become a magnificent Tp Ldr, and was a fine and admirable character greatly loved by his Sqn. His loss and that of Mr Peacock are irreplaceable. 1500 – Major Lawson moved up to take over from Mr Palin Evans, being stopped on the way to attend a conference at Bde at 1600 hours. The plan for the night. 1/6th and 1/7th Queens to penetrate minefield and form a bridgehead on the western side, to be followed at once by 44th Div Recce Regt and RE's who were to make the minefield gaps, two Tps of 11th Hussars to be with Sqn of 44th Div Recce Regt as last night. Gaps tonight to be known as February 2 and February 3. 5Tp Sgt Lovett and 4Tp Sgt Trumper were allotted to these gaps, gaps to be 400 yards apart. After penetration 22nd Armd Bde and 4th Armd Bde to go through into battle position on the West side. Major Lawson and a car under Cpl Turner to travel with Bde HQ, attack to start at 2100 hours with artillery barrage on selected targets – these being gun positions plotted during the day. Last night artillery barrage was of the creeping type, preceding the Infantry as they advanced. Capt Friend brought Adv SHQ up to Bde HQ after replenishing. Rear SHQ remaining 424864 and he himself was nearly hit by a shell as he took his first whisky and water. 1/6th and 1/7th Queens met strong opposition from enemy SA fire but penetrated the minefield. Difficulty also experienced by the RE's lifting the mines owing to accurate and heavy shellfire. On both nights 44th Recce Regt and RE's performed their jobs with great bravery and dash.
25/10/42	A Sqn. 0200 – Bde HQ moved up past 22nd Armd Bde and 4th Light Armd Bde to February minefield to see what the situation was. Both lanes were reported cleared and ready for use. Bde Commander himself watched his troops passing into the gaps. 1Tp and 5Tp performed their roles admirably. 0215 – Gaps were under extremely heavy shellfire, and this continued throughout the night. There was also considerable heavy A/Tk and SA fire from enemy in close sniping positions. On reaching the



	West end of the lanes the foremost tanks came under heavy A/Tk fire from 88mm and 47mm guns – some tanks were knocked out. 22nd Armd Bde and 4th Light Armd Bde were therefore stationary on lanes from 0200 hours to 0500 hours under heavy shellfire. It was therefore decided that the penetration to battle position on the West side of February was not possible, and that to cover February from between January and February was all that could at present be done. 1/6th and 1/7th Queens suffered heavily. The plan however had been successful as 7th Armd Div has only in fact been used as bait, to draw and keep some of the Panzer troops from the North where the main attack was made and where we penetrated successfully the enemy positions. 0800 – the Sqn was given orders by Brigadier Roberts to withdraw their task being finished. Sqn concentrated at 484864. This had not been an AC role but all Tps involved had done their jobs well and with some skill. 1400 – Sqn complete moved to the area of RHQ at 438863 and came into reserve.
26/10/42	A Sqn. Oct 26th – 30th Sqn in reserve in area 437863. The time was spent in reorganising Tps and in training. Lt Wingfield Digby came to the Sqn from B Sqn and Capt Friend returned to Cairo on route for England where he is to take over AC training Sqn at RMC. He has spent all his 7 years soldiering in A Sqn except for 9 months on General Norrie's Staff. He will be missed enormously by all ranks of A Sqn. Capt H Petch DCM took over 2i/c of the Sqn. Troops on 30th October were commenced as follows:- 1Tp Sgt Trumper 2Tp Mr Turner with Mr Williamson under instruction 3Tp Sgt Longmate 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby 5Tp Sgt Lovett.
31/10/42	A Sqn. The Regt with A Sqn leading moved to the ALAM EL HALFA area at 1600 hours and arrived there at 1815 hours having passed through the Albert Gate gap in the ALAM EL HALFA minefields and defended positions. The whole of the 7th Armd Div moved to the North today, leaving no armour in the South. The enemy having moved his armour from the South to the North after having realised that the penetration of his minefields in the South was not to be the position of the main thrust. His appreciation before the battle showed that he thought the main thrust would come from the South. Therefore the actions on the January and February minefields, although maybe costly, had kept in the South a sufficient amount of his armour to allow the assaults in the North to be successful. B Sqn. The Regt moved up to the North with the 7th Armd Div ready to go through the gap when made. The Sqn moved at 1500 hours to 437885 where we spent the night. On the way up we went through our minefields at LANCASTER GATE and the kit going through this small gap was something fantastic. If it had not been for our complete air superiority we would never have got through. There was wireless silence during this move.
November 1942	CO: Lt Col AT Smail
Nov 42	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/11/42	A Sqn. After breakfast the Regt moved to concentration area of 22nd Armd Bde in the area of EL IMAYID station and orders were given out for the move up to the front tomorrow morning. A fairly complicated move as it requires the use of three tracks, Sun, Moon and Star. The concentration of MT in the area was fantastic, no vehicle being more than 20 to 30 yards from the next and there was no more room. Any move had to be carefully timed and worked to programme. A Sqn moved on the southern track, Star. The Regt spent the day in the EL IMAYID station area and moved at last light to the head of tracks as allotted to Sqns. B Sqn.



	In the morning we moved up to just East of the BOMBAY road where we came under 22nd Armd Bde but remained in touch with the Regt. In the afternoon we formed up at the head of 22nd Armd Bde at IMAYID Station with 1Tp and 2Tp on the Sar track which was South of the railway, 5Tp and SHQ on the Moon track just North of the railway and 3Tp and 4Tp on the Sun track which was the MATRUH road. We spent the night there in that formation with wireless silence. Our task was to act as an advance guard to the Div through EL ALAMEN and on by marked tracks through the enemy minefields which had been taken by the Infantry, and then due West to a point South of DABA where the Div was going to turn North towards DABA.
2/11/42	B Sqn. Moved off at 0600 hours for EL ALAMEN. A very cold and dismal morning. Arrived ALAMEN at 0830 hours where we stopped and had breakfast. So far wireless silence. At 0930 hours saw the Div Commander who said everything was going well and we moved on again at 0945 hours with all wireless open. The tracks were very congested so progress was slow with frequent stops. After many halts we arrived at 875296 where we stayed the rest of the day. 1Tp and 2Tp were on their track 2 miles to the South and 3Tp and 4Tp half mile to the North. We were surrounded by more kit than I have ever seen with about 10 yards between vehicles and mines in those gaps. The tracks running through the place were heavily used and very dusty so many vehicles which used them covered everyone with dust. A truly nasty position. At 1500 hours 3Tp and 5Tp were sent out forward to try and discover what was happening. 5Tp went to area 865293 and 3Tp to 865295. Neither Tp could really find out much as there were a lot of our tanks and guns in that area and no one quite knew what was happening. 3Tp blew one of his cars up on a mine and had to leave it with the crew with some A/Tk gunners out for the night. There was quite a lot of enemy shelling in both the areas where the Tps went to, but not directed against them in particular. Both Tps returned to SHQ for the night. 1Tp and 2Tp remained on their track for the night and 4Tp remained on his. Everyone was ordered to sleep in slit trenches as we were a magnificent bombing target and also within shelling range but in spite of this everyone spent a peaceful night.
3/11/42	A Sqn. Sqn in area 878293 until 1600 hours. The Sqn Ldr went to RHQ during the morning, who was sitting in the middle of a mine field with vehicles periodically going up around them. Heard of the successful breakthrough of two Sqns of the Royals under Majors Hamilton Russell and AIMERY, who had done considerable damage to enemy MT behind his front line. The enemy by now had been driven back from his main defended lines and has lost a considerable amount of equipment in these first 7 days of battle, he has also lost heavily in tanks, 1st Rifle Bde accounted for 50 and upwards in a brilliant engagement two days ago. The time for the breakthrough has come. At 1600 hours the Sqn moved forward to the western end of Sar track into the Two Bar track and into the area 870295 and then moved 2 miles North to contact the Regt with B & C Sqns. The Regt to remain concentrated tonight, and the 22nd Armd Bde with 4th Light Armd Bde behind them to move out into the open country at first light tomorrow morning. B Sqn. The Colonel arrived up to us at 0745 hours in the morning and we were told to send out 2 patrols to the same area as they had gone the day before to do the same job. 5Tp went out to the same area and 1Tp went out to 3Tp's area. We also managed to get a Scammell from 22nd Armd Bde and 3Tp took it out and recovered his blown up car. The two Tps that had gone out found it just as hard to get any information as it was the day before. They sat out there the whole morning with the crowd, being shelled and occasionally bombed. At about 1500 hours the Sqn Ldr attended a conference at RHQ who had moved up close and the Sqn were ordered to move to 865298 and then SW down a line of cairns to the 80 Grid and thence due West to a point SW of DABA and then up North to the road West of DABA. At 1630 hours the Sqn moved out to 865298 having called in all the Tps except 1Tp & 5Tp who were to meet us there. About this time Tpr Williams, Sgt Matheson's Driver/operator, was wounded in the



	back by a shell and so had to be brought back to the ADS which was next door to where we had been sitting, so it was some time before 1Tp rejoined the Sqn. While the Sqn was moving 5Tp were ordered to look for the line of stone cairns which he failed to find. The Sqn arrived at 865298 and found shells falling all around and what appeared to be a battle going on just to the West. After being there for about 5 minutes the rest of the Regt arrived and people were sent out to look for these cairns but everyone failed to find them, the force of war being too great. Just before dark 1Tp rejoined the Sqn and the whole Regt leaguered for the night at 865298. At this time everyone was longing to get out into open country as for the past 10 days we had been hemmed in by thousands of vehicles and innumerable minefields.
4/11/42	A Sqn. 0100 – Regt moved into close leaguer with 22nd Armd Bde with orders to move at first light. An artillery barrage of upwards of 400 guns was firing over our heads throughout the night so sleep was not easy. With C Sqn doing advance guard and B Sqn right flank protection and A Sqn close recce, 22nd Armd Bde moved forward at first light. This move was not to cease until the enemy defensive position at EL AGHEILA were reached on the 25th November. At approx 0730 hours C Sqn reported a column of enemy 500 MET of all arms moving slowly West from 856294. This column was engaged and in turn halted to engage 22nd Armd Bde. C Sqn moved slightly NW and 1Tp, 2Tp and 4Tp moved up to observe the column of 500 MET which later proved to be the remnants of the TRIESTE Div who had apparently without orders, moved back thus exposing the whole of the enemy southern flank. A gap had therefore been made and through it poured columns throughout the day. 22nd Armd Bde continued to engage the enemy who were being forced slowly West. At 1200 hours the Sqn was ordered to move down the telegraph line to area 857286 and from there to feel West and also to get observation to the South so that warning would be given of any enemy breaking away from that direction. 3Tp Sgt Longmate, 5Tp Sgt Lovett and 2Tp Mr Turner were given that task. At 1300 hours in the area of BIR EL ABD Sgt Longmate reported enemy Infantry positions, and later with two Sqn of a South African Recce AC unit these positions were attacked. The enemy who were Italians and had no form of transport fired a few shots and then surrendered. More than 1000 prisoners were taken as well as many A/Tk guns and artillery. Meanwhile 1Tp Sgt Trumper had reached 857280 and had encountered a minefield running East and West. He therefore moved West along it and reported MET moving West to his South. 5Tp Sgt Lovett was at 854285 and he also reported small numbers of MET moving West to his South. SHQ moved to 856283. At 1630 hours 3Tp Sgt Longmate in area BIR MUKHEISIN engaged a column of 20 MET. He put out of action an enemy Breda gun, destroyed 3 lorries, captured 12 lorries and 120 prisoners. At 1700 hours the Sqn was ordered to rejoin 22nd Armd Bde and by 1745 hours had reached them in area 850288. At last light 22nd Armd Bde ended a battle in which 7 or 8 enemy tanks were destroyed and 4 or 5 heavy A/Tk guns. Sqn was concentrated by 2000 hours and the night was spent with 22nd Armd Bde. B Sqn. We were told last night that the whole Div was going the same route as the Regt starting at 0300 hours with 22nd Armd Bde leading and the Regt in the rear. At 0200 hours the Regt moved over behind Div with B Sqn in the rear. When we arrived we were told that we would not be starting until 0600 hours, so everyone immediately dosed down again. At 0300 hours a huge barrage started just behind us and the noise was terrific but we all managed to sleep all the same. At 0600 hours the Div moved off but by 0800 hours we had only done 1 mile. At 0815 hours the Regt were ordered to move due West through TEL AQQAQIR owing to the bad going in front and the rest of the Div would follow. The Regt moved with C Sqn leading, A Sqn on the left and B Sqn on the right. B Sqn moved with 2Tp on the right front, 5Tp right centre and 3Tp right rear. Having gone just across the SIDI RAHMAN track the Regt ran into the enemy. 2Tp reported 3 lorries at 857298 and also 3 tanks to his West. The Regt halted and waited for the 22nd Armd Bde to come up and engage. 2Tp kept reporting various bits of enemy to the North and NE of SIDI HAMID which was the enemy's main position being observed by C Sqn.



	5Tp remained in observation to the North and 3Tp to his NE while SHQ stayed about 2 miles West of the SDI RAHMAN track. We stayed like this until 1400 hours. 2Tp pushed West a little until engaged by an 88mm and had to withdraw. At 1400 hours we were told to withdraw our patrols and move to 859291 where we would contact 10th Armd Div who we were to be attached to. We proceeded to this area but could see no sign of 10th Armd Div anywhere. The Sqn Ldr swarmed around the area until dark and contacted masses of people who appeared to be coming through the area but no one had seen any sign of 10th Armd Div. Just before dark the Echelon arrived to replenish the Sqn. At 1900 hours we managed to get into wireless contact with the people to whom we were attached. We discovered they were doing a night march so arranged to meet them. We arrived at the meeting place at 2330 hours and waited for them. About 2345 hours our friends told us that they had hit some bad going and got all mixed up and were staying where they were for the night and we were to join them in the morning so we dosed down where we were.
5/11/42	A Sqn. The breakthrough having been made and the enemy having started to withdraw, the task for this day was to move to the DABA area at 830310 and cut off the enemy remaining to the East. This, yesterday, had included the 90th Div whose flank had been turned. A Sqn acted as advance guard to 22nd Armd Bde, 5Tp Sgt Lovett, 1Tp Sgt Trumper and 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby being the advance Tps. A position a few miles to the SW of DABA was reached with little or no opposition. Five M13's capitulated to 5Tp while 1Tp after a short engagement encountered and accounted for a further two M13's. 2Tp captured 1 lorry and 9 German prisoners. By 0930 hours the leading Tps had observation on the main road and reported enemy MET moving West, packed nose to tail. It was realised that the enemy were now not merely withdrawing but were getting away as fast as they could and three Bde groups were ordered to move West as quickly as possible, 4th Bde directed on FUKA, 22nd Bde directed to area P.175 5748317 and 1st Bde to an area West of MATRUH, thence to CHARRING CROSS. At 1000 hours therefore 22nd Bde turned and moved West down the 30 Grid. By 1400 hours again meeting no opposition Bde was in area 790300, which area 4th Bde had already reached and were engaging and being engaged by enemy holding the escarpment between 780310 and 710310. Tps encountered a mine field running North and South from 782309 to 782295, and considerable time was wasted in finding a way through this field (which actually proved later to be a dummy). 5Tp and 3Tp captured in this area 60 to 70 German prisoners and 5 or 6 MET. Many of these prisoners were members of the Luftwaffe. By 1500 hours A Sqn and C Sqn had reced routed through the minefield and by 1730 hours Sqn had moved on too the area 770303 where Sqn halted for the night. Many groups of dismounted prisoners, both German and Italian, had been met during the day and these were merely given the order to move East which they quite happily complied with. The enemy has also left much MT and equipment behind him and several tanks were seen merely immobile through lack of fuel. B Sqn. Moved off at 0645 hours and contacted friends 1 mile to our SW at 0700 hours. Discovered that they were the 8th Armd Bde and they were directed on to CALAL Station and that we were to do advance guard. 1, 2 & 3Tps were immediately pushed out to the front, 1Tp on the right, 2Tp centre and 3Tp left. SHQ then went and contacted the Brigadier who turned out to be Brigadier Custens. The whole process of taking up positions was very difficult as the Bde did not halt and the whole thing had to be done at high speed. At 0900 hours the 3 leading Tps began running into the enemy who were going West as fast as they could. 2Tp had a very eventful morning. He ran into an enemy column which was moving West and before he knew it he was right amongst them. The column consisted of a lot of lorries, a few ACs and some guns. During this little party 2Tp managed to knock out two 8 wheeled ACs, one 88mm A/Tk gun, one 105mm gun and a few lorries. 3Tp on the left saw a few derelict tanks and MET but nothing else. He was brought to the help of 2Tp when the latter was engaging the second AC. 1Tp on the right was on the tail of this column pushing it on the whole time but was unable to get



	really to grips with it. At 1000 hours 4Tp arrived at CALAL Station and was very soon joined by some A/Tk guns from the Bde and at 1030 hours the whole force arrived. 4Tp was sent 4 miles East along the railway to watch for anything coming from DABA. 2Tp took up a position 811313 watching the South and 1Tp went 6 miles West along the railway to watch the West while SHQ remained in the area of CALAL. 3Tp was recalled to SHQ, 5Tp was sent North to the road to contact 3rd RTR and then to push East along the road. Both 4Tp and 5Tp reported enemy to the East both on the road and the railway. At 1200 hours about 20 German and Italian tanks attacked CALAL from the East along the road and railway forcing both Tps to withdraw. A spirited battle ensued in which all the enemy tanks were knocked out in 20 minutes without loss to ourselves. During this battle two Mark IV tanks got behind 4Tp who was in a nasty position until for some unknown reason the crews of these 2 tanks baled out. After this 4Tp and 5Tp pushed back to their positions and remained in observation. 3Tp was having a little difficulty in rejoining SHQ as he was off his course but he came in at 1500 hours. At 1530 hours we were ordered to rejoin the Regt and by 1630 hours the whole Sqn were concentrated except for 2Tp who we were going to pick up. The Sqn moved at 1630 hours to CAMUSA where we picked up 2Tp. We then moved due West Tp 787302. Just before we got there 5Tp, who were leading, ran into a party of enemy who fired on him with A/Tk guns. He withdrew out of it and the Sqn moved round them to the South. 5Tp had one car hit and Tpr Brown was wounded in the back and Cpl Petrie in the little finger. The Sqn fetched up with RHQ by 2100 hours at 775297. RHQ. Various orders received during the night as to where 7th Armd Div was to be directed and soon after first light 7th Armd Div moved to TALLEL EL IZZIA with the object of cutting the road West of DABA. A Sqn advance guard and C Sqn right flank guard. On arrival at TALLEL EL IZZIA 7th Armd Div were directed on EL GAMUSA where 9th Armd Bde were found to be in action. 7th Armd Div turned South and experienced considerable delay in getting through an enemy minefield area 797294 which later proved to be a dummy. The Regt less A Sqn leaguered with 7th Armd Div in area 793296 with A Sqn 6 miles West.
6/11/42	A Sqn. Sqn moved at first light directed on the area of the high ground at Pt. 175 748318 with 22nd Armd Bde following behind. SHQ moved to area of 745316 and 1Tp and 3Tp went to positions of observation facing North at 740317 and 749316. 22nd Bde was by 1000 hours in position at 753313. 2Tp Mr Turner and 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby were ordered to area of BIRALI OMAR so that they might get observation on the road. They reported at 1100 hours MET moving West down the road into MATRUH and at 1130 hours a column of MET approaching the road from the SE this column was likely to pass close to them so they held their ground waiting to see what it was composed of and if it was a target for ACs. It contained all arms. As the 22nd Armd Bde was in no position, through lack of fuel, to engage this target, 2Tp and 4Tp attacked its tail and captured 15 or more lorries and 120 prisoners and destroyed others. Meanwhile at 1300 hours 3Tp reported an enemy position at 748318 running West to 743317, this he reported contained 7 tanks and A/Tk gun positions. 1Tp probed the western extremity of the line and found it to end at 743317 and heavy A/Tk guns at its western extremity. 2Tp and 4Tp had at 1400 hours been ordered to withdraw. At 1600 hours the 22nd Armd Bde, in a heavy rain storm, attacked the enemy position reported by 3Tp. This was found to contain upwards of 20 tanks. A successful battle was fought and 12 enemy tanks were destroyed and about the same number of A/Tk guns. 22nd Armd Bde suffered no casualties. Sqn concentrated and moved in the pouring rain to join RHQ and the Bde Group in the area of 748318. The rain had turned the sand into mud and at 2230 hours Sqn halted close to RHQ with everybody soaked to the skin. A miserable night was spent, with no question of sleep. B Sqn. The Sqn moved off at 0645 hours as an advance guard to 22nd Armd Bde. The Sqn moved on a three Tp front with 1Tp left, 5Tp centre and 2Tp right. Directly we moved off we started running into columns which in the end all turned out to be friendly which made things very difficult in the half light. At 0853 hours the Sqn arrived in area 754309 and 2Tp was sent out to observe to the North and 5Tp to the NW and 1Tp to the West. At 0930 hours 2Tp reported an enemy position in area 750324 with at least two 88mm guns which



	fired on him. 2Tp remained in observation of this position all day while the 22nd Armd Bde engaged them and finally drove them out in the evening. 2Tp was kept on the move all day by the enemy shelling which drove him off all the good observation points. At 1030 hours an enemy column which later turned out to be the 90th Light came slap into the rear of 22nd Armd Bde, right through it and disappeared North almost before anyone knew what was happening. 2Tp found himself in the middle of this and had to withdraw to the flank quickly. At 1200 hours 4Tp was sent to 773321 to have a look at a landing ground and 3Tp was sent to 776321 to look at another. 5Tp was sent to 759309 to watch to the South and SE. At 1400 hours 3 & 5Tps arrived at the landing grounds and reported both unoccupied and in good condition with some German wrecks around. About this time it began to rain heavily and both Tps became bogged. 3Tp managed to get a tank to pull him out and returned to SHQ at 1600 hours. 4Tp was hopelessly in and the breakdown had to go out to him but could not get him out that night so he remained where he was with the breakdown. At last light 1Tp and 5Tp rejoined SHQ which then moved to join RHQ at 745317. After many Verey lights had been put up we reached them at 2100 hours in the pouring rain. 2Tp who was to meet us there had meanwhile become badly bogged and had to stay out all night. RHQ. 7th Armd Div were directed on Pt. 175 and moved at first light. C Sqn were ordered to MINQAR QAIM. A Sqn acted as advance guard to 22nd Armd Bde. An enemy column was encountered in area 749315. This later turned out to be 15th Panzer and they were later engaged by 22nd Armd Bde. 18 enemy tanks were knocked out to the loss of one Stuart and 1 Crusader. During the day B Sqn were ordered to recon landing grounds at 777325. Heavy rain commenced at about 1400 hours and continued all night. Regt less C Sqn leaguered with 7th Armd Div in area 749317.
7/11/42	A Sqn. After 18 hours of continual heavy rain it was impossible for vehicles to move until 1200 hours and tanks were being used to extract wheeled vehicles from the mud. The enemy was still withdrawing West as quickly as they could and having failed to reap them in the MATRUH area it was decided to try for SOLLUM. 22nd Armd Bde was therefore to attempt to reach that place with the least possible delay. Route to that area along the 30 Grid line and West. Charging lorry and one HAC had to be left owing to mechanical breakdown. A Sqn were still doing advance guard to Bde. The night was spent in area 720300 with 3Tp, 2Tp and 1Tp were further West as a screen. B Sqn. The Sqn spread out near RHQ at first light. Some of the cars got stuck as the ground was very boggy. At 0700 hours 2Tp arrived at SHQ having been pulled out by a tank. 5Tp was sent out to 739316 to watch to the West. The rest of the Regt remained in the same place waiting for the Echelon. While we were here we were given a lorry with 12 Infantry, to carry and look after any prisoners which we caught. During the morning 5Tp reported various MET and a few small columns to his West which were all moving West. During this time 4Tp had been pulled out and was on his way to us. At 1300 hours the Echelon arrived and we replenished. The 22nd Armd Bde, A Sqn and RHQ moved off at 1400 hours to QUAIM. We moved off at 1500 hours to catch them up. By dark we had not caught them up so we halted for the night at 720310. 3Tp was having a bit of trouble getting to us so 5Tp was left at 730313 with some petrol to meet 4Tp and bring him in. 5Tp arrived at SHQ at 1900 hours with 4Tp and also Lt Lovett of C Sqn with his Tp and the breakdown. RHQ. Ground very soft and many vehicles stuck. 7th Armd Div moved at 1400 hours to BIA ABU SHAYIT and thence SW to 723304 where the Regt leaguered with 7th Armd Div. The intention of 7th Armd Div at this point was to move West along the 300 grid to MADDELENA and thence North to cut the road West of CAPUZZO.
8/11/42	A Sqn. An uneventful day. The Sqn remained as advance guard to Bde with 3Tp, 2Tp and 1Tp as forward screen. The night was spent in the HAQFET QATRANI area.



	2Lt Lord David Stuart rejoined the Sqn from Cairo where he had been ill following a burn on his hand from a time at MAGHRA when his car had been set on fire by Me 109's. B Sqn. The Sqn moved off at 0700 hours to catch up with RHQ who were also on the move at that time. At 1130 hours we caught them up at 677300 where they had halted. We were told to do southern flank guard to the 22nd Armd Bde but close in. we did this for the rest of the day with 1Tp, 5Tp and 2Tp out on the flanks. We spent the night with the whole force at 625302. All Tps were in. RHQ. The Regt continued as an advance guard to 22nd Armd Bde and moved during the day to HAQFET QATRANI. Progress was slow owing to shortage of petrol.
9/11/42	A Sqn. It was decided yesterday evening that two Sqn, 11th Hussars with RHQ were to move in advance of Bde and reach a position to the South of CAPUZZO as soon as possible to report on and harass the enemy as much as possible with ACs. C & A Sqn were to go with RHQ and B Sqn to remain with Bde. At first light therefore, C, A and RHQ Sqn moved West along the 300 Grid as far as 560300 where they turned NW and proceeded to EL BEIDA at 494334, reaching this point at 1500 hours. During this stage of the journey 2 HACs and B1 petrol lorry had to be abandoned owing to mechanical breakdowns. A Sqn passed into Libya at the exact point where a composite Sqn commanded by Major Lawson had crossed into Egypt in March 1942, that being the rear party of the Regt to leave Libya after the second MSUS Stakes in Feb 1942. Thus for the fourth time the 11th Hussars passed into Libya in the van of all other troops. On this occasion the 4th SAAC Regt was 15 minutes behind. They were directed on EL ADEM. From EL BEIDA the Sqn moved to 488357. 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby to 489263 and 5Tp Viscount Stuart to GABR EL GERRARI, the former with the task of seeing if the OMARS were occupied and the latter with the task of working North to CAPUZZO. At 1630 hours 3Tp working North along the wire engaged 2 enemy ACs at Trig point 195 493551. These hastily withdrew North. At 1630 hours also the Sqn had been spotted by enemy air and with no air support it was obvious that they would trouble us considerably. Even the CR42's were seen again during the afternoon and these had not been on view for nearly a year. At 1700 hours 5Tp reported a column of 30 MET moving South from CAPUZZO towards SIDI OMAR and at 1720 hours he was given the order to attack and 4Tp proceeded to his help. The column appeared to wish to surrender. The white flag was hoisted but on 5Tp's approach the enemy having dismounted A/Tk guns opened fire. At 1745 hours 5Tp and 4Tp withdrew but not before they had destroyed one AC, one lorry and one MC as well as inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. These two Tps spent the night in the area of BIR DEHEUA while the Sqn leaguered in area 488357. B Sqn. RHQ, C & A Sqn left at 0400 hours to cross the wire and recce towards BARDIA. B Sqn was left behind to look after the RHQ B1 and act as an advance guard to 22nd Armd Bde. The Sqn moved at 0700 hours in front of the Bde with three Tps up, 4Tp right, 5Tp centre and 3Tp left. We carried on going due West, halting for breakfast at 0900 hours. 1Tp was sent on to recce Fort MADDELENA and 2Tp was sent to look at the gaps in the wire at BP 68. The Bde were to move to QARET AZZA and thence to BP 68. 5Tp was left out in front and 3Tp and 4Tp were called into reserve. At 1100 hours the Bde moved on and halted for the night at 531308. 1Tp reported no movement seen at MADDELENA at 1500 hours and rejoined SHQ just before dark. 2Tp reported 5 small gaps at BP 68 unmined at 1700 hours and returned to SHQ at 2000 hours having picked up Lt Wentworth Stanley of C Sqn who had been left in a broken down ambulance with jaundice. He was brought in and sent straight off to the ADS. RHQ. Owing to the shortage of petrol for 22nd Armd Bde the Regt, less B Sqn, was ordered ahead to recce area SIDI OMAR – CAPUZZO. The Regt moved at 0500 hours and reached Pt. 196 at 1400 hours. Slow progress owing to breakdowns of B vehicles. The frontier was crossed at EL BEIDA. Unfortunately two CR42's observed the Regt crossing the wire. A Sqn pushed North to SIDI OMAR and RHQ and C Sqn leaguered at 475345. The GOC 7th Armd Div spent the night with RHQ.



10/11/42	A Sqn. At first light 4Tp came into a position of observation at 492361 and reported no enemy in SDI OMAR. 5Tp moved to area Pt. 201 and also reported no movement seen. 3Tp left SHQ who had moved to 480360 to relieve 4Tp and 2Tp moved to area GABRLACHEM. 2Tp in that area, at 0900 hours, intercepted 3 lorries which they captured with about 20 Germans prisoners. 1Tp at 1100 hours moved to area BIR EL MARAA so that he could observe the traffic moving West from CAPUZZO. Enemy aircraft were very active and the Sqn was attacked at 1300 hours by Me 109's and CR42's at 1500 hours it was again attacked by seven 109's. This attack lasted for 25 minutes, the enemy bombing with bouncing bombs from a low level and also machine gunning. In this attack 2Lt Viscount Stuart was killed and Tpr Cahill, his driver-operator was wounded. The Viscount Stuart had joined the Sqn on July 15th, he was a fine and extremely promising Tp Ldr and much liked by his men. He will be greatly missed by this Sqn. He was buried close to BIR GIBNI 376354 by Major Wainman and the doctor, Capt Wright. Three lorries were also destroyed in these attacks. At 1615 hours the Sqn Ldr of C Sqn at Libyan OMAR reported a column of enemy containing from 20 to 30 tanks moving West along the 355 N/S grid. Because of this it became necessary to withdraw 1Tp, 2Tp and 3Tp South of this line. SHQ and 25 dismounted men on the fitters lorry moved to 476348. The enemy column halted at 470355 at 1715 hours and 1Tp, 2Tp and 3Tp observed it from the South. At 1745 hours 1Tp was withdrawn. 2Tp and 3Tp were given the task of watching and listening to this column during the night and were ordered to move with it – if it moved. The Sqn spent the night with C Sqn in area 480348. Up until 2349 hours the column had not moved and light had been seen from it. 22nd Armd Bde by last light had reached area of GASREL ARID. 2Tp and 3Tp moved in close to the enemy column for the night. B Sqn. We stayed in the same place until the Echelon arrived which they did at 1300 hours. In the morning Lt Pring went sick with jaundice and had to be evacuated. Sgt Smith took over 4Tp. At 1400 hours the Bde moved to BP 68 and thence to 484333 and thence to 484336 where we stayed the night. B Sqn acted as an advance guard and during this move 2Tp saw an enemy column moving NW at 490343 which was also being reported by A Sqn who had been in that area all day. That night we were joined by RHQ and 4Tp had to go out with an ambulance to C & A Sqn's Echelon about 4 miles and he got in about 2300 hours. RHQ. The Regt was ordered to observe on the line SDI AZEIZ – SHEFERZEN. It was anticipated that 7th Armd Div would join up with the Regt in the evening. Enemy air was very active and many attacks were made. At 1600 hours a column of 60 enemy vehicles was observed moving West at SHEFERZEN. RHQ and C Sqn appeared to be directly in the enemy line of march and they moved South. 7th Armd Div reached 483343 at last light and RHQ joined them.
11/11/42	A Sqn. 22nd Bde moved before first light and the sound of the tanks moving may have covered up the sound of the enemy moving away as by first light there was no sign of the enemy column. (the shadowing of enemy columns at night with ACs is an extremely difficult task). 2Tp and 3Tp were sent to the North to attempt to again pick up the enemy. 22nd Bde moved direct to CAPUZZO with B Sqn as an advance guard. This was taken over by A Sqn at 490365 and B Sqn was given another role. 1Tp and 3Tp moved in front of Bde and 4Tp moved out to the eastern flank. 2Tp reached area of 490380 and reported a column of 150 MET including tanks moving NW. This may have been the one that disappeared during the night. 2Tp captured one lorry and ten prisoners. 0930 – Bde had reached CAPUZZO area and enemy were leaving that place. They were engaged and some damage was done to them but it was only very much the tail end. 0945 – A large force was reported moving West from SOLLUM, 4Tp however was able to identify them as 4th Light Armd Bde and prevented a battle between these two Bdes. 22nd Bde then moved on in pursuit towards BARDIA. 1Tp and 3Tp came into contact with the enemy rearguard position South of the BARDIA outer defences. This was engaged. 1200 – B Sqn were reporting MET pouring out of BARDIA westwards towards TOBRUK and screaming for artillery with which to take them on. This was not forthcoming and most of the enemy escaped. It had been essential that the enemy were harassed from BARDIA as soon as possible in order that they should not destroy the water supply. For that reason 22nd Bde was directed towards BARDIA



	and not further West to cut off the line of retreat. Throughout the whole pursuit difficulties of supplies had naturally effected the movements of our troops and the speed of this pursuit had been governed by the speed of the supplies. 22nd Bde with A Sqn moved to SIDI AZEIZ and halted there. Yesterday the car of Viscount Stuart was abandoned at BIR GIBNI. Sqn spent the night close to 22nd Bde in the SIDI AZEIZ area. B Sqn. B Sqn orders were to act as advance guard to the Bde until A Sqn could take over the role and then we were to make straight for BARDIA and try and secure the wells. At 0700 hours we moved off with three Tps up, 2Tp left, 1Tp centre and 5Tp on the right. We acted as advance guard until 485364 when A Sqn took over and the Bde changed bearing for CAPUZZO. We then directed ourselves on BARDIA with the intention of getting to 507389 and then for 2Tp and 4Tp to go North and try and get in from the South and 3Tp and 5Tp. After handing over to A Sqn we moved with the same three Tps up with 3Tp on the right flank and 4Tp on the left flank. On our way we found quite a few enemy leaguers which we went very close to. In fact 2Tp went right through one until he saw an A/Tk gun waiting for him and then he came out of it. None of these leaguers appeared to know if we were friend or foe and left us strictly alone. By 100 hours we had arrived at 307389 just North of the railway down which we had seen a train going West flat out but we could not catch it. When we halted we found quite a lot of enemy stuff about half a mile to our West but they appeared to ignore us so we ignored them. By this time 22nd Armd Bde had got up to the southern defences of BARDIA so only 5Tp was sent there and when he did get there he found a lot of our tanks sitting there doing nothing. 2Tp and 4Tp were sent to overlook the road at 509398, they had a bit of difficulty getting there as a German column was going the same way as them, trying to get onto the road, and it was protected by two Mark IV tanks who kept driving the Tps off. When this column had gone 2Tp got onto the top of the escarpment overlooking the road and 4Tp took up a position to his South covering his rear and to the West. 2Tp reported that enemy kit was pouring out of BARDIA to the West along the road nose to tail. The kit consisted of large guns of all types, A/Tk guns and lorries. The Brigadier did his best to send something up to deal with all this kit but by the time anything could be got up this stream had finished. While this was going on 3Tp was despatched to smarten up the enemy to our immediate West who had stated to move off West. When he got close enough to engage he was fired on by 3 A/Tk guns so he had to come out of it and the enemy got away. 2Tp was now ordered to get onto the road and follow up the retreating column and 4Tp to move NW along the escarpment. 5Tp was recalled and told to get on the road and help 2Tp. SHQ moved NW. 4Tp moved along the escarpment but he could not get into contact with the column. 2Tp got onto the road and the first thing he picked up was a German ration lorry, full. He then followed on down the road collecting odd lorries and prisoners and also capturing a 75mm SP gun. By this time 5Tp was up helping him. At 1600 hours all Tps were recalled to SHQ. By this time 2Tp and 5Tp had reached the 487 easting grid where they were held up by mines and a 105mm. Also 5Tp was strafed by our Kittyhawks but no damage. The Sqn leaguered with RHQ at 494394. RHQ. 7th Armd Div was directed on CAPUZZO with the object of supporting 4th Armd Bde who were advancing up the HALFAYA PASS. A Sqn acted as advance guard with C Sqn observing line GHIRBA – SHEFERZEN. B Sqn reced towards BARDIA. 7th Armd Div moved North to BIR RAFAA and thence NE to BIR HARID. An enemy column North of CAPUZZO was engaged and retired North. 7th Armd Div moved North and then West to 490390 leaving 1st RB in BARDIA to secure the water points. B Sqn were ordered to move West along high ground overlooking the road. The Regt leaguered in area 490390. The above mentioned column appeared to be the tail of the enemy force.
12/11/42	A Sqn. 22nd Bde moved at 1400 hours with A Sqn as advance guard to the area of BIR EL HALEIZIN. 2Lt Brodie joined this Sqn from Cairo. Tomorrow the Bde moves on to EL ADEM. B Sqn. At first light 1Tp was sent out 3 NE, 4Tp 3 miles North and 3Tp 3 miles NW for local protection. At 0700 hours the Sqn was ordered to take over from 1st RTR on the road at 494405. 1Tp and 3Tp were sent to that position on the road with our Infantry lorry and SHQ with the remaining Tps moved to 497403.



	At 1100 hours the Sqn were ordered to push West with a patrol on the road. 1Tp and 3Tp were pushed along the road and 4Tp was sent along the 406 grid line between the 2 escarpments. 1Tp and 3Tp passed a lot of kit left in the road, most of it being lorries and burnt out tanks. SHQ followed on behind 4Tp. After going for about 6 miles 4Tp said he could not cover the ground between the escarpments so 2Tp was pushed up to run along the top of the northern escarpment. When 1Tp had reached the road off the main road to GAMBUT he was sent to look at the aerodrome and 3Tp was pushed on to TOBRUK. By this time 4Tp had fallen behind owing to the bad going in his area and he was called in to SHQ and 2Tp directed on to BELHAMED to gain contact with C Sqn who were on our left. 1Tp got to GAMBUT and found nothing on it but wrecked German aircraft and was sent due West along the northern escarpment to the AXIS By Pass. At 1500 hours 3Tp got to where the AXIS road leaves the main road and he reced a landing ground in that area and then pushed on to TOBRUK. He came in sight of the defences at 1600 hours. There were a few men and lorries in the defences and a large A/Tk gun just to the South of the road. After he had been watching for 15 minutes a 105mm started opening up on the road and forced 3Tp to withdraw out of sight. He remained in observation until last light and reported the defences lightly held. In the meantime 1Tp had reached the AXIS track and he was directed on to the SE corner of the defences but only got 2 miles when he was recalled owing to the darkness. SHQ spent the night by a German railhead at 434414 where a lot of useful things were found by Mr Lockett and Copeland who went foraging. 3Tp on his way in ran into a collection of 40 SA Natives who had been prisoners in TOBRUK and they had found an Italian cellar and were so drunk that Sgt Smith and a lorry had to be sent out to help 3Tp. When they were brought into the leaguer they turned it into a madhouse. All Tps were in that night and Sgt McHardy's Tp from C Sqn spent the night with us. RHQ. C Sqn were ordered to push along the railway to 456404 and B Sqn along the main road towards TOBRUK. RHQ followed C Sqn. A Sqn remained with 22nd Armd Bde to act as advance guard. RHQ and C Sqn leaguered in area 435402.
13/11/42	A Sqn. This morning B Sqn entered TOBRUK and were the first troops in the place. A Sqn with 22nd Bde moved with 1Tp, 2Tp and 4Tp in advance to EL ADEM and thence to Trigh point at 395405. During the last 2 days the Bde has not been in touch with the enemy who have been moving extremely fast – we have the luck to be always an hour too late – but it must be remembered that the enemy have been always travelling on the road while our troops have been on the desert. Again the enemy have been falling back on their supplies, we have had to have ours brought up to us. 22nd Armd Bde tanks had completed their track mileage long before this offensive started. At any rate we have kept at all times the enemy on the move. The night was spent with the Sqn concentrated at 395405. B Sqn. 5Tp was sent out to the main road to see if TOBRUK was still held and 1Tp went to the South East corner of the defences. Both Tps reported no sign of any movement on the defences and at 0800 hours 5Tp, having removed a barrier and driven through some mines were the first to enter TOBRUK. The Tp then pushed on to try and get out the other side but progress was slow owing to the fear of mines which were laid on either side of the road and a few on the road itself. There appeared to be a lot of kit left untouched in the town and when they arrived about 1 mile from the western defences they were held up by mines and also they discovered 50 Germans loading their kit onto one MC and sidecar, which would not run, and about to push it to DEPNA. Great optimists and full of energy. As 5Tp were entering TOBRUK 1Tp was running West along the southern defences reporting them clear. When he hit the EL ADEM road he went up with some RE's to the main road to help clear mines. Unfortunately the NCO in charge was killed by a booby trap so 1Tp sat and waited for more to come up and eventually the 131 Bde came in and 1Tp returned to SHQ. At 1000 hours SHQ moved down the AXIS track to EL ADEM leaving 3Tp at the railhead until some Infantry arrived to stop the natives looting. At 1600 hours 5Tp managed to get out of TOBRUK to the West but was then told to rejoin the Sqn and he had to come back through TOBRUK owing to mines on the ACROMA track. 3Tp rejoined SHQ which moved to RHQ at 395405. All Tps in that night. RHQ.



	B Sqn continued advance into TOBRUK and C Sqn to HARMAT. RHQ, A & B Sqn's leaguered near 22nd Armd Bde in area 395405.
14/11/42	A Sqn. Today the Sqn had the task of recceing the TRIGH ENVER BEY through the GAZALA minefield. This was done and the Sqn less B1 and 2Tp went as far as the ROTONDA MTEIFEL at trig point 9853. The TRIGH CAPUZZO through the minefield in square 3541 was found to be un-mined. Sqn returned to 395405 via Knightsbridge arriving at 1600 hours. The Knightsbridge battlefield is astonishing and appears not to have been touched since the June battle. Derelict vehicles in hundreds as far as the eye can see. B Sqn. Sqn stayed with RHQ and carried out some much needed maintenance during the morning and everyone had a good wash. In the afternoon 2Tp and 4Tp had to go out and start marking tracks. 2Tp picked up a truck load of Redcaps and started marking the TRIGH CAPUZZO and got as far as KNIGHTSBRIDGE before he was recalled to SHQ. 4Tp likewise picked up some Redcaps and started a track running to the South of HACHEIM. He had got 15 miles before he was recalled. SHQ with all Tps stayed the night in the same place with RHQ. That night the Colonel told us that a 11th Hussars column was being formed on the next day with the intention of going South of HACHEIM then West to cut the road South of BENGHAZI. The column was to consist of 11th Hussars, 1 Bty 4th field Regt, 1 Coy RB's, 1 Tp A/Tk guns and some RE's. The Colonel had to be ready to move at 1200 hours. RHQ. Regt was ordered to mark tracks to West through old KNIGHTSBRIDGE minefield. RHQ did not move.
15/11/42	A Sqn. The Regt with a battery of 25pdrs, eight 6pdr A/Tk guns, RE's and a Coy of RB's are to move to Z MSUS to occupy the landing ground, and thence to operate against the main road between BENGHAZI and AGEDABIA. The Royals with a similar column are to proceed to ANTELAT and from there to operate on to the road. The Colonel is to command the 11th Hussars column, which has an unfortunate tail of 250 RASC vehicles. A Sqn now has 16 ACs. 1200 – Regt with A Sqn leading moved to Pt. 151 at 382374 and thence West, and halted in the area U.7318. 5Tp Lt Williamson consisting of 2 HACs came along behind with the LAD and 60 RASC lorries that had been left behind. 4th Armd Bde with 4th SAAC Regt are working to the North along the line of the main road through the DJEBEL. B Sqn. From 0800 hours onwards the column started forming up and all air dispersion went for a ball of chalk and by 1100 hours there were 200 vehicles milling about in a very small area but luckily the Luftwaffe had temporarily packed it in. At 100 hours the Sqn got into position which was concentrated travelling behind A Sqn who were advance guard and just in front of RHQ. The Colonel started at 1200 hours and went to 382375 and then changed course to due West. The Colonel travelled on until 1730 hours where we all stayed the night. RHQ. A column under command of Lt Colonel Smal consisting of:- 11th Hussars 1 Bty 4th Field Regt B Coy RB 1 Tp A/Tk guns 2 Tps AA guns 1 Tp RE's was formed. This column also had a 2nd Line RASC convoy and was self contained for 4 days. The object was To secure MSUS landing ground To secure SOLUCH water point. To cut BENGHAZI – AGEDABIA road. The column moved off at 1200 hours and halted for the night in area U7518 (61 miles).
16/11/42	A Sqn. The Regt l Group moved at 0630 hours. A halt had to be made for 3 hours from 1200 hours to allow the LAD and 5Tp with the 60 lorries to catch up. Throughout the morning there was heavy rain and many RASC lorries became stuck. Travelled 7 miles during the day. Sqn spent the night with RHQ. No information from the North, bombing was seen to the North and this



	later turned out to be enemy column travelling parallel but to the North being bombed by the RAF. B Sqn. The Sqn moved out at first light ahead of the column as our task was to push on as fast as possible for MSUS. This we did in pouring rain until we halted at 1400 hours owing to being so far in front that we were almost out of communication. Nothing was seen during the day except a Humber AC which we found was one of B Sqn's abandoned in our last push. We spent the night at ??? and while closing in Mr Lockett's car broke its front axle when the ground gave way under it and it had to be abandoned. RHQ. Column moved off at first light. Fairly heavy rain and the 3rd Line RASC lorries which had accidentally attached themselves to the tail of the column were frequently stuck. Column halted for night in area T5512 (75 miles).
17/11/42	A Sqn. The Regt group moved at 0630 hours, A & C Sqn with the Regt and B Sqn on ahead to Z MSUS. Halted at 1200 hours, 8 miles SE of Z MSUS. B Sqn had by this time reported MSUS clear of enemy, but 3 ACs to the West of the place moved off quickly to SCELEDIMA on the approach of B Sqn. B Sqn were heavily strafed from the air several times during the afternoon. Their forward Tp reported SCELEDIMA held by the enemy. 1430 – 1Tp Sgt Trumper on close recce to the group was machine gunned by 109's. LCpl Horwood was badly wounded in the arm. He was quickly brought in and given a blood transfusion and will be sent back tomorrow. General Harding, 7th Armd Div arrived during the late afternoon and so did the Royal column under Colonel Pepys. B Sqn. At 0635 hours Sqn moved on in front of the column to Z MSUS. 0915 – 2Tp came in sight of NO. 2 Landing Ground finding a lot of wrecks but no sign of recent occupation. 0925 – 5Tp came to No. 1 Landing Ground and also a minefield running round MSUS Fort which had been laid by us. 5Tp then pushed through a gap in the minefield and took up a position North of MSUS just North of the SCELEDIMA track. 4Tp was sent out NE of MSUS but was then recalled after going 4 miles. 1200 – SHQ and 3Tp & 4Tp were strafed by 7 Me109's but suffered no damage or casualties. 1215 – 1Tp was sent through MSUS and down the track to ANTELAT for 9 miles. 1230 – 2Tp reported 3 ACs but then lost them and did not see them again. 1300 – Sqn was ordered to recce SCELEDIMA. 2Tp was sent straight along the track, 5Tp was sent West, North of the track and then down to the track to sit covering 2Tp rear. 1Tp was brought up NW to sit on the track. 1600 – 2Tp reported he was in sight of the fort at SCELEDIMA and could see a small amount of movement of men. 1600 – SHQ, 3Tp and 4Tp moved along the track towards SCELEDIMA. 1700 – SHQ was bombed and strafed by 7 109's. the petrol lorry was burnt, the RE White Scout car and the Infantry lorry disabled. There were no casualties. The Sqn spent the night at S7118 all Tps being called in having found SCELEDIMA held. RHQ. Column arrived MSUS area at midday (35 miles). B Sqn secured landing ground. Enemy Me109's very active and made several attacks. The GOC 7th Armd Div arrived during the afternoon followed by a similar column under command Royal Dragons.
18/11/42	A Sqn. A certain amount of bombing and strafing during the morning, one bomb from a 109 within a yard of Capt Petch's car, Major Lawson was slightly wounded in the leg. 0900 – 3Tp Sgt Longmate left to take a petrol lorry and a doctor to B Sqn. The RAF bombed and strafed the MAGRUM landing ground in the forenoon. This had good effects and eased the situation at Z MSUS. Two car crews under Cpl Gullick and Cpl Murray returned to the EL ADEM area by RASC lorry their cars having become immobile, one by strafing (lack of tyres) the other by mechanical problems.



	During the morning the Sqn moved to the escarpment area around BELHASEN and had some success there against the enemy, capturing prisoners and also an M13 assault tank. At 1500 hours 11th Hussars group with A Sqn moved to area 5590 arriving at 1730 hours. 2Tp Mr Turner took a convoy back to Z MSUS containing prisoners and an ambulance etc. At 1900 hours 11th Hussars group and the Sqn moved to BIR BELHASEN and the night was spent 1 mile East of that place. B Sqn. 0645 – 3Tp and 4Tp were sent out to recon SCELEDIMA further. 4Tp to get as close as possible and 3Tp to sit on the track and cover his rear. 2Tp went South of SCELEDIMA to try and work up to it. 0700 – 4Tp was fired on by a Breda covering the track and was later strafed by a Me109 and was withdrawn owing to Tpr Oakes being slightly wounded and all tyre punctured. 3Tp took his place and reported local movement round the fort and a few MET South of it. 1100 – 2Tp reported a column of 15 MET, five M13 tanks, five ACs and one 75mm gun moving South from SCELEDIMA along the bottom of the escarpment which runs South from the fort. 2Tp fired on this column from the top and brought it to a halt. He was then joined by a Tp of C Sqn who also smartened it. The colonel then moved into the C Sqn area to collect the men who scattered from the lorries when fired on. 1500 – 2Tp saw 3 German ACs approaching him from SCELEDIMA. These cars stopped and observed him for some time and then disappeared North. 1600 – the 3 ACs again appeared with a 6pdr Portee and started chasing 2Tp. They managed to get to his East so he had to drop down towards C Sqn South. The ACs and Portee chased 2Tp for 6 miles during which time they were firing on him and a Tp of C Sqn who 2Tp had picked up on the way. The chase stopped at last light and 2Tp stayed the night with C Sqn. During the day 3Tp managed to rescue an American pilot who had been brought down over SCELEDIMA and he also reported the place held up to last light. 3Tp joined SHQ at 6212 for the night. RHQ. B Sqn were directed on SCELEDIMA, C Sqn on BELHASEN. The column was bombed several times during the morning and moved off at midday to X5295. The enemy appeared to be withdrawing South along the foot of the escarpment so the column moved 10 miles West to area X5295 after dark with the object of intercepting in the morning.
19/11/42	A Sqn. 1Tp Sgt Trumper and 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby into position of observation on the escarpment at first light. Some rain during the morning - we had been soaked to the skin a great many times in the last fortnight. Still no confirmation of the enemy to the North so that to move to cut the road with a force of this size is a difficult job, and the decision at what time to do it is also difficult. Royals reported ANTELAT lightly held. At 1030 hours C Sqn moved down the escarpment to the area X3099 and 11th Hussars group with A Sqn following them went down at 1300 hours. By 1400 hours C Sqn reported MET moving South to the main road from MAGRUM. A & B Sqn Tps reported SOLUCH no movement seen. The MET seen by C Sqn definitely appears to be the tail end of an enemy column – many vehicles were on tow. This appeared to be a target for us, but orders were received for the Regt to proceed to BENGHAZI. SOLUCH was reached at 1700 hours in torrential rain, again many vehicles were being stuck. We were ordered to cut the road at GHEMINES during the night. We were given 2 A/Tk guns and 2 Platoons of RB's. GHEMINES was reached at 2330 hours after a march along a very muddy track. 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby entered GHEMINES and reported no movement seen and moved 2 miles North towards BENGHAZI. SHQ spent the night in GHEMINES which had yesterday been bombed by Liberators and smelt of death. B Sqn. 0645 – 1Tp moved out to see if SCELEDIMA was still held and 5Tp went to the South of it. 2Tp left C Sqn to contact 5Tp to give him orders from the Colonel. 0900 – 1Tp reported he thought SCELEDIMA unoccupied and by 1000 he was in it but held up by mines. 4Tp went out to help him with the RE's that we had with us. 1000 – 5Tp was ordered to push down the escarpment and go straight to SOLUCH which he did. 1015 – 2Tp arrived at SHQ having seen 5Tp.



	1300 – 1Tp was through SCELEDIMA and pushing on to SOLUCH. 1300 – SHQ moved to SCELEDIMA and on towards SOLUCH and was pushing North when he got one of his cars badly bogged. 1Tp had also arrived and moved to a position 2 miles NE of SOLUCH. SHQ was following on when 4Tp got bogged and 3Tp. The going was one large bog. 1700 – SHQ arrived at SOLUCH and contacted RHQ where we stayed the night. 5Tp had to abandon his car and 3Tp both his which left the Sqn with four Tps of 2 cars with 3 in SHQ. 4Tp with the personnel of 3Tp arrived in SHQ at 2000 hours that night. RHQ. Column moved to X4794 at first light. Heavy rain and bad visibility caused a long delay before B Sqn could report SCELEDIMA clear. C Sqn were then directed on MAGRUN and SOLUCH. The column moved to S2703 with the object of cutting the road in the MAGRUN area but on arrival there orders were received to move to BENGHAZI. This meant leaving a column of 40 enemy vehicles at MAGRUN. This column was the tail of the enemy force. Heavy showers all day and going very heavy. Many vehicles stuck. Column halted for the night at SOLUCH. A Sqn cut the road at GHEMINES but no enemy seen.
20/11/42	A Sqn. Moved at 0700 hours North along the main road to BENGHAZI, 4Tp leading. No mines on road, the enemy having so lately used it. Collected 30 to 50 prisoners on the way and 1Tp Sgt Trumper entered BENGHAZI at 1030 hours. A Sqn being the first troops into the town which was in a pretty shambles having been wrecked by Liberators and then by the Germans. The town had been completely evacuated and in the hands of the Arab population who were madly looting. 1000 Indian and Cape Bay prisoners of war were found there and about 70 whites most of whom were hospital cases. The main hospital was left in good condition in the hands of one RAMC captain. The town was closed to outward traffic. 1Tp piquetted the DERNA road, 4Tp the AGEDABIA road. B Sqn entered at 1230 hours and RHQ soon after them. A Sqn spent the night on the outskirts of the town on the DERNA road. Sgt Longmate found it necessary to shoot a drunken (John Haig) Arab who was firing on the crowd with a revolver. B Sqn. 0645 – moved out and joined the Colonel and moved up 15 miles NW with them towards BENGHAZI. 0900 – The Sqn was sent on to BENGHAZI to help A Sqn who were nearly there. 4Tp sub-unit had packed up so Sgt Smith with his car joined 5Tp thus leaving us with three Tps. The Sqn hit the road just North of GHEMINES and moved straight up to BENGHAZI and contacted A Sqn at 1130 hours. 1145 – 5Tp was sent to BENINA aerodrome to see if it was OK. His car was blown up on a Teller mine and Tpr Cunningham was wounded. 1Tp went out and took over from 5Tp who came back to SHQ. 2Tp spent the day trying to prevent the natives from looting. The Sqn spent the night under some very nice stone shelters just outside BENGHAZI on the BENINA road. 1Tp came in and 2Tp remained on the road. RHQ. A Sqn moved at first light North up the road and entered BENGHAZI at 1000 hours. The column moved to UM SEFAA and thence West to the main road entering BENGHAZI during the afternoon. Approximately 1000 Indian and SA native prisoners were found. They had no food or water. Heavy looting of arms, food and clothing by the natives was going on. Roads were therefore picketed and all loot confiscated.
21/11/42	A Sqn. 3Tp Sgt Longmate left at 0700 hours with a party of RE's to clear the road towards BARCE and after proceeding 6 miles North they met a party from 4th Armd Bde of 4th SAAC Regt doing the same job working South. At 1030 hours Colonel Reeves Moore with his Regt entered BENGHAZI followed by 4th Armd Bde. The day was spent in locating dumps, maintenance, washing etc. Sqn moved to a new position for the night. B Sqn. 21st – 23rd The Sqn remained at BENGHAZI under the same shelters which were very welcome as the weather was foul. Our role was to police the NE end of the town and prevent the natives looting and carrying away any arms.



	On the 22nd Major Grant Thorold came in and said goodbye on leaving to go to the Staff College. On the 23rd the Sqn took over 7 cars from C Sqn which made us up to strength again with five Tps. 1Tp Sgt Matheson 2Tp Lt Lockett 3Tp Sgt White 4Tp Sgt Smith 5Tp Lt Copeland. During our stay at Benghazi we were able to do a lot of much needed maintenance and have a good clean-up all round. RHQ. Colonel Smail called a meeting of notables and demanded return of loot. The 4th SAAC Regt followed by 4th Armd Bde entered during the day from the East. 14/66 Bty 4th Field Regt RA and the A/Tk Tp left the column and moved South under orders 22nd Armd Bde. C Sqn ACs were handed over to A & B Sqn to bring them up to strength and the day was spent in organising dump etc.
22/11/42	A Sqn. As for yesterday. We still keep a Tp in position on the DERNA road, by now merely doing traffic duties. This was done today by 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby. RHQ. Day spent in organising dump etc. B3 Echelon arrived in the evening.
23/11/42	A Sqn. At 0900 hours we moved to the position of RHQ and received orders to move South to the AGEDABIA area to join 22nd Armd Bde who had reached that area. We took over 4 cars from C Sqn who were to be temporarily left without cars, this made the Sqn up to full strength. Major Grant Thorold had yesterday left C Sqn to go to the HAIFA Staff College and C Sqn was taken over by Capt Burdon. Sqn moved at 1400 hours complete with B2 and B2A Echelon which had arrived yesterday with Major Roberts. 35 kilometres short of AGEDABIA the Sqn halted for the night. Fresh meat for supper from the Cold Storage plant in BENGHAZI left by the enemy. RHQ. A Sqn came under orders 22nd Armd Bde and moved to AGEDABIA and 131 Bde arrived in BENGHAZI during the day and the town was handed over to them.
24/11/42	A Sqn. Sqn moved at first light to a position 4 miles South of AGEDABIA on the main road in the area of 22nd Armd Bde Rear HQ. Orders were received that 2 patrols of the 11th Hussars were to take over from patrols of the Royals. 2Tp Mr Turner therefore moved to EL HAGINA and then moved South to the CHORESSUFAN. He reported no movement seen. SHQ with 3, 4 & 5 Tps moved South down the road and joined Brigadier Roberts in the area X.0308. maintaining contact, and in some cases, regaining contact with the enemy was made extremely slow, as the main road and the sides of it were all heavily mined. B Sqn. The Sqn moved to RHQ who were South of the town and we were told that we were now under the 4th Armd Bde. We picked up a charging lorry from the B3 and moved on down to MAGRUN in pouring rain, arriving about 1200 hours. At 1400 hours the Sqn Ldr attended a conference and found that the 4th Armd Bde role was to cover the southern flank of 22nd Armd Bde and the Bde was ordered to move to 4 miles South of AGEDABIA on the BELANDAH track at 0800 hours the next day, with B Sqn leading. The Sqn stayed the night just North of the MAGRUN landing ground. RHQ. Regt came under orders 4th Armd Bde and RHQ moved to PESSANA with the Echelon and C Sqn in lorries. A Sqn operating with 22nd Armd Bde and B Sqn with 4th Armd Bde.
25/11/42	A Sqn. SHQ moved with 22nd Bde HQ South down the road for a further 6 miles. 2Tp remained in the EL HORSEIAT area while 1Tp moved SW to the ROTUNDA EL GTAFIA area. Here he reported no movement seen, and then moved South to the area of BIR EL GEFERA. 3Tp Sgt Longmate with an artillery OP was working South on the West side of the main road and by last light had reached the area of B.7554. he had been in contact with the enemy who were holding the high ground North East of MARSA BREGA.



	RHQ arrived in the area of 22nd Bde in the afternoon and B Sqn arrived there after dark. B Sqn. The Sqn moved off at 0800 hours down the road to AGEDABIA arriving there at 1030 hours. The Sqn pushed down the BELANDAH track with some RE's in front in case of mines. Having gone 2 miles down the track the Sqn Ldr's car, which was going on just behind the RE's, hit a mine and wrecked the front of the car. About 5 minutes later SSM Beard moved his car slightly and went up on another mine ruining his car but no damage to the crew. The Sqn then remained there until 1600 hours when the RE's had cleared the minefield. At 1400 hours we reverted to 22nd Armd Bde with the rest of the Regt and at 1600 hours we moved off to join RHQ who were 33 miles along the road from AGEDABIA. When we were within about 4 miles of RHQ we found the road had been blown and we had to go round a marked detour. Just where the detour hit the road again 1Tp and 2Tp each had a car blown up by mines after the rest of the Sqn had gone through the same place. These cars blocked the gap and Sgt Matheson with the fitters lorry and the 2 car crews were left there the night and the Sqn reached RHQ at 2359 hours. RHQ. RHQ moved to area 5 miles SW of AGEDABIA and came under orders 22nd Armd Bde. B Sqn returned under command during the afternoon. RHQ moved to area B8393 – 22nd Armd Bde HQ.
26/11/42	A Sqn. 1Tp at first light 3 miles East of BIR EL GINN, where at last light Nov 25th had reported enemy who were engaged by 1st RTR. 2Tp was ordered to move SW down the wadi EL FAREGH to C.0555 and thence recce the ground NW to BIR EL SCEIBA. 5Tp Mr Williamson was to proceed South to the Wadi EL FAREGH in the area of MASCIALLI. 4Tp was to relieve 1Tp while B Sqn was to take over from 3Tp. This took some time owing to B Sqn cars becoming stuck in bog to the North of the main road. 3Tp was in touch with the enemy and 1Tp reported in the morning that the enemy from BIR EL GINN had moved West. Therefore on this day the enemy had moved back finally on to the AGHEILA line which actually runs MARSА BREGA southwards some 15 miles to the East of EL AGHEILA. The line in the South terminating in the area Wadi EL FAREGH. At midday 4Tp at BIR EL GINN moved to B6276 and could observe the enemy behind positions in the MERSA BREGA area and also to the West of the marsh. In this position he was relieved by a B Sqn Tp and he moved to B6262 and observed from there the enemy preparing the BIR ES SUERA positions from 2500 yards range. 5Tp in the South reported no movement seen. Enemy air had been extremely active and 22nd Armd Bde with 1st RTR has been dive bombed regularly 3 times a day. Me109's had been extremely active on the main road and had inflicted casualties. At 1500 hours after replenishing SHQ moved to BIR BU GEDARIA and met there 1Tp and 2Tp. 3Tp remained behind with RHQ to extricate a car which had been stuck in a bog since yesterday. 3Tp picked up a shot down Hurricane pilot. B Sqn. The Sqn were ordered to take over 2 patrols from A Sqn who were going to move further down South. 2Tp was sent out to 7199 but got bogged on the way so 3Tp was sent out and he was switched to 6993 where he contacted A Sqn patrol. 5Tp was sent to area 6474 where he took over from the other A Sqn patrol. During the day 3Tp reported slight movement round MARSА BREGA and 5Tp reported 40 MET in area 5843, 300 MET from 4371 – 4865 and movement East and West on the main road. In the morning 1Tp was strafed on the main road as he was coming to SHQ and Tpr Hawkins and Tpr Jones' 23 were wounded. Hawkins in the head and Jones in the leg; neither of them were bad. SHQ moved to 7485, 3Tp and 5Tp remained out all night. RHQ. RHQ moved up with 22nd Armd Bde to area B7490
27/11/42	A Sqn. At first light SHQ with 1Tp and 2Tp moved to B.8872. 3Tp rejoined during the morning. 4Tp and 5Tp remained in their positions during the morning. In the afternoon 5Tp moved to MM BATTAFAL. The enemy were digging-in and laying mines on the BIR ES SUERA front.



	B Sqn. 4Tp went out to relieve 5Tp and 2Tp to relieve 3Tp but when he got there we were told we could bring all the patrols in as the RB's were taking over. At 1300 hours the forward and rear link went up to see Sgt Smith and moved his position to 5777. From here he reported an Infantry line running from 4579 to 5185 also another 2 positions at 5176 and 5178. Also gun position at 5183. At 1700 hours SHQ and the rest of the Tps were moved up to 6677 where the Sqn Ldr met them. 4Tp stayed out the night. RHQ. 27th to Dec 3rd During this period RHQ, A & B Sqn's operated under 22nd Armd Bde, B Sqn in the BIR EL GINN area and A Sqn around the SUERA position in the South. It was a period of static warfare and the role of the Regt was observation of the strong BREGA area. On December 2nd, 153 Bde 51st Highland Div moved into a position East of SUERA and 152 Bde East of BREGA. On December 3rd RHQ moved South to B7978 and came under command 7th Armd Div with B Sqn the Royals operating in the BETTA FAL area.
28/11/42	A Sqn. SHQ moved to the area of B7872 into a position of magnificent observation. 2Tp relieved 4Tp in the area of MM BATTAFAL Brig Roberts visited 2Tp and because of the dust of his tank, he caused some shelling from a 210mm gun; this ceased as soon as he left. The position of the 210mm gun was given as B.5858. The Royals took over the 3Tp patrol position who therefore returned to SHQ. B Sqn. 4Tp moved to his position at first light and 2Tp went to 6474 to cover the South of 4Tp. When the light was not good 4Tp reported an Infantry line running 4980 – 5185, 40 MET dispersed at 5383 and a Bty of guns at 5483 (confirmed by 2Tp later), one 105mm gun firing from 5183. At 1000 hours 2 tanks started shelling 4Tp from 5278 and one M13 came out after him causing him to drop back a bit, but in 15 minutes the tank went back and he was able to go back to his position. 1300 – 5Tp and the B1 were sent back to 7578. 1400 – 2Tp again went to 5372 and found the marsh there impassable and then moved up and relieved 4Tp. 1700 – SHQ moved back to the B1 and 4Tp came in, 2Tp staying out.
29/11/42	A Sqn. Normal patrol activity. SHQ moved up, less B1, to the BIR ES SUERA area. Shelling caused 2Tp to withdraw and find a new position. This was expected as they had been sitting within 2000 – 3000 yards of the enemy with no covered approach or withdrawal. A secondary position was found at B.6463 which gave good observation but without as much detail. Enemy air still very active and as yet our fighters are not operating except on the line of the main road. B Sqn. 2Tp and 5Tp moved to the same positions. The situation was the same as the day before and little movement seen all day. SHQ remained in the same place.
30/11/42	A Sqn. 5Tp relieved 2Tp at B.6463. SHQ in the same position. General Harding visited Mr Williamson's Tp and was fairly heavily shelled but appeared to mind not at all. He left the position by the most observed route in order that the enemy might see him go, and thereby cease shelling the patrol position. This occurred. The Colonel visited the Sqn in the afternoon. Normal air activity, mine laying and digging of gun positions. So far the enemy has only fired with a 210mm gun from this position. MET movement from NW to SE has increased today. B Sqn. 3Tp went out to cover the South with 5Tp already there. 5Tp had 2 OPs with him, one from 3rd RHA and one from 7th Medium Regt. The situation was the same and little movement seen. At 1600 hours 3Tp relieved 5Tp who returned to SHQ. 3Tp remaining out all night.



December 1942	CO: Lt Col AT Smail
Dec 42	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/12/42	A Sqn. 1Tp Sgt Trumper relieved 5Tp Mr Williamson and 4Tp took over again the MM BATTAFAL position from the Royals who have been operating in the South of Wadi FAREGH with a small column. Their movements have been extremely hampered by the attention of the enemy air, and they have had constant attacks from Stukas escorted by 109's which then ground strafed. At 1030 hours Brigadier Graham and the four Colonels of the Battalions in his Bde came to the Sqn with an escort Sqn of the KDG's (Major Hellyer). This party with Major Lawson moved to the patrol position at B.6463. the Brig and his Colonels then did a recce of the ES SUERA positions for tomorrow. Another Bde of the 51st Highland Div to the MARSA BREGA position with 8th Armd Bde held in the centre, to operate as necessary North or South. At the completion of the Bde recce, the patrol position was shelled fairly naturally, as a conference had been held on the skyline to terminate the operation. This was quickly followed by an attack by seven 109's (called out by enemy ground troops?). this attack lasted for 20 minutes and the Bde Jeeps did not appear to be observed. Major Lawson's SAC received 40 hits in 15 separate dive attacks, no penetration. One man of the KDG wounded. Capt Wright RAMC arrived very quickly and dealt with this case. Column of 3 tanks visited SHQ in the evening. B Sqn. 4Tp went out to cover 3Tp. During the day 3Tp got shelled off his position and all the other he tried to get on the OPs. Apart from that there was no movement seen all day. 3Tp remained out for the night with 4Tp. SHQ in the same place.
2/12/42	A Sqn. 4Tp remained at MM BATTAFAL, 3Tp relieved 1Tp. Highland Bde started arriving from 1000 hours and with them fighter sweeps of the RAF so the period of Stukas and Me 109's ground strafing ceased. Patrols reported nothing unusual during day. Sight increased shelling by the enemy owing to the Highland Bde moving up. Three 105mm and also 1 210mm guns have been identified in the SUERA front. SHQ was strafed during the morning but no damage caused. B Sqn. 1Tp went up to the forward position, 4Tp remaining in his half back position. The OP went up by himself. Nothing to report all day. At 1700 hours 1Tp relieved 4Tp. SHQ in same place.
3/12/42	A Sqn. 2Tp relieved 4Tp at 0800 hours. SHQ moved 5 miles South to area B7866 and during the morning 3Tp returned to SHQ, a patrol of 3rd RTR having taken over the patrol position. Nothing of interest to report from the southern flank during the day. B Sqn. 1Tp went out to the forward position with the OP and 2Tp came out to cover his South. During the evening there was some movement of 100 MET South in area 4361 otherwise no movement seen. At 1700 hours 1Tp returned to SHQ, 2Tp staying out.
4/12/42	A Sqn. 5Tp relieved 2Tp who before returning to SHQ reced forward to find a better position forward. Having travelled 5 miles West he came under shellfire and moved NE, eventually taking up a position in the area B6756 which filled in the gap between BATTAFAL and the 3rd RTR patrol. Nothing unusual to report. Patrols are in fact observing the enemy from long range owing to the fact that the enemy hold all the high ground and to move further West entails shelling which is pointless for the moment. B Sqn 4th – 12th Remained watching the same area with two Tps out all day and night. Local movement of MET and



	men seen most days but nothing else of interest seen. RHQ. 8th Armd Bde took over from 22nd Armd Bde. The role of the Regt at this period was to watch the gaps between the Brigades at BREGA and SUERA (B Sqn) and the left of the SUERA Bde (A Sqn). B Sqn the Royals returned to their own command in the HASSELA area.
5/12/42	A Sqn. 5th – 7th Patrol positions were maintained at BATTAFAL and B6756, known hereafter as 'Armoured Car Ridge'. Patrol merely as an observation scheme while 8th Armd Bde and Bde of 51st Div consolidated their positions. Normal activity – enemy artillery closely observed and gun positions plotted. On Dec 7th SHQ moved to B7459. RHQ. 5th – 12th. During this period there was little change in the situation. C Sqn relieved A Sqn in the SUERA area. There were indications that the enemy were likely to retire in the near future. On Dec 12th General Montgomery visited the Regt.
8/12/42	A Sqn 8th – 10th Our own troops increased activity on the front and on the 9th A Sqn troops moved forward to B6249 and B6655 to obtain closer observation on the enemy. Tank patrols from Sherwood Rangers and 3rd RTR did probing recce and on Dec 9th and 10th to within 800 yards of enemy positions. This caused the enemy to show their guns. Enemy positions ran accurately as shown on the captured overprint map. On Dec 10th the enemy positions were thought to be thinning out. This rather agrees with what is reported, that the enemy do not consider themselves strong enough to hold the AGHEILA line and may therefore withdraw to lengthen our communication and play for time. We ourselves are nearly ready for an attack. On Dec 10th 5Tp reported five 88mm guns at 5255, these probably brought up on account of our tank threat.
11/12/42	A Sqn. At 0930 hours 5Tp Mr Williamson reported that the five 88mm guns were being towed NW – a further indication that the enemy probably intend to withdraw. C Sqn took over A Sqn patrols at 1300 hours and we went into reserve in area 8176.
12/12/42	A Sqn. Sqn in reserve. The day was an extremely windy one. Spent in cleaning up, maintenance etc. In the afternoon the Sqn was visited by General Montgomery who met all the officers and NCOs. Capt Poston 11th Hussars ADC accompanied him.
13/12/42	A Sqn. Sqn was intended to be in reserve for several days, but during the night the enemy had withdrawn. By 0800 hours this had been definitely proved and 8th Bde by 0900 hours, preceded by C Sqn, were moving through gaps made in the enemy minefields in pursuit. Sqn moved with RHQ to area 6767 and then passed through old enemy positions to join 8th Armd Bde in area 4159. C Sqn had been in contact with the enemy who appeared right away from the AGHEILA line. The night was spent with the Regt "in toto" with 8th Bde at 4159. B Sqn. 1Tp in the forward position and 2Tp in the half back. No movement was seen in the morning. At 1200 hours we were told that the enemy had pushed out. We were ordered to move to 6665 to join RHQ. This we did at 1400 hours and arrived at 1530 hours where 2Tp and 3Tp rejoined. We were then put in reserve and spent the rest of the day following RHQ through the minefield at SUERA and spent the night at 4160. RHQ. The enemy appeared to have withdrawn during the night. C Sqn working with 3rd RTR pushed



	forward through the SUERA position being followed by the rest of the Regt and 8th Armd Bde who leaguered in area B4159. No enemy were seen during the day except a weak line reported by A Sqn in area B3064.
14/12/42	C Sqn. 1Tp on the right, 3Tp in the centre and 5Tp on the left all reported no movement all night and visibility limited to 20 yards. at first light 2Tp started for GIOPER to relieve 5Tp who were low on petrol. Our right boundary was a track running to the bend in the road at B2150 and our left directed on GIOPER. 0920 – 3Tp reported gunfire to the NW and the wire fence across the track at 2050. 1020 – 2Tp was with 5Tp and nearly to GIOPER, wire fence was stretching to the South along the line of the road. RE's went out with 4Tp to look for mines but it was a dummy. 1030 – 3Tp reported a tank at B1348 with 2 men getting in the turret, fog had cleared by now. 1032 – 2Tp reported GIOPER clear. 1115 – 3Tp was now at 2146 and reported one 8 wheeled AC and two large MET 1 mile to the North. 3Tp was then shelled and had to drop a bit. 1127 – 2Tp reported one of his car had hit a mine and gone up. Tpr Oliver injured. 1129 – 4Tp reported a single vehicle going North at B1863 where it joined a Mark IV tank which was being engaged by 8th Armd Bde who were close up behind us. 1138 – 4Tp reported at B1855 about 20 Infantry on a small mound. 1139 – 4Tp reported 2 more tanks moving North and Infantry moving up to B1753. 1142 – 4Tp reported one 8 wheeler at B1853. By 1200 hours A Sqn who were on our right reported MET in area 1852. 1230 – road from bend at B2149 to GIOPER was clear and no mines. RE's had gone down to GIOPER to extricate 2Tp who then proceeded South down the track. SHQ was with HQ 3rd RTR who were by now in action against MET and tanks in the B15 square. The engagement lasted all through the afternoon, moving gradually NW. 2Tp continued South meeting numerous mine fields all the way down the track. MO with ambulance collected Tpr Oliver who had broken a leg. 1700 – whole Sqn less B1 moved South down the track to GIOPER. 2Tp had got as far as B2112 trying to contact 4th Armd Bde who were going round the South. By 1800 hours he was with some of them but unfortunately it was only an Echelon who had no wireless. B1 collected rations and joined us in GIOPER late that night. A Sqn. 8th Bde advanced at first light with C Sqn observing on the whole front. Observing is not quite the correct expression as until 1000 hours a mist lay on the ground restricting visibility to only 150 yards. A Sqn patrols were supposed to contact C Sqn patrols in the areas 3566 and 3456 thereby taking over the night recce, leaving C Sqn responsible for the South – one of their patrols to move to GIOPER, and thence South to contact Royals or KDG's who were the AC regts with the New Zealand column which was moving round from the South to cut the main road in the BIR EL MERDUMA area. Because of the mist A Sqn patrols never contacted C Sqn's but 2Tp Mr Turner moved North from 3566 to obtain observation on to the main road. When within 2 miles of it he started moving West. 4Tp Mr Wingfield Digby moved West from 3564 and 1Tp Sgt Trumper West from 3456. Despite the mist 8th Armd Bde continued to move "en bloc" and 1Tp, blind, moved in front of them. 2Tp ran into enemy in area of 2566 and being unable to see anything when fired on, he was forced to withdraw. 4Tp was likewise held up. When the mist rose, 8th Armd Bde found themselves 2 miles East of the AGHELA – GIOPER track with a wire fence halting them. Gaps were made in this and 3rd RTR passed through to the track. 1Tp was in observation at 2254 where he remained the whole day, being prevented from moving North by the enemy holding a ridge 1 mile to his NW. he gave good information throughout the day of enemy tanks and gun positions and also reported the enemy mining the track in area 1958. Meanwhile 2Tp and 4Tp were held up by enemy manning the AGHELA town defences. No further enemy were moving West from MARSA BREGA to AGHELA, but the Highland Div were held up by mines and booby traps on the main road. 2Tp and 4Tp were intermittently shelled throughout the whole day; the gaps through the wire were now under fairly heavy shellfire. C Sqn 3rd RTR were moving by bounds along the road towards AGHELA and fought continually throughout the day with the enemy rearguard positions. 5Tp Mr Williamson was sent out to the area of 1255 to watch the western flank. In the afternoon the Sherwood Rangers came up to the West of 3rd RTR and the Staffs Yeomanry to



	the East. Considerable damage was done to the enemy who remained in their positions until the tanks were literally on top of them. In the days fighting the enemy lost approx 10 M13's and the same number of A/Tk guns and 150 prisoners. 2Tp and 4Tp joined up for the night while 1Tp maintained his position. 5Tp, ordered to withdraw somewhat, had considerable difficulty as German tanks had infiltrated South in the western flank at dusk. SHQ spent the night with 3rd RTR in area 1656, this column having withdrawn 2 miles at last light. Any success today was probably due to the presence of the Bde so close to the enemy positions under cover of the mist. This was probably a complete surprise for the enemy for otherwise the Bde would have to advance over open country, presumably under heavy shellfire. 5Tp Mr Williamson was throughout the afternoon in a good position to see any damage done to the enemy and himself saw seven M13's brew up. Advance SHQ spent the day with Colonel Pieman who himself went into action on several occasions. B Sqn. Spent the day in reserve following on behind RHQ. At 1500 hours 5Tp was sent out as local protection to the West of RHQ and between 1500 hours and dark we sat in the middle of a lot of kit and guns which were being shelled which was not very pleasant. Spent the night with RHQ at 2448. RHQ. 7th Armd Div were directed on the MARADA track and B2149. The morning was foggy with visibility of 200 yards. In spite of this 7th Armd Div moved at dawn with A Sqn on the right and C Sqn on the left. The mist did not lift until 1000 hours by which time 7th Armd Div had reached 2 miles East of the track. The enemy could then be seen holding the line B3070 – SW – to B1753. C Sqn reported GIOPER heavily mined but clear. In the afternoon 8th Armd Bde engaged the enemy and knocked out twelve M13 tanks. RHQ leaguered at B2149.
15/12/42	C Sqn. At first light the whole Sqn moved South and by 0800 hours had done 15 miles. Had a short halt and then got ordered to return North through GIOPER as the enemy had shifted in the night and the way was clear to the road. By midday we were 10 miles North of GIOPER. A recce of the track running through the salt marsh in square A96 was ordered and 3Tp left soon after to do this. 1730 – 3Tp reported they were in the middle of a minefield with one car already gone up and of the crew 1 killed and 2 injured. The other 2 cars were in the middle and the mines were very hard to see. The MO was sent for and met on the road, Sgt Lawrence directed him over very bad country and reached the area by midnight. It was not possible to get the ambulance right up to the cars because of the mines. Lt French and Tpr Whittard had to be carried for 100 yards. Tpr Blakey was buried there. A Sqn. As was to be expected the enemy had withdrawn during the night. SHQ moved with 3rd RTR at first light northwards along the line of the GIOPER AGHELA track and by 0900 hours were on the main road having met little opposition – this being quickly dealt with causing casualties to the enemy. 2Tp and 4Tp were ordered from first light to move West and clear the ground through the AGHELA town positions and then join SHQ who were situated close to the X tracks 0267, this they did. Mr Turner's Tp having carried out a successful attack against realistic but dummy A/Tk gun positions on the way. 1Tp and 5Tp were also ordered to join SHQ who, with 3rd RTR, had advanced on the line of the track fairly quickly. 3rd RTR were by this time 0930 hours advancing West down the main road towards the A/Tk ditch post 9072 and 3Tp Sgt Longmate was sent out to watch the southern flank. He moved to 9163. 1Tp was ordered to recce the track crossing the SEBCHA EL CHEBIRA in the square 95 and by 1300 hours had reported no possible crossing for MT. The enemy were holding a position in the A/Tk ditch area and also the sand dunes to the North. 3rd RTR had been withdrawn and the Staffs Yeomanry were probing this position. Advance SHQ moved to area 9266 and were shelled somewhat by our own guns as well as the enemy's. By 1400 hours Staffs Yeomanry were across the A/Tk ditch to the South but were then held up by



	heavy A/Tk gun fire. The situation remained thus for the rest of the day. Staffs Yeomanry lost 2 tanks but did damage to the enemy and took some prisoners. 1Tp took over from advance SHQ at 9266, while 3Tp had had to evacuate on AC irrevocably stuck in the bog and another in need of LAD assistance from the same cause. SHQ and 2, 4 and 5 Tps spent the night in area 0366. Today the New Zealand Div has been astride the road as far West as SI MATRATIN and must therefore be causing some disconcertion amongst the enemy. B Sqn. We were told to take over from A Sqn their Northern patrols but long before we could do that the enemy had again withdrawn and A Sqn had pushed on. We therefore rejoined RHQ at the fork of the AGHELA – MARADA roads where 4Tp and 5Tp rejoined having failed to catch up A Sqn patrols. At 1100 hours 1Tp was sent out to find a way across the bog to the SW but failed to find one and returned to SHQ at 1600 hours. RHQ. Enemy appeared to have retired during the night. 7th Armd Div was directed North West along the track with A Sqn acting as advance guard. A light A/Tk screen was encountered at the road junction at B0267 which retired when engaged. 8th Armd Bde followed up to the line of the A/Tk ditch A9070 and harassed them for the rest of the day.
16/12/42	C Sqn. 4Tp with the RE's under LCpl Griffiths left at first light to assist 3Tp to get their cars out. The minefield was an exceptionally well prepared one and appeared to have been laid some time ago as the diggings were invisible. The majority were double Teller mines, all booby trapped, but besides these there were charges dug very deep with remote control igniters, which evaded the detectors. After working for 4 hours on removing the Tellers they thought a way had been cleared. Lt Lovett's car got clear alright and the third car was almost clear with the car commander and gunner walking in front of each wheel when it detonated another charge. The car immediately burst into flames and the Driver Tpr Lenton had to come out through the visor. At the time there were only 2 cars in the Regt of the type that the driver could get through the visor, and in this case there was no possibility of exit through the turret, so he was lucky to get away with it untouched. We all moved on in the afternoon, up with RHQ towards MARBLE ARCH. A Sqn. Again by first light the enemy had evacuated and the Sqn was ordered to regain contact as soon as possible. The main road was clear as far West as Kilo 29 and the Sqn moved to Kilo 39 South of the road. From that point 2Tp was directed below the escarpment that runs 4 miles South of the main road, while 4Tp travelled the line of the road with RE's attached. 1Tp travelled in between 2Tp and 4Tp. By 1200 hours 4Tp had reached MARBLE ARCH, having cleared mines in the road de file at 5885. 1Tp and 2Tp were on top of the escarpment and moving West. 3Tp had to be left in the bog until they could be released by the LAD. SHQ was at 5883. At 1300 hours 4Tp was ordered to inspect the MARBLE ARCH landing ground. 5Tp therefore took over from 4Tp and worked the line of the road. The RAF had been very active today and 1Tp saw a bomber in difficulties and forced to land close to the sea, in area 4400. He was ordered to their assistance, a doctor being needed, one was obtained from the Sherwood Rangers. SHQ with 4Tp, who had ascertained that the landing ground was littered with mines, including S mines, moved towards 1Tp. Nothing had been seen of the enemy, but at 1700 hours 5Tp contacted the New Zealanders at MATRATIN and heard from them that they had had some success. Before this 2Tp had contacted the KDG's at MERDUMA, they did not know very much. 2Tp had a car blown up on a Teller mine and Lt Moore and LCpl Jee were slightly wounded. He was ordered to bring these men into SHQ, who by 1630 hours had reached area 4497, and the doctor had left for the bomber on the North side of the road. The rear gunner had been killed but the pilot and the other 2 members of the crew were OK. Sqn spent the night in area 4497, less 5Tp who remained at MATRATIN. 3Tp still in the bog 50 miles back. Wounded and air crew evacuated. B Sqn. Again the enemy had retired. We remained in reserve and followed on until we reached MARBLE ARCH. We were then told to send one Tp to take over from A Sqn Tp at the head of 8th Armd Bde who were moving along South of the road and parallel to it. 5Tp went off to do this. 2t and 4Tp were sent off to recce the Wadi MA??? 4Tp went South of MERDUMA and 2Tp went North.



	SHQ were then instructed to contact General Freyberg at 2289 and find out what he was doing. At about 1700 hours 2Tp reported the Wadi passable anywhere. SHQ fetched up with the New Zealanders just as it was getting dark. 2, 4 & 5 Tps were called in to SHQ arriving about 1800 hours. The Sqn Ldr went to see General Freyberg and was given 2 very good cigars which he and Capt Horsford kept for Christmas, but when it came to Christmas it was found that some kind person had given them away so we never knew exactly how good they were. The Sqn stayed the night at 2289. RHQ. Information had been received that a force under General Freyberg had carried out a wide encircling movement to the South and during the night he was reported to have cut the road SW of MARBLE ARCH. 7th Armd Div was directed West as fast as possible to support him. The road and verges were heavily mined necessitating cross country movement over bad going. 7th Armd Div leaguered in area A4093. B Sqn contacted General Freyberg's HQ.
17/12/42	C Sqn. We continued to lead 8th Armd Bde towards NOFLIA but 4th Armd Bde were ahead of us and we made no further contact. A Sqn. At first light the Echelon arrived from RHQ who had spent the night close to the Sqn, one car of 5Tp had to be abandoned yesterday with steering trouble. 5Tp continued to advance on the line of the road while 1Tp travelled 4 miles West of it. Going was extremely bad and the weather highly inclement. In area 2214 5Tp was forced to stop with mechanical trouble and 4Tp took over his task. By 1200 hours SHQ was in area 2214 and by this time 1Tp was at 0415. 3Tp rejoined SHQ. Moving close to the road had been somewhat hazardous and so far troops have been lucky in not hitting mines. At 1300 hours 4Tp reported progress further NW to be impossible and it was decided to strike inland and the Sqn moved to area 0517 with much mountaineering. 1Tp contacted Major Rogers Sqn of the Royals and from them received fuller information – namely that the enemy were holding a rearguard position at NOFLIA, of some tanks and guns etc. they were in observation and New Zealand Columns were to the West of the enemy. This was the first information Div had had of the New Zealand columns for some time and therefore the Sqn was ordered to keep in touch with the Royals in order that information could get back. All Tps were called in to SHQ at last light – night spent in area 0517. B Sqn. The Sqn remained where they were until 1300 hours when we moved to join RHQ at 2094 where we stayed the night. RHQ. 7th Armd Div moved to area A2394 where they halted and it was learned that General Freyberg was engaging the enemy in the NOFLIA area. 7th Armd Div was ordered into reserve.
18/12/42	C Sqn. The Regt went into rest on the coast in V30 area. B Sqn. Remained until 1335 hours when the whole Regt moved North to the sea. 2Tp went out at 0900 hours to escort the Corps Commander General Leese and rejoined us the next day by the sea. We spent the night by the sea 32 Kilos East of NOFLIA North of the road. RHQ. Permission was obtained for 11th Hussars to the sea in area U2318 and during the afternoon the Regt moved there.
19/12/42	A Sqn 19th – 25th During this period Sqn was with the Regt at MARSA EL IHUDIA maintaining and resting in glorious weather. On at least 3 days it was possible to bathe. On Dec 23rd the Colonel and Major Lawson had dinner at Army HQ with the GOC. An extremely interesting and entertaining visit. Future AC policy was discussed including the necessity of ACs



	carrying a dual purpose gun, not smaller than 20mm. The statement was made by the GOC that he did not consider that ACs should be used for fighting and that their sole role should be information. At dinner a discussion, cavalry versus infantry soldiers, the amateur and the professional. In both instances the GOC favoured entirely the latter; all the leading soldier of the present day being infantrymen and pre-war professional soldiers. Capt Poston visited the Regt on 21st Dec. on Xmas Day a day of rest was observed. Rations were supplemented and Lt Rapp arrived from Cairo with a lorry load of food and drink. A fine feat considering he has come over 1000 miles and was not passed fit by the doctors for the field. Lt Williamson was sick from 22nd Dec and on the evening of 25th Dec had to be evacuated. This rest has done the troops a great deal of good. Washing of both bodies and of clothes was badly needed and the general relaxation had a tonic effect. Some new lorries were received. These were also badly needed. Some of this Sqn having done the campaign last winter followed by a trip to Persia and then the arduous work of the summer of 1942. B Sqn. 19th – 25th This period was spent in rest by the sea with the whole Regt and a very enjoyable time as well as getting quite a few necessary jobs done. We had a very good Christmas with a Gymkhana in the morning and solid eating for the rest of the day. The latter was made possible by Lt Rapp arriving from Cairo on Christmas Eve with our Christmas food in the back of a lorry.
25/12/42	C Sqn. Third Christmas in the desert. Lt Rapp arrived from base with a large lorry load of mail, parcels and Christmas fare with Christmas puddings, mince pies, chocolate and beer for all.
26/12/42	C Sqn. Sqn led the Regt along the road through NOFLIA. A total of 90 miles. A Sqn. Regt moved at 0800 hours to NOFLIA and thence on to the desert and travelled to area Z22 where the night was spent. B Sqn. The whole Regt moved at 0730 hours to 0220 where we spent the night.
27/12/42	C Sqn. Continued with journey up to 7th Armd Div. Halted 2 miles South of them. A Sqn. Regt moved to Y3147 arriving there soon after midday. B Sqn. Moved on up to Div at Y3248 where we spent the night.
28/12/42	C Sqn. Remained in same area. A Sqn 28th – 31st Sqn with Regt at Y3147. Sqn had no tasks and the days were spent in training. A Jeep Tp had been formed on Xmas day under L/ Sgt Martin and on the morning of the 29th this patrol went out under the command of Lt Turner who with Lt Wingfield Digby had received the Military Cross for their excellent work and valour during the past winter's campaigning. The task of the Jeep patrol was to ascertain if the enemy position at BUNGEN was occupied or not. This entailed a journey of 150 miles there and back. The patrol consisted of 3 Jeeps and the following, Lt Turner, Sgt Martin, Cpl Buckledee, Tprs Robinson, Crosby, Trotman and Sapper Collins. The patrol reached the area of BUNGEN by the evening of the 29th but had punctures and petrol stoppages that held them up the whole of the 30th until the evening. The whole of the 30th a Tp of KDG's was reporting on BUNGEN, it therefore appears that there was duplication of tasks; Enemy had been in BUNGEN fort on Dec 29th. When Mr Turner had completed his work on petrol stoppages, he got into a position of observation overlooking BUNGEN and found the Fort burning merrily with no sign of the enemy. He therefore decided to enter the place and look at the water supply and landing ground. The place was entered warily and all that could be seen were empty gun pits and equipment lying round as if the



	enemy had left in a hurry. He approached the fort itself and when within 20 or 30 yards of it, two ACs suddenly appeared from behind it. He shouted “Who are you” to which came the reply in perfect English “come forward with your hand up”. Lt Turner’s Jeep and that of Cpl Buckledee could do nothing but comply and if they had not done so they must all have been killed, so close were they. The Jeep of L/ Sgt Martin was further to a flank but no further than 80 yards, he therefore immediately ordered his driver, Tpr Crosby, to pull away to the right and this they did, making their escape without being fired at although they were followed by a third AC. It afterwards transpired that the Royals had been in BUNGEN at 1600 hours and as Mr Turner was captured at 1700 hours, the enemy patrol must have been approaching the fort at the identical time that our patrol did, but from the opposite side. It was therefore a case of extreme bad luck and misfortune. Lt Turner, Cpl Buckledee, Tprs Robinson, Trotman and Sapper Collins were all captured unwounded. L/ Sgt Martin and Tpr Crosby gained contact by W/ T with 4th Armd Bde and reported the matter to them, having not enough aerial to gain contact with the Sqn. 2Tp Sgt Hall was sent out to assist them but they returned unaided to SHQ at Y3147 having done extremely well. B Sqn. Remained in same place all day.		
31/12/42	C Sqn. Sqn had order to recce route over Wadi TAMET at Pt. 116 Y2623 thence on to BUNGEN and then if possible to the NW. BUNGEN was at the time no-mans land occasionally occupied by either side. Lt Turner of A Sqn was unfortunately captured there in a Jeep two days before. Crossed Wadi TAMET just before dark with 1Tp and 5Tp about 15 miles ahead.		
Battle Casualties 11th Hussars PAO from 3/9/39			
Killed in Action			
Officers			
Rank	Name	Date	Remarks
Lt	WVH Gape	29-4-41	
2Lt	AL Jacobson	29-4-41	
Lt	JW Peacock	23-10-42	
Lt	PN & C Palin Evans	24-10-42	
2Lt	The Viscount DAN Stuart	10-11-42	
Lt	Cockbain	28-11-42	Died on Active Service
2Lt	AJ Smithers	25-11-41	Died of Wounds
Capt	Kellock RAMC	31-12-41	Died of Wounds
Other Ranks			



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Sgt	Whitehouse	26-7-40	
Tpr	Baker	13-9-40	
Tpr	Walsh	13-9-40	
LCpl	Panchen	16-9-40	
Sgt	Taber	9-12-40	
Tpr	Ralstein	9-12-40	
Cpl	Horton	9-12-40	
Tpr	Hunt	11-12-40	
SSM	Chapple	14-12-40	
Tpr	Sutton	27-12-40	
Tpr	Watham	28-12-40	
Sgt	Holland	4-2-41	
Tpr	Froggatt	4-2-41	
LCpl	Sawyer	8-2-41	
Sgt	Lucy	14-2-41	
Tpr	Buckler	14-2-41	
Tpr	Vivier	14-2-41	
Tpr	Clarke	10-4-41	
Tpr	Worthington	16-6-41	
Tpr	Winslade	26-6-41	
Tpr	Coles	7-8-41	
Cpl	Grimsey	22-11-41	
LCpl	Hutchins	22-11-41	



Pte	Lillywhite (LAD)	22-11-41	
Tpr	Howells	23-11-41	
Tpr	Simpson	23-11-41	
Tpr	Howells	7-1-42	
Tpr	Shaw	7-1-42	
Tpr	Sadd	6-10-42	
Tpr	Blakey	15-12-42	
Sgt	Mines	26-7-40	Died of Wounds
Tpr	Muscettelli	1-7-40	Died of Wounds
TSM	Bowyer	15-10-40	Died of Wounds
Tpr	Pearson	14-12-40	Died of Wounds
Tpr	McVey	16-12-40	Died of Wounds
Missing – Believed Killed			
Tpr	Jones 70	21-6-40	[Alamein Memorial –no known grave]
LCpl	Hoppe	25-4-41	[Alamein Memorial –no known grave]
Tpr	Metton	25-4-41	[No entry Commonwealth War Graves]
Sgt	Woods	7-8-41	[No entry Commonwealth War Graves]
Tpr	Manning	7-8-41	[Halfaya Sollum Cemetery]
Tpr	Bambury	7-8-41	[Halfaya Sollum Cemetery]
Missing – Believed Wounded			
2Lt	TB Brewin	28-1-42	
Cpl	Graystone 31	26-7-40	



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Tpr	Nightingale	26-7-40	
Tpr	Gay	26-7-40	
Wounded			
Officers			
Capt	DPJ Lloyd	11-12-40	
2Lt	A Reid Scott	14-12-40	
Capt	HSCayzer	23-11-41	
Lt	PF Stewart	17-12-41	
Major	JCAD Lawson	18-11-42	
Lt	J French	15-12-42	
Lt	RH Moore	16-12-42	
ORs			
Tpr	Musslewhite	5-7-40	
Tpr	Robertson 22	10-7-40	
Tpr	Chisholm	26-7-40	
Tpr	Brown 70	26-7-40	
Tpr	Buckett	26-7-40	
LCpl	Parker	26-7-40	
LCpl	Gingell	13-9-40	
Cpl	Nash	15-9-40	
Tpr	Wright	15-9-40	
Tpr	Hill	15-9-40	
Tpr	Crowther	16-9-40	



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LCpl	Petrie	7-10-40	
Tpr	Horton 26	7-10-40	
LCpl	Holdsworth	9-12-40	
Tpr	Hamilton	9-12-40	
Tpr	Leach	10-12-40	
SSM	McMahon	11-12-40	
TSM	Clarke	11-12-40	
LCpl	Loxley	11-12-40	
Sgt	Hay	11-12-40	
Tpr	Winterbottom	11-12-40	
Cpl	Tappern	14-12-40	
Sgt	Galpin	14-12-40	
LCpl	Ward	14-12-40	
LCpl	Archer	14-12-40	
Tpr	Kean	16-12-40	
Cpl	Bailey	25-12-40	
Tpr	Firth 58	25-12-40	
Tpr	Webster	26-12-40	
Sgt	Cameron	27-12-40	
Cpl	Graystone	27-12-40	
LCpl	Jones	11-1-41	
Sgt	Whittaker	4-2-41	
Sgt	Lamb	24-4-41	



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Tpr	Christie	24-4-41	
Tpr	Hastings	24-4-41	
Cpl	Early	24-4-41	
LCpl	Robinson	24-4-41	
LCpl	Greensides	24-4-41	
Tpr	Allen	24-4-41	
Tpr	Powell	24-4-41	
Cpl	Murphy	24-4-41	
Tpr	Riani	24-4-41	
Tpr	Ferguson	24-4-41	
Tpr	Eacock	24-4-41	
Sgt	Hoyland	25-4-41	
Cpl	Oliver	25-4-41	
Tpr	Pollard	30-4-41	
Cpl	Cornish	12-5-41	
Sgt	Chambers	15-5-41	
Tpr	Strong	15-5-41	
Tpr	Fidler	15-5-41	
Tpr	Shrewsbury	15-5-41	
Cpl	Longmate	16-6-41	
LCpl	Ramshaw	16-6-41	
Tpr	Murphy	16-6-41	
Tpr	Shoals	16-6-41	



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Cpl	Green	26-6-41	
Tpr	Blake	26-6-41	
Tpr	Myers	9-7-41	
Sgt	Parker	24-7-41	
Tpr	Wier	20-7-41	
Tpr	Shaw	28-7-41	
Tpr	Allen	28-7-41	
Pte	Chamberlain (LAD)	22-11-41	
Tpr	Clifton	23-11-41	
LCpl	Hale	23-11-41	
Pte	Burfitt (LAD)	23-11-41	
Sgt	Merrick	22-11-41	
Tpr	Cunningham	22-11-41	
Tpr	Evans	33-11-41	
Tpr	Evans	25-11-41	
Tpr	Lenton	4-12-41	
Tpr	Murphy 28	6-12-41	
Tpr	Osborne 35	10-12-41	
Sgt	Chambers	17-12-41	
LCpl	Attwood	17-12-41	
Tpr	Smith	17-12-41	
LCpl	Like	1-1-42	
Sgt	Hutchinson	1-1-42	



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The Dingo Register, Daimler Fighting Vehicles Project – Part D3e

Cavalry Of The Line - 11th Hussars War Diary

L/Sgt	Sater	7-1-42	
Tpr	Paske	7-1-42	
Tpr	Cahill	12-1-42	
LCpl	Nottingham	28-1-42	
Tpr	Pinfold	2-9-42	
Sgt	Lovett	2-9-42	
Tpr	Cairns	2-9-42	
LCpl	Firth	18-9-42	
Cpl	Addis	11-10-42	
Tpr	Rose	11-10-42	
Cpl	Stewart	14-10-42	
LCpl	Palmer	14-10-42	
Tpr	Whittingham	14-10-42	
LCpl	Peckett	16-10-42	
LCpl	Woodhead	15-10-42	
LCpl	Shuttleworth	15-10-42	
Tpr	Williams	3-11-42	
Tpr	Brown	5-11-42	
Tpr	Cahill	10-11-42	
LCpl	Horwood	17-11-42	
Tpr	Brown	18-11-42	
Tpr	Oakes	18-11-42	
Tpr	Shoals	18-11-42	



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Tpr	Hawkins	26-11-42	
Tpr	Oliver	14-12-42	
Tpr	Stewart	14-12-42	Shell shock
Tpe	Whittard	15-12-42	
LCpl	Jee	16-12-42	
PoWs			
Officers			
Lt	TI Pitman	26-7-40	Confirmed
2Lt	Jenson	26-7-40	Confirmed
A/Brigadier	JFB Coombe DSO	4-4-41	
Capt	CA Halliday	25-5-42	
Lt	JB Turner	30-12-42	
ORs			
TSM	Howarth	21-6-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Freeman	21-6-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Young	21-6-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Prewett	21-6-40	Confirmed
L/Sgt	Kynes	26-7-40	Confirmed
Cpl	Dayman	26-7-40	Confirmed
LCpl	Gardiner	39 26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Rogers	13 26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Maddox	26-7-40	Confirmed



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Tpr	House	26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Stone	26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Kenny	26-7-40	Confirmed
Sgt	Rich	28-12-40	Confirmed
LCpl	Lowe	28-12-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Crack	28-12-40	Confirmed
LCpl	Ramsell	28-12-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Brown 75	28-12-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Smith 69	28-12-40	Confirmed
Cpl	Salter	10-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Gibbons	10-4-41	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Stevens	25-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Burns 22	25-4-41	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Edwards	29-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Timmons	29-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Crowther	7-8-41	Not Confirmed
Cpl	Winterbottom	7-8-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Walburn	7-8-41	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Kimpton	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Pte	Linsey (LAD)	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Sgt	Howells	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Wesley	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Smith 03	23-11-41	Not Confirmed



Tpr	Randall	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Wells	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Cpl	Robertson	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Neil	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Edwards	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Jones	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Parrott	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Baxter	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Robinson	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Carman	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Wright	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Briggs	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Vivian	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Howley	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Crampton	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Day	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
PoWs - Repatriated			
Tpr	Gay	26-7-40	
Tpr	Garner 30	26-7-40	
LCpl	Evans	28-12-40	
Tpr	Fenn	28-12-40	
January 1943	CO: Lt Col ATSmil		



Jan 43	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/1/43	C Sqn. Continued at first light with no real difficulty till Wadi TOGH at X7002. This was a wadi 200 feet deep with steep sides. Finally a very steep way was found into the wadi and a fairly easy way out. We continued towards BUNGEM till we got 2 miles short of it when a Ju88 flew past nearby but did not see us. 2Tp who were in front could see the fort and 8 MT around it. The enemy lit a smoke candle and the 88 appeared to leave the far side. The going either side of the road running South from BUNGEM was impassable to ACs with sand dunes up to 40 feet high. We withdrew into hills about 5 miles SE of BUNGEM for the night. A Sqn. Sqn still with RHQ at Y3147. L/Sgt Hall returned with his Tp arriving at 1630 hours. B Sqn. Sqn came under orders of 8th Armd Bde and moved to Y4847 to be closer to them. Remained in that position for the night.
2/1/43	C Sqn. At 0630 hours 2Tp reported Verey lights in the BUNGEM area and at 0830 hours they could see 6 MET stationary at X5203 and 4 more at 5303. At 1200 hours 4Tp was sent out to watch BUNGEM and the Sqn moved NE to the higher ground as communication with RHQ was getting difficult. 5Tp remained out, the other Tps were called in to SHQ who spent the night at X6185. A Sqn. Sqn moved with RHQ at 1200 hours to area of MISURATA arriving at 1750 hours where the night was spent.
3/1/43	C Sqn. 3Tp was sent out to continue the role of getting through the dunes but without any luck. A bad sandstorm came on and the Sqn (less 4Tp) moved further NE to X6118 where the night was spent. One car had to be abandoned with big end and another was on tow. A Sqn had come into the line to our North. A Sqn. Sqn moved at first light and by 1000 hours was in the area X7540. From there 1Tp Sgt Trumper moved to X6828 and 5Tp Sgt Longmate Tp X6038. Both Tps reported no movement seen and 5Tp returned to SHQ at last light. 1Tp reported the going West from BIR STRA area as being virtually impassable. B Sqn. We had to take over from the Royals. At 1100 hours the Sqn moved to X5958. 1Tp, 2Tp and 3Tp went out to the Royals positions but did not take over until the next day.
4/1/43	C Sqn. 4Tp got observation of BUNGEM and 5Tp was sent to contact A Sqn, then to a position at X5118. At 1300 hours the two SHQ ACs plus 3Tp and the Jeeps set out for a local recce of BUNGEM and 3Tp got within 1 mile of it and SHQ plus 4Tp and the Jeeps moved across the road about 3 miles to the North. At 1500 hours 3Tp reported 2 men on the escarpment to the West of BUNGEM and 3 MET stationary in the area. 3Tp remained in observation and SHQ and 4Tp and the jeeps moved into the broken country to the West of the track with the object of getting behind the enemy. After going West for about 4 miles SHQ and 4Tp and jeep turned South and saw 6 men running from a high point into a wadi. They were chased by SHQ who suddenly came under fire from Bredas. SHQ and 4Tp then went hull-down on a ridge on the other side and saw 3 enemy ACs, one 8 wheeler, and 2 trucks with A/Tk guns. A duel at about 1000 yards ensued and eventually the enemy called it a day and made off, being chased by us for about 3 miles without catching them. Tpr Dunthorne was hit in the foot by a 20mm which pierced the AC, but he was only bruised. SHQ remained in the same area till last light. 5Tp went out to relieve 3Tp near BUNGEM, 4Tp had another big end. A Sqn. At first light 2Tp Sgt Hall relieved 1Tp after they had jointly recced the ground in area BIR STRA. By 1000



	hours 2Tp was in visual touch with C Sqn patrol in area X5618. 4Tp Capt Wingfield Digby moved West to the eastern edge of Wadi EL CHERBIR in order to watch the track running in the bottom. All Tps reported no movement seen. B Sqn. Took over from the Royals. There were three patrols out. We had a troop of 25pdrs and 3 A/Tk guns from the 3rd RHA under our command.
5/1/43	C Sqn. 1Tp and 2Tp went out at first light and 3Tp withdrew. At 1130 hours 1 Tp reported 3 M13's to the West of the track, hull down at 4728. 1Tp and 2Tp worked together to try to bring the enemy to action but after the previous days encounter they were "not having any". Apart from enemy AC patrols nothing was seen all day. A Sqn. At first light 5Tp took over from 2Tp and 2Tp moved to join 4Tp. The Colonel visited SHQ at 0935 hours and then went on to visit C Sqn. At 1430 hours SHQ moved to X6430 and during the time of the move 4Tp and 2Tp were recceing forward towards the GHEDDAHIA BUNGEM track in area X4237. On reaching area X4537 they had a mechanical breakdown and were forced to return. Previously they had seen a Jeep moving East. The Colonel on returning from C Sqn tracked this vehicle eastwards and it eventually proved to be one of the LRDG containing 7 men and was one of a patrol of Capt Hore Ruthven who, his Sgt reported, was killed while attacking an enemy night leaguer in the MISURATA area. Advance SHQ moved to X5838 and met the Colonel who later returned to RHQ. At last light they returned to SHQ. B Sqn. Jan 5th – 13th. We remained on this line with three patrols out and there was a certain amount of enemy movement going on in front of us the whole time. During the period we had two Tps from D Bty 3rd RHA under command each for 2 days, and then we had two Tps from N Bty RHA. Each night two Tps remained out. On the 6th we had to withdraw East for about 7 miles owing to the threat on our North caused by 3 tanks and some MET. The Tp of D Bty commanded by Capt Barrington got a very good shoot on the tanks, which rushed off home as fast as they could. On the 10th we had got so low in cars owing to having to send the bad oilers back, that 3Tp was broken up, his only remaining car going to 2Tp and Sgt White went back to take over the Jeep Tp.
6/1/43	C Sqn. At 0700 hours 5Tp and 3Tp moved out to relieve 1Tp and 2Tp. At 1200 hours a Dornier circled BUNGEM twice then flew South. Apart from 3 ACs at 4929 nothing else was seen all day. A Sqn. At first light 1Tp and 5Tp reced forward as far as X4039 and reported the going as good. They then remained just East of the BUNGEM track in the hope of ambushing enemy AC patrols. None were forthcoming and at 1400 hours they returned. LCpl Mitchell spent the morning repairing 4Tp's car in the wadi at X5638. By midday this job was done and 4Tp and 2Tp rejoined SHQ. By 1200 hours C Sqn had taken over our patrols and the Sqn was concentrated for the night at X6340.
7/1/43	C Sqn. At 1825 hours 5Tp reported a heavy explosion 18 miles to the South of BUNGEM otherwise no movement seen. SHQ moved to X6360 taking out one patrol of A Sqn at X5628. C Sqn. 7th – 12th Jan. After breakfast the Sqn moved to join RHQ in the wadi at X7251 and remained there until January 13th, well camouflaged in the trees. Water was available in some quantity from the well close to PILASTRINO and all were able to bathe and wash clothing. A necessity, as some men have had lice in the last fortnight. Tpr Crosby was wounded by 109's ground strafing, he was firing his rifle at them and was unluckily hit.



	On Jan 12th Major Lawson and the Colonel visited KDG's HQ as A Sqn were to take over that part of the line tomorrow. Major Lawson went on to visit Major Llewellyn Palmer in the area X6167 and see the patrol positions from there.
8/1/43	C Sqn. At 1035 hours 5Tp reported 3 ACs at 5105 and 3 more at 4446. 7Tp reported 600 MET at 8926 and 3Tp were sent due West to investigate. He was however held up by enemy ACs at 3454 and could not confirm the report. Later however he was able to "tap in" and reported no movement seen.
9/1/43	C Sqn. 1Tp was sent on a recce to the West and at 1413 hours reported one 50mm A/Tk gun at 4147 and 3 MET. At 1617 hours 1Tp reported 6 ME moving towards his right rear at 3842 and had to move South to get away from them. 1Tp and 2Tp remained out for the night.
10/1/43	C Sqn. 5Tp and 3Tp moved out at 0700 hours to relieve 1Tp and 2Tp. At 1130 hours 3Tp reported 2 enemy ACs entering BUNGEM from the West, they continued due East and 3Tp followed them back but lost them in broken country. At 1515 hours 5Tp reported 1 Junkers 88 shot down by Spitfires at 5330. It crash landed and men were seen getting out. 5Tp sent a car to put the up and it was found to be a German Strat JR with 4 Luftwaffe men who were captured. Two cameras which were intact and full of film were cut out. Two of the enemy were wounded and all brought to SHQ.
11/1/43	C Sqn. At first light the Luftwaffe men and their kit went to RHQ. At 0930 hours the usual enemy patrol of ACs entered BUNGEM with a Portee, withdrawing at 1500 hours. This enemy patrol appeared each day and obviously hoped for another success by driving our cars into BUNGEM.
12/1/43	C Sqn. 1Tp and 2Tp moved out at 0700 to relieve 3Tp and 5Tp. 4Tp had to be disbanded owing to shortage of cars. No movement seen all day except for the usual enemy patrol at BUNGEM.
13/1/43	C Sqn. A Sqn of the Royals moved down to take over our Sqn front and the Tps were recalled. The entire Sqn spent the night in the same place ready to move up to RHQ at X7150 in the morning. A Sqn. The Sqn moved at first light to the area X6465 and from there Adv SHQ with 2Tp Sgt Hall and 5Tp Sgt Longmate moved to X6167. 2Tp and 5Tp went out to take over patrols from KDG's. 2Tp was not satisfied with his position and moved forward to X4468, from where he could overlook the track. One enemy AC approached close to his position in a sand storm during the afternoon, but it was engaged and it withdrew. 2Tp was also spasmodically shelled. 5Tp had nothing to report. Both these patrols stayed out for the night and Adv SHQ rejoined the Sqn at X6465.
14/1/43	C Sqn. The Sqn moved at first light to join RHQ where the day was spent. At 1600 hours the Regt moved to the assembly area and soon after dark marched by night to X4865. This was the start of the advance on TRIPOLI. The role of the Regt was close recce for 8th Armd Bde which consisted of Notts, Staffs, 3rd RTR, Buffs and 5th RHA. Lt Wentworth Stanley had by now recovered and rejoined bringing with him 2 ACs with which 4Tp was re-formed. A Sqn. The ADVANCE TO TRIPOLI.



	Major Lawson MC, Capt Petch DCM 2i/c, 1Tp Sgt Trumper, 2Tp Sgt Hall, 4Tp Capt Wingfield Digby, 5Tp Sgt Green, Jeep Tp Sgt Martin. Major Lawson visited Tp positions at first light and while he was away SHQ was machine gunned by 109's. As usual the Sqn Ldr's car was the centre of the enemy's attraction. Sqn was replenished at midday and carried 10 days water and rations. At 1445 hours 4Tp and 1Tp left to take over from 2Tp and 5Tp. At 1600 hours Sqn moved to area X5565. Tp on patrol were intermittently shelled during the day. During the first hours of darkness, 8th Armd Bde moved into Battle position in area X4464. Plan as follows:- 8th Armd Bde to take TRIPOLI proceeding by the desert route, 11th Hussars were AC Regt to 8th Armd Bde, 4th Light Armd Bde and New Zealand Div, with the Greys attached to cover southern flank of 8th Armd Bde. 51st Highland Div to advance by way of the road, they had 23 Armd Bde attached. 22nd Armd Bde to form Army reserve and cover western flank of 51st H Div. By 2330 hours all troops were in battle position. B Sqn. At about 0900 hours A Sqn of the Royals under Major Hamilton Russell came and took over from us. For the rest of the day until 1800 hours the Sqn remained in the usual leaguer getting ready for the advance which was starting the next morning. Our role in the advance was to act as an advance guard to the 8th Armd Bde across the BUNGEM road right up to the ZEMZEM. The Sqn was going to advance on a three Tp front with SHQ travelling with Colonel Pyman and 3rd RTR. At 1700 hours the three Tps went out to the positions from which they were starting the next day. 2Tp Capt Lockett went to X4457, 5Tp Lt Copeland to X4365 and 4Tp Sgt Smith to X4470. SHQ moved to X4465 where we met Col Pyman and leaguered for the night with three Tps out.
15/1/43	C Sqn. At first light the Sqn, in Regt reserve, moved forward on the right flank of the Staffordshire Yeomanry – giving local protection right, as far as the BUNGEM track area X4565 where the first opposition was encountered. The UMM EL RAMI ridge was held by an A/Tk screen supported by artillery and the Sqn spent the whole day under fairly heavy fire from 105mm and 75mm. At last light Sqn moved to RHQ in area X4060 the enemy having withdrawn at that time. A Sqn. At first light 4Tp and 1Tp started to move West with 8th Armd Bde. Enemy held strong positions to the East of Wadi ZEMZEM which they had been preparing for several weeks. 1Tp progress was impeded and he crossed and re-crossed the GHEDDAHIA – BUNGEM track on several occasions during the day. He was responsible for any information of enemy movements South in the track area and this he successfully did. By 1400 hours 131 Bde were in his area and had formed an A/Tk screen astride the track facing North in area of UMM EL RAMI. Two miles after crossing the BUNGEM track 4Tp's advance was also stopped by heavy enemy shellfire from the West and also from 75mm guns firing from a wadi to his NW. SHQ less Adv SHQ, had remained 2 miles to the East of the BUNGEM track, Adv SHQ remained in the area of 4Tp throughout the day and also were subjected to heavy shellfire on some occasions. The day developed into an artillery battle and also into tank battles on the whole 8th Armd Bde front. In the South the 4th Light Armd Bde made some progress while in the North Highland Div were attacking according to plan. By the middle of the afternoon the situation on the northern 8th Armd Bde front had not changed. Enemy tanks had moved South to cover a threat movement by Sherwood Rangers and 3rd RTR. Staffordshire Yeomanry were moved to support. A tank battle started which continued until last light, fought at mostly extreme range. It resulted in 14 enemy tanks being accounted for. We lost fewer in the battle but during the morning had lost several Cruisers from the Staffs and Sherwood Rangers probing at enemy A/Tk guns, mostly of the 88mm type. Our 4.5 gun had been firing effectively at enemy positions East of ZEMZEM since midday. At last light the usual 'brew-ups' were blazing. 1Tp was ordered to move South and join 4Tp, and SHQ moved to join Adv SHQ one mile West of the BUNGEM track in area X4066. It was considered that the enemy had had fairly rough treatment during the day, and that in all probability would retire during the night. At 2200 hours 4Tp reported heavy vehicle movement to his West, this continued until 0230 hrs and was fading into the distance. The enemy had apparently fought another strong rear guard position and were now withdrawing. B Sqn.



	At 0715 hours the three out Tps started moving across the BUNGEM road. After going about 2 miles due West from the road all three Tps came under heavy shellfire from the high ground to the West. The leading Armd Regt also came under heavy fire and everyone was held up. For the rest of the day, the enemy held us with his guns and the Armd Bde deployed and endeavoured to push him out. All three Tps had a very unpleasant day, being under continual shellfire. 2Tp on the left managed to push on another 2 miles, but then got driven back. 5Tp in the centre could not get on at all, neither could 4Tp on the left. The situation remained the same all day. We leaguered with RHQ at X4065. The three Tps remained out.
16/1/43	C Sqn. At 0800 hours the Regt moved forward in a westerly direction and the Sqn moved at 0915. The Sqn crossed the Wadi ZEMZEM after a bit of difficulty at W1969 and continued NW joining RHQ and 8th Armd Bde at S0105. 1Tp, 2Tp and 3Tp were sent out right flank protection and at 1745 hours 3Tp reported that they had picked up S/I Gibbs of the RAAF who had been shot down in a Kittyhawk 3 days before near DUFAN. He gave very useful information about the enemy who had passed quite close to him the night before. The Bde was dive bombed by Stuka twice during the afternoon. One Ju87 was shot down in flames by Bde AA. At last light the Sqn moved into RHQ who were with A Sqn at S0106. A Sqn. At first light 4Tp and 1Tp were replenished and continued to move West while 2Tp moved North of 1Tp. By 0900 hours these three Tps had reached the line of the Wadi ZEMZEM without meeting any opposition. B Sqn were recceing westwards to our South with the Bde axis of advance the X65 North/South Grid after Wadi ZEMZEM a bearing direct to SEDDADA. SHQ moved West in close proximity to advance troops. A dummy minefield was encountered on the western slopes of Wadi ZEMZEM, but this was quickly proved by the RE's attached to the Sqn and the advance continued. In broken country in area X1682, 4Tp was engaged by an enemy AC patrol who appeared to be working on a very wide and lately used track running NW. This later proved to be the track made by the enemy withdrawing during the night towards SEDDADA. 2Tp had been working close to 4Tp and went to their assistance. 1Tp who had been withdrawn from the right flank was ordered to attempt to outflank the enemy to the West. The enemy withdrew without close contact being made and fought rear guard delaying actions with 1Tp and 4Tp and also 2Tp, along the line of the enemy withdrawal as far to the NW as the SEDDADA – GHEDDAHIA track. This enemy delaying party consisted of at least 3 ACs and 2 A/Tk guns in lorries, but they never allowed our Tps to get within advantageous range. By 1300 hours the line of the track was reached and by 1320 hours forward elements of 8th Armd Bde were also on that line. 4Tp had a great chase after 2 enemy vehicles moving to SEDDADA and was unlucky not to capture them. At 1400 hours 1Tp captured two 15cwt trucks with 2 20mm guns and 1 officer and 20 ORs (German). The enemy by now were fighting a rear guard action 2 miles SE of SEDDADA, and troops came under A/Tk and artillery shellfire. Sqn had the task of protection of 8th Bde left flank, with special attention to GHEDDAHIA track. It was also hoped to make contact with 12th Royal Lancers who were AC Regt to 23 Bde. By 1500 hours the Sherwood Rangers were fairly heavily engaged with enemy tank forces SW of SEDDADA to whom they did considerable damage, although full advantage was not made of their success, for Infantry failed to clear up advantages made by the tanks, and withdrew at last light allowing the enemy to return and remove equipment that at 1600 hours had been in our hands. The enemy held up 8th Armd Bde from 1600 hours in an all round rear guard action South of SEDDADA until last light, although suffering casualties greatly in excess of ours. 8th Bde were twice Stuka bombed during the afternoon, one enemy aircraft was brought down by AA fire. Sqn concentrated at last light, there had been no movement of the enemy on the 8th Bde left flank. Throughout the night there was heavy vehicle movement heard moving from SEDDADA to the North. RHQ moved in close to the Sqn. Considerable flares were dropped during the night, but no bombs were dropped. B Sqn. Our role was the same as the day before. At 0715 hours the Tps started pushing on and found the enemy gone. 5Tp had a little difficulty in getting through a minefield which was half dummy and half live.



	By 0800 hours the whole Bde was on the move, with the Sherwood Rangers the leading Regt and our three Tps out in front. By 1000 hours we were across the Wadi ZEMZEM having seen no signs of the enemy. 2Tp on the left picked up a German soldier walking across the blue. This man said that he had been in the BUNGEM when Lt Turner of A Sqn was captured there. At 1400 hours the Bde halted to fill up with petrol. While this was going on 2Tp on the left was attacked by 3 ACs, 2A/Tk guns on Portees and 1 M13 tank. He withdrew onto our tanks but they did not do anything about them and the ACs and Portees withdrew, leaving the M13 which was picked up by the New Zealanders later. At 1445 hours we moved on again and having gone about 2 miles we ran up against the enemy at X0008 just short of SEDDADA. The enemy appeared to be holding a line running NE and SW through this point, with guns and a few tanks. 2Tp saw 7 tanks on it which withdrew North fairly soon. The rest of the day was spent in a slogging match between our guns and theirs. While this was going on, our three patrols stood back a bit, but could get very little observation on what was happening owing to the enemy being in a wadi. 2Tp attacked an A/Tk gun position but could not see the result. While the column was refilling, 1Tp Sgt Matheson took over on the right from 4Tp. The battle went on till dark and the Sqn stayed with the Sherwood Rangers at X0008 with 1Tp, 2Tp and 5Tp out in front as listening posts. The Tps were so close to the enemy positions that they could hear the opposition talking and shouting well into the night. Before darkness fell there has been two Stuka raids on the column but they did very little damage. During the night we heard the enemy pulling out.
17/1/43	C Sqn. The Sqn moved at first light to relieve B Sqn on the left with the task of finding a way down the escarpment near SEDDADA. At 0800 hours 5Tp reported the track blown out at R9210 with scattered mines in the area. An alternative way down was found about 100 yards South of the blown track and the Sqn went down. 2Tp reported scattered enemy mines round the post at SEDDADA and the REs were left to deal with them. 1Tp stayed at the top of the escarpment to guide vehicles down. 3Tp went to THED EL CHATUA where they reported another minefield and came under artillery fire from the West. At 0945 hours 5Tp who were with SHQ lost a car on a mine and immediately afterwards another car of 5Tp was blown up. Both cars however were not badly damaged and one was fixed within an hour and the other went to LAD under its own power. At 1125 hours 1Tp reported that Sgt Mitchell's car had hit an S mine which exploded in the air, wounding Sgt Mitchell slightly and Tpr Hamilton severely, he subsequently died. At 1430 hours 3Tp was ordered to recce Pt. 102 R7030 and 4Tp was sent North to reach the road at R5846. 2Tp was ordered up with the REs and the Sqn extricated itself from the minefield and went NW for about 5 miles thence on 300°. The Sqn arrived in the area of OBEMISCO DE HSELLETEN at 1700 hours. 1Tp, 3Tp and 4Tp were sent out to relieve A Sqn patrols. At 1825 hours 4Tp reported 12 MET at 4348. SHQ decided to investigate these MET and were fired on by an A/Tk gun. 2Tp and 4Tp remained out, not having found a way across the Wadi THASLA. 5Tp and 1Tp left behind with the LAD for repairs. A Sqn. 8th Armd Bde moved at first light and it was soon seen that the enemy had withdrawn. The Sqn was with 3rd RTR (Col Pyman DSO) and was responsible for forward recce and going recce to the advance tank Regt. By 0800 hours SEDDADA fort was in sight and it was soon seen that all routes down into the Wadi SOFFEGIN were mined. The Sqn therefore had to find, as quickly as possible, a way down for the whole Bde. This task was difficult as many routes down were feasible but great obstructions were found in that there were impassable sand dunes in the Wadi bed. 5Tp Sgt Green eventually found a route in area R9517 and this proved suitable for the Bde. At 0815 hours 8th Bde was dive bombed while waiting on the East side of the wadi. The Sherwood Rangers came down into the wadi first as they were on the right of the Bde, this was also made easier as Colonel Kellet had sent Major Laycock to gain contact with the Sqn, so that his Regt could move the moment a way down was found. Progress across the wadi was slow and in order to gain the good going a route North to R9040 was



	taken. From there the direction was changed and the Bde moved very fast over excellent going to the DUFAN – BENI ULID track at R5849. No contact with the enemy was made during this period and Bde did not reach R5849 until 1600 hours therefore during the day the enemy had had time to move a column of 2000 vehicles from DUFAN to BENI ULID. This column was in fact engaged with considerable effect by 4th Light Arm'd Bde from 1700 hours until after dark in the BENI ULID area. 5Tp moved from R5849 SE down to R5048 and engaged a small enemy column. Colonel Kellet sent tanks to assist him, but the enemy withdrew before they could reach the area. At 1630 hours Bde moved to R4058 with the intention of moving by the quickest route to TARHUNA in order to cut-off enemy moving from BENI ULID to TARHUNA. The going became very bad for tracked or wheeled vehicles and wadis were encountered that needed the most careful recce before routes could be found over them. This was the case with Wadi MANSUR and 1Tp and 4Tp had extreme difficulty in crossing it before last light. The rest of the Sqn spent the night with the Sherwood Rangers in area of R4255. B Sqn. This morning C Sqn took over from us. A lot of difficulty was experienced getting across the Wadi NFED owing to the going being bad and it was not until 1100 hours that we got down about 4 miles North of SEDDADA. The Bde was directed on CHATUA and then to R4040. We found it very hard to do flank guard as the column was always changing direction without letting anyone know. At 1300 hours we were ordered to proceed complete to BIR DUFAN and seize and hold the aerodromes if possible. Just short of DUFAN 2Tp saw 3 ACs and 1Tp saw 2 more plus 2 lorries, to their East. After further investigation these turned out to be B Sqn of the 12th Royal Lancers who had got to DUFAN an hour before us. After we had made contact with them and seen the situation we found that the enemy were holding the aerodromes in too much force for us to attack so we left the 12th Lancers in observation and leaguered 4 miles South of DUFAN. By this time we were out of touch with RHQ who by this time were close to BENI ULID. All Tps were in.
18/1/43	C Sqn. At first light all available Tps were sent out to find a way across the Wadis, the 8th Arm'd Bde having been given the task of getting across country to TARHUNA. Ways were eventually found down into the Wadi THASLA and the general line of the wadi (NW) was followed. At 1600 hours 3Tp, who had been sent out on the left reported a German column moving North along the road at 99286 consisting of twenty five 25pdrs, Portees, about 60 MET. 2Tp and 4Tp had been sent in this direction but had been held up by bad going. 8th Arm'd Bde column had been stopped by Tomahawks and before we could give the recognition signal, the Sqn charging lorry was badly damaged and caught fire but was extinguished. At 1700 hours some men were seen by RHQ on the skyline about 2 miles to the West. SHQ and 5Tp went in and captured 39 Italian prisoners and 2 A/Tk guns and were then shelled out of the position. At 2100 hours 2Tp, 3Tp and 4Tp came into SHQ followed later by 1Tp. SHQ spent the night in the Bde area at L9296. Bombs were dropped during the night. A Sqn. At first light 1Tp and 4Tp continued recceing for a suitable crossing of Wadi MANSUR for the Bde. At 0745 hours the Staffs Yeomanry considered they had found a suitable crossing, but this was not the case, as they merely crossed the North of the position where the Wadi SELSELGHIN and the MARZUH EL CHERBIR join the MANSUR, and therefore two wadis must be crossed instead of one. This fact had been ascertained and reported to the Sqn the previous night, and much time was therefore wasted. By 0900 hours the whole of A Sqn were in a wadi running in a NW direction, out of this there appeared to be no way, and the Sqn had to retrace their steps several miles and then start over again. C Sqn found a way into the Wadi THASLA in the area of GREL BORG and eventually we followed C Sqn steps followed by the Bde. Local Arabs stated that the wadi as running NW and eventually reaching the TARHUNA – BENI ULID road in the area of SIDI COM NASER. They also reported the going was fairly good. As progress out of the wadi was impossible and as there were many tributaries, an arab was collected and travelling on the Sqn Ldr's car he proved most useful. For a few biscuits and cigarettes and the promise of some ersatz coffee at the completion of his task, he had the 8th Arm'd Bde through the intricacies of the wadi. No doubt the powers that be would have been far less confident if they knew who their guide in reality was. Throughout this day the enemy were withdrawing or retreating North along the road from BENI ULID to TARHUNA, while 8th Arm'd Bde ran parallel with them in the Wadi THAMASLA. By night a position was reached approximately R9394 and C Sqn captured a party of dismounted Italians with A/Tk guns who



	had been rapidly placed into a position to protect the East flank of the withdrawal. One HAC was evacuated in the area of GRELBURG and LCpl Mitchell also repaired a Jeep sump in that area. The whole of B1 with SSM Moore remained in that area, and while there, was dive bombed by Sukas. A near miss to the charging lorry did considerable damage and the vehicle was evacuated. No personnel were hurt, one HAC from 2Tp was evacuated, with big end trouble. Later in the evening, 8th Armd Bde sent a party of tanks and Infantry to cut the BENI ULID – TARHUNA track at last light. B Sqn. We were still out of touch with RHQ, so we decided to leave the 12th Lancers who were receiving DUFAN and push on West. When we reached the DUFAN – BENI ULID road we regained contact with RHQ. We were then told to withdraw the patrols and guard DUFAN until the Infantry arrived. 4Tp took up a position of observation to the West of DUFAN and 3Tp to the SW. 2Tp was sent into DUFAN to look around and SHQ went in a little later. We stayed there until 1300 hours when we were told to rejoin RHQ by going South until we hit the Div axis and then followed along that. Even by this time no Infantry had arrived, but there were a lot of RE's clearing mines. The landing grounds were slightly ploughed and there were quite a few mines about. The 12th Lancers had one Daimler blown up when they went in. The enemy must have pulled out the night we were sitting 4 miles South, but we did not hear them go. We hit the axis track at about 1500 hours and then went NW along it. We went on driving for hours and hours over the most appalling going and through huge wadis. We were so far behind that we were again out of touch with RHQ. On the way one of 1Tp's cars broke a big end and we had to leave it. At 1900 hours we ran across Lt Garrad with the Echelon who was also out of touch with RHQ. We brought him on with us and arrived at RHQ who were at Q9696 at 2200 hours. 2Tp and 5Tp broke down and arrived about an hour later.
19/1/43	C Sqn. At first light the Sqn moved on; on the left flank of the Bde with all Tps out. At 0845 hours 5Tp reported 20 MET and 1 gun on the track at L8808 and at 0950 hours 2Tp reported mines along the sides of the road. At 1030 hours SHQ crossed the road coming under heavy shellfire from the TARHUNA heights. At 1200 hours 1Tp reported 10 cars on a ridge at 8309 and at L7714 2 MET towing guns. One 88mm at 8309. At 1612 hours 1Tp reported 2 Mark III tanks at L7900. At 1745 hours 1Tp reported 21 MET moving out from L7812 and at L8103 two occupied gun positions – not firing. At last light all Tps, less 4Tp, were recalled to SHQ. A Sqn. The advance was continued at first light and by 0830 hours 1Tp Sgt Trumper who had 4Tp on his left and 5Tp Sgt Green on his right, was in contact with the enemy light A/Tk gun in a narrow screen in area L9304. These guns were covering a small party of enemy MET containing 1 tank and 2 ACs which were moving North into TARHUNA on the track at about L9005. The enemy were burning any vehicles that they could not take with them and at this position destroyed 2 in that manner. By 0900 hours enemy A/Tk screen had moved North, Jeep Tp Sgt Martin was on high ground to the East and eventually took up a position at 9304, from where they reported a column of 30 MET moving on the track to TARHUNA. By 0930 hours 8th Armd Bde had reached a line running East/West through SI COM NASER and came under heavy shellfire. It was now apparent that the enemy would hold a rear guard position on the line of the TARHUNA hills, an extremely good position, with command of all the lower ground over which the 8th Armd Bde were advancing. The enemy defended this position with approximately sixteen 75mm guns, twelve 105mm and a few 210mm with the usual screen of A/Tk guns out in a frontal screen. A few tanks were seen on the western flank. The Sqn was ordered to feel out to the East and to try to make their way round the enemy eastern flank. 5Tp reached RASSERBAT and reported the ground as being extremely bad, which in fact it was. Sand dunes predominated all the ground North towards TARHUNA and going was virtually impossible, except in first gear. 3Tp remained at RASSERBAT during the day. A medium OP had been sent out to SI COM NASER and by the afternoon that position held Sgt Trumper and 8 other OPs. It was virtually the only view point of the enemy position and fortunately was not shelled during the day.



	SHQ with reserve Tps remained at L9505 in dead ground during the day and were intermittently shelled. After the TARHUNA heights were eventually evacuated by the enemy it became obvious that in fact there was no dead ground, from enemy OP positions in the TARHUNA area. The day developed into an artillery duel with heavy Sqns of 8th Armd Bde engaging A/Tk guns with HE. All Tps were withdrawn at night and the Sqn leaguered with B Sqn, Major Turnbull, to charge batteries our having been knocked out yesterday. B Sqn. We were in reserve on the right flank of the Bde. After the Bde had gone 3 miles towards TARHUNA they ran into enemy positions. At 0900 hours 5Tp was sent to MARCONI. He took 2 Jeeps with him in case the going was impossible for ACs. 4Tp went with him and was going to stay at M0807 to act as link to SHQ. By the time that both had arrived at M0807, 5Tp had run out of oil owing to the very soft going. Lt Copeland left his Tp and 4Tp there and went on another 5 miles in the 2 jeeps. After 5 miles he could see nothing and the going was too bad even for jeeps, so he came back to his Tp and 5Tp and 4Tp remained there for the rest of the day and saw very little movement although they were in sight of the main TARHUNA – HOMS road. SHQ remained in the SDI COM NASER area all day, unmolested except for when 4 or 5 guns attracted some attention from the enemy by stopping close to them. During the day Sgt Matheson picked up an Australian fighter bomber pilot who had been shot down that morning. The Sqn leaguered with A Sqn at L9600 with 4Tp and 5Tp out.
20/1/43	C Sqn. At 0730 hours 4Tp and 3Tp were sent out to get first light impression, no movement seen. At 1136 hours the Sqn was ordered to TAZZOLI where 3Tp reported 1 lorry and 4 men. 4Tp went in and captured 4 Italians and the Sqn moved into TAZZOLI which was still occupied by civilians who were almost starving. 5Tp were then ordered NW to find a way behind the TARHUNA defences. Many tracks petered out so eventually he was sent down the track where he was fired on by some advanced elements of 4th Armd Bde who had come up from BENI OULID. The jeeps were also ordered North to find a way cross country but this was found impassable. At 1430 hours 3Tp made contact with 4th Armd Bde who said there was a way across country at L5505. The Sqn then moved down there where 4th Armd Bde were concentrated and the Sqn made a moonlight march to the area of L5422 where the night was spent. The Sqn had been ordered to reach CASTEL BENITO. A Sqn. Sqn remained in the area of B Sqn until 1200 hours. 2Tp had moved at first light to SI COM NASER and immediately started moving North. By 1000 hours they were in TARHUNA which the enemy had evacuated during the night. 2nd RTR with Cruiser tanks took a certain amount of prisoners. Meanwhile the Jeep Tp had worked the country to the East, it being easier for him than the ACs and had reached the MARCONI – TARHUNA road. He was ordered to move into TARHUNA. 4Tp at 1000 hours moved to join 3rd RTR and Adv SHQ moved soon after to L8213 with 5Tp. By 1210 hours 1Tp with the SSM and B1 were also on the move, having been making minor repairs during the morning. 4Tp had been lucky in his move to ABIARMIGGI, having stopped to talk to Colonel Kellet on route, a minute after leaving him Colonel Kellet's tank was hit with a direct hit of a salvo of 105mm. No damage was done. 4Tp found the ABIARMIGGI position untenable the enemy having the position well ranged by guns firing from the pass in area L7017. These guns and an 88mm in area L7715 held 3rd RTR and Sherwood Rangers up during the afternoon. At 1630 hours the position remained the same, tanks had made some progress but it was thought that good observation on to the road would be extremely useful and the Jeep Tp was therefore despatched Tp Pt. 498 at L7314 which he reached just before last light. The Sqn was ordered to rejoin the Regt at L8716 at which position the Sqn, less Jeep Tp, was concentrated by 2100 hours. C Sqn Major Burdon had gone down the escarpment after 4th Armd Bde today and were in the area of SI EL GILINI. B Sqn. At first light 4Tp was recalled to SHQ and at 0900 hours we were ordered to take over from A Sqn, but by then TARHUNA was found to be clear so A Sqn carried on. 5Tp was then recalled to SHQ but ran out of oil and Lt Pring was sent out to him with his 2 jeeps full of petrol and oil.



	At 1300 hours we were ordered to try and find a track down the escarpment running NW from TARHUNA. 2Tp was sent to do this and went up to TARHUNA via the road running up to it from the South. SHQ moved soon after leaving 5Tp to catch up. Capt Lockett could not find any track running NW from TARHUNA so he stayed by a farm just outside of the village and was joined by the rest of the Sqn, 5Tp arriving a little later. Capt Lockett then tried another track and almost got down, but had to give up in the end, although he had got his first view of TRIPOLI in the distance. The Sqn stayed at TARHUNA that night. We were told that the enemy might withdraw from the pass during the night and if he did, we were to go straight through behind 3rd RTR and act as their advance guard the next day. The enemy did not retire that night. The forward link was evacuated that night leaving us with 13 ACs. By this time excitement was intense as to who was going to be first into TRIPOLI.
21/1/43	C Sqn. At first light the Sqn moved forward to cover the road getting to L5622 with 5Tp, 1Tp and 2Tp a few miles in front. Jeep Tp had remained behind with some LRDG jeeps and was coming to us across country. At 0920 hours 2Tp reported 3 - 4 enemy guns in action at L4926, firing on the 4th Armd Bde who were moving along to our South towards A21214. At 1035 hours 2Tp reported 50 MET either side of the road at L6717 and a few minutes later they were attacked by our fighters and some fires caused. 5B was in a very good position close to the road and gave some excellent reports. The general movement was West but the enemy obviously intended to defend the mouth of the pass on the road at L6518 as several tanks and A/Tk guns and dug-in positions were seen in this area. Moreover, the mouth of the pass was ranged by 'air bursting' 88mm throughout the day. At about 1400 hours the Sqn was attacked by our fighter bombers without damage. At 1705 hours 2Tp reported men laying mines in the mouth of the pass. At last light there were still about 30 MET in the area just West of the pass. We were joined by A Sqn and we both spent the night together. A Sqn. Sqn was with RHQ until 1100 hours. At this time the Sqn was ordered to join Major Burdon at SI EL GILINI and if the opportunity presented itself to press North of TRIPOLI. The journey was uneventful. The route had been found by the Royals and 4th Armd Bde had proceeded down it yesterday. This had acted as a threat to the flank of the enemy on the TARHUNA line and was no doubt the reason for the enemy evacuating their extremely advantageous position so soon. While the Sqn was negotiating this route the New Zealand Div was doing likewise, and congestion on the track was considerable. 4th Armd Bde by this time were in the AZZIZA area. General Freyberg was met at the grave at L4512 and was given the situation that the Sqn Ldr had. Enemy Air recce had reported 80 tanks in area L4512 at 1500 hours and enemy tanks 30 in number, instead of attacking 4th Light Armd Bde who had no tanks, moved to a position to cover the threat from L4512. The Greys were the only tanks in that area and enemy aircraft must have mistaken ACs for tanks. Jeep Tp remained RASEL DRAGMA and gave some information of enemy movements on the TARHUNA – CASTEL BENITO road. Sqn spent the night with C Sqn at L5310. Enemy position at L6420 was shelled during the night. B Sqn. We remained in the same place for most of the day. 1Tp was sent along the road to MARCONI with some Sappers to recce. They found the road ok and unmined all the way and found B Sqn 12th Lancers in MARCONI when they got there. They were recalled. 4Tp was sent down the road West to try and find a way up and down the escarpment with Lt Pring and 2 jeeps. After going 10 miles they were heavily shelled and on coming round the corner they were forced to drop back, where they remained all day. At 1700 hours RHQ moved on a bit so we moved up a bit. In order to get to them we had to go round a corner on a road which was being shelled which was most unpleasant. We left B1 behind until it got dark. We all reached RHQ just after dark and stayed with them at L8013. We were again told the enemy might move out that night. Our Infantry, the 131 Bde were going to attack and we were told to follow on behind the 3rd RTR when the pass had been cleared.
22/1/43	C Sqn.



During the night, 8th Armd Bde and RHQ plus B Sqn had moved along the CASTEL BENITO road and by first light had reached the mouth of the pass.

The Sqn was ordered to CASTEL BENITO on the right of the main road with B Sqn on the road.

At 0730 hours the Sqn moved North and then turned NW parallel to the road. Tps 2, 3 & 5 were sent on ahead towards CASTEL BENITO but the going was bad owing to sand dunes.

At 1030 hours 2Tp reported they could see CASTEL BENITO but the going looked impassable. 5Tp also reached a dead end and 3Tp was sent another way and at 1125 hours she could see the air field with large fire burning.

At 1200 hours 3Tp had got within 1 mile of CASTEL BENITO and 2Tp was sent up towards 3Tp who reported enemy guns in action down the road.

A Sqn who had been trying to find a way through on our right returned towards last light and we got ready to league together.

At 2130 hours orders were received that both A & C Sqns were to join RHQ who had moved up along the road to within 5 miles of CASTEL BENITO which the enemy had evacuated.

All Sqns remained with RHQ preparatory to the move to TRIPOLI which was contemplated that night when the A/Tk ditch at CASTEL BENITO had been made negotiable.

A Sqn.

During the night 3rd RTR followed by B Sqn and RHQ, had after an Infantry attack come down the main road and by first light our troops were seen to be moving West along the road to CASTEL BENITO. The enemy had again withdrawn under pressure during the night. RHQ were at L5427 and A Sqn joined them there. Two HAC were evacuated in area L52, this being caused by extremely heavy sand dune country in the whole area.

B Sqn by 0830 hours were held up in the CASTEL BENITO area by enemy A/Tk guns and artillery.

At 1030 hours A Sqn was ordered to find a way to TRIPOLI to the East of the CASTEL BENITO road. The Sqn, with the Jeep Tp which had rejoined, moved to SIDI SAIAH and then to BIR LANGAR and were halted there by impassable sand dunes. The day was therefore spent aimlessly in that area with nothing accomplished.

At 2100 hours A & C Sqns, who were by that time together, were ordered to join RHQ in the area of L4740 on the road. By 2330 hours the Regt was concentrated there. Regt was to move at 0200 hours after Infantry had cleared CASTEL BENITO, into TRIPOLI, via the main road. Order of march – B Sqn, RHQ, C Sqn and Adv Div HQ. Brigadier Roberts who had been commanding since General Harding was wounded South of TARHUNA.

Mr Lockett's Tp of B Sqn led the advance after a clear road that night. At 0530 hours leading Tp of 11th Hussars entered TRIPOLI thus the Armd Regt of 7th Armd Div entered this apparently dead town in the van of all troops of the 8th Army.

Tasks had been allotted to Sqns and on arrival each went to their respective areas. Highland Div mounted on 23rd Armd Bde tanks entered an hour later, with bagpipes playing, by which time 11th Hussars were 'brewing up' for an early breakfast. Thus did 11th Hussars enter TRIPOLI first. A well deserved honour after long periods of 'in contact' with the enemy service than any other unit in the British Army.

TRIPOLI was empty of enemy except for a few still active at demolitions. The townsfolk had all kept to their houses and not a sign of a living person was to be seen.

B Sqn.

We were ordered to move at 0200 hours and caught the rear of 3rd RTR about 2 miles down the main road. We moved along very slowly owing to the road being blown as it entered the plain, and mines being left about. Lt Pring was sent in his jeep to act as a link between Colonel Pyman and the Sqn Ldr. At 0730 hours when it got light 3rd RTR were held up by an 88mm firing down the road at L4732. 5Tp was sent out to the West but was unable to get far owing to the going. 2Tp was sent down the road and 1Tp was sent to the NE about 2 miles to watch. Capt Lockett saw the 88mm being towed away so he pushed on down the road and took up a position watching to his West and NW. We were then ordered to find out what was in EL AZIZA but could not get good observation on it owing to the trees, but could confirm that it was occupied.

In the meantime C Sqn had a Tp (Sgt McHardy) approaching AZIZA from the SE and as C Sqn were now being directed on TRIPOLI this Tp was put under B Sqn. By the time he had got to just within sight of the place we were told we could withdraw him and leave only Capt Lockett watching it. Sgt McHardy was very short of petrol so 4Tp went out to meet him with some petrol and bring him into SHQ.

At 1100 hours 5Tp was sent up the road and came across an A/Tk ditch across the road which was covered by an A/Tk gun and some Infantry. The A/Tk gun opened fire and hit the White belonging to the RE's and set it on fire. The Tp immediately turned round but in doing so the 2nd AC went into a ditch and stuck. The crew got out and were picked up by Lt Copeland. Two of the RE's managed to



	get out of the White and were picked up by Lt Copeland. One being wounded by small arms fire. The other 3 failed to get out, but later that night when we returned to the car we discovered one had been burnt inside, one had been killed while trying to get away and there was no trace of the third. After this 5Tp was recalled to SHQ and at 1400 hours 1Tp was sent out towards SUJANI BEN ADEM to cover the left of 3rd RTR who were moving on towards CASTEL BENITO. He could only get as far as L4537 owing to the going and he remained in observation there. SHQ moved to L4734 and at last light all Tps were called in except 1Tp who remained out. At 2100 hours when everyone was in bed the Colonel arrived and told us that we were going through to TRIPOLI that night and we were to lead, after the Infantry had cleared BENITO. This made everyone excited to think that after the work and time we had spent out here the Regt was going to be the first into TRIPOLI and we were going to be allowed to lead them. We looked upon it as a great honour. 1Tp was immediately called in and everyone went to bed for an hour and a half more. At 2330 hours we moved up the road about 5 miles to join RHQ and C and A Sqns. We had to wait there for 3 hours for the A/Tk ditch to be filled in and the Infantry to confirm BENITO clear. This was when we found the White and 5Tp's abandoned car.
23/1/43	C Sqn. At 0300 hours the Regt began its triumphal march to TRIPOLI with B Sqn leading. The Sqn entered TRIPOLI at 0500 hours and the Regt had the honour of being the first of the 8th Army to do so. The city, apart from some wogs who cheered us, seemed absolutely deserted at that hour and the Sqn was given the task of patrolling the eastern part of the town. At 0735 hours 1Tp captured 2 prisoners and 1 policeman who was afterwards released. The city now began to waken up and when the population realised that the British Forces were in possession loud cheers were started and crowds of Wogs and Italians surrounded the ACs. 1Tp also caught the Governor of Tripolitania and the Mayor of Tripoli; they were sent to RHQ who were parked near the Grand Hotel. A Sqn. By 0900 hours Tps had been patrolling the town for an hour and a half and at 0930 hours A Sqn was given the task of regaining contact with the enemy, down the road towards ZUARA. 4Tp Capt Wingfield Digby MC therefore moved West down the road and met the first obstruction in area of ZANZUR, where the road was demolished in two places. Working round each obstruction with RE's, a position at L2762 was reached at 1200 hours. To this position the road had been destroyed in 6 places. At L2762 the bridge over the A/Tk ditch had been blown and progress could not be made until a bulldozer was available to fill in the cavity. The A/Tk ditch ran North into the sea and South to SUJANI BEN ADEM. The Sqn was therefore in the area of this ditch throughout the day. 4Tp moved on to high ground by the sea and while making this an enemy sniping party moved up to the ditch and engaged SHQ. 4Tp opened fire and 1Tp from a hull down position had a good shoot at 2 enemy vehicles that moved quickly West down the road. Colonel Pyman 3rd RTR, who by this time were close up behind the Sqn, sent a Tp of Sherman tanks in case the enemy should try to repeat this incident. 25pdrs also fired into suspected enemy positions West of the A/Tk ditch. Sqn spent the night with 3rd RTR. B Sqn. At 0330 hours we moved off, the RE's having filled in the A/Tk ditch. The order of march was 2Tp, 4Tp, SHQ, B1 and 1Tp. The journey was uneventful but rather frightening. We arrived in TRIPOLI about 0500 hours and it appeared a dead city, all the windows were shuttered and there was no living thing about, not even a stray dog. We drove straight to the PALACE D'ITALIA where we stopped until the Colonel came up and we finished his bottle of whiskey and ginger wine, throwing the bottle into the harbour, and then went on to the docks. Sgt Lyon was the first man into TRIPOLI and Capt Lockett the first officer. When we got on to the docks we found the entrance blown so we stayed by a mosque just outside the old city. While we were having breakfast, the population came out to view us. They were the most awful looking people we had ever seen, just like gnomes, coming out of underground dwellings. While we were having breakfast a patrol of Highlanders came along and cleared the square with their bayonets and then played the bagpipes for us. We moved then, down to the harbour front and waited to move off. At 1200 hours we moved out of TRIPOLI and fetched up at L3563 where we spent the night. At 1700 hours 4Tp was sent down to BIANCHI to find out if it was occupied as the 15th Panzers were thought to be there. He only managed to get a quick look before dark owing to the going, but could not confirm or deny the report. At 1730 hours 5Tp was sent down to the South of BIANCHI to contact the KDG's at L1435, but only got



	half way before dark. Communication with these Tps was very bad, so the Jeep Tp had to go out as a link.
24/1/43	A Sqn. The position remained the same until 1200 hours when a bulldozer arrived. Within 30 minutes the ditch was passable to single line traffic and 2Tp started to move West down the road at 1245 hours. RE's were with them followed by SHQ. Various road demolitions were encountered and contact was regained with the enemy in the area of L1060. The enemy had 1 Mark IV tank on the road and some A/Tk and artillery positions on either side. The enemy sniping party had moved East on a parallel track and had forced 2Tp to withdraw. 1Tp in observation from a house further to the West also was heavily shelled and forced to withdraw. The situation at 1600 hours was 2Tp watching the main road, 1Tp and 5Tp observing on 2 tracks running parallel to the main road. By 1700 hours Infantry from 131 Bde had taken over as they were to make a night attack on ZUARA. Sqn was to hand over to a Sqn of the 12th Royal Lancers and were therefore concentrated in area L2059 for the night. A message had been left from Ramchke Gruppe on the road today saying "Goodbye and keep smiling" signed Ramchke. General Erskine has taken over 7th Armd Div and he was with the Sqn at one period today. B Sqn. At 0715 hours SHQ moved down to L3747. 4Tp moved across country and came into BIANCHI from the NE and then moved West along the North road reporting it clear as far as the road to OLIVETTE by 1100 hours. 1Tp went into BIANCHI along the South road and went West until the road finished on the 14 Easting grid. Meanwhile 5Tp got half way to his objective but could get no further owing to the going. The Jeep Tp was sent out to him and carried on to the objective, but found the KDG's were no longer there. 4Tp was sent up the OLIVETTE road until he came to the main road and 4Tp North from BIANCHI up the road by the BOSCO MUSSOLINI to the main road. SHQ moved to L1750 where 1Tp and 5Tp joined them. 2Tp reached the main road where he met one of A Sqn's patrols and he then travelled West along the road with them. 4Tp reached the main road and started going West along it. He found it blown in 2 places but managed to get round, but at L1158 he ran into a German tank and had to drop back about half a mile and get off the road where he remained for the rest of the day. 1Tp was sent up to the railway to work down it West but ran into an ambush and had to drop back and remain in ob. While this was going on 2Tp had reached the Troads at OLIVETTE and took up a position of observation on the road between the main road and the railway. At 1600 hours the Sherwood Rangers arrived and sent some Cruisers up to 2Tp with an OP. By this time the enemy from ZAVIA were doing a bit of shelling. The Cruisers went almost up to ZAVIA but found nothing. Just before dark, as the Tps were coming in, a small pocket of enemy were found East of 2Tp between them and A Sqn, which the latter dealt with. 2Tp remained out all night at the railway crossing. SHQ leaguered at L1749.
25/1/43	A Sqn. Jan 25th/26th. Sqn spent the days maintaining and resting in area L2060 just off the TRIALI – ZAVIA road. Jan 26th was extremely rainy. B Sqn. Our role was taken over by a Sqn of the 12th Royal Lancers under Major Morris at 0800 hours. 2Tp returned to SHQ. We then moved to BIANCHI next door to RHQ. We stayed there until the 27th waiting for ZAVIA to be out of range of the enemy.
27/1/43	A Sqn. Sqn still in area L2060. Major Wainman visited recceing for a position for the Regt during their rest and



	refitting period. B Sqn. We moved into rest just West of ZAVIA but found it a bleak spot so the whole Regt moved back to BIANCHI and finally came to rest in the BOSCO MUSSOLINI.
28/1/43	RHQ. Jan 28th – Feb 28th. During this period it was decided to reorganise the Regt on lines more suitable for operations in enclosed country. Sqnswere to be composed of:- Four Tps each of two Daimler ACs and one Dingo Scout Car, One Tp of three Jeeps, One Scout Tp of four White Scout Cars each holding 6 men. These vehicles were issued and training carried out. 160 ORs were sent back to act as ferrying party. On 31st January the Commander 8th Army held a Church parade in Tripoli. The Regt was present and had the honour of heading the March Past. On the 4th February the Regt found a detachment of ACs for the ceremonial parade in honour of Mr Churchill's visit. A Tp of C Sqn and one of B Sqn acted as escort to Mr Churchill. The parade was held in Tripoli. A Sqn. Sqn moved to BOASCA MUSSOLINI at 1500 hours and were settled in by nightfall. Again an extremely wet day and damp amongst the trees in which the Sqn was situated. B Sqn. Jan 28th – Feb 28th. Remained in rest and refitted. We altered our organisation to Tps of 2 Daimler ACs and 1 Dingo. We also had one Scout Tp of 1 Dingo and 4 White Scout cars with 6 men in each. During this time Capt Horsford went to Cairo to hospital, Capt Lockett took over Adjutant and Lt Pring went to RHQ. Tps were organised as:- 1Tp Sgt Matheson 2Tp Sgt Lyon, with Lt Welles Cole under instruction 3Tp Lt Clarke 4Tp Lt Copeland, with Lt Burridge under instruction Scout Lt Newton.
February 1943	CO: Lt Col AT Smail
	C Sqn. Throughout February we reorganised and trained for the next phase which we expected to be in hilly country and on narrow tracks. With that object in view we were reorganised on a basis of four Tps each of 2 Daimlers and one Dingo, a Scout Tp of four sections, each capable of taking to their feet, protecting themselves with Bren guns and communicating on a No. 18 (Pack) set; and a Jeep Tp of three jeeps capable of long-range recce. Capt Dier MC left to take an instructor job at Sandhurst. Lt Hutchinson DCM was claimed to run an AC training group at Benghazi and subsequently to return to UK having completed more than 8 years in the Middle East. SSM Lamb DCM MM also left for UK having done more than 7 years in the Sqn, including 2 campaigns as Tp Ldr and one as SSM. LCpl Carress and LCpl Staples, who had been Sqn Fitter and Tech Storeman for nearly 3 years, each left on the same grounds. Sgt chambers who had been sick for some 3 months. Returned but went to A Sqn as SQMS. Capt Petch DCM was loaned from A Sqn as 2i/c and Sgt McCarthy MM became SSM. Tps were allocated as:- 1Tp Sgt McHardy 2Tp Sgt Lawrence



	3Tp Lt Lovett 4Tp Lt Wentworth Stanley (after an excursion behind enemy lines with LRDG) Lt Woodhouse trained and commanded the Scout Tp and Lt de Wend Fenton the Jeeps. A Sqn. The Regt complete spent this period in the BOSCA MUSSOLINI, 30 odd kilos from Tripoli, living under canvas, unpleasant with several days of heavy rain. The time was programmed into training, re-organisation and recreation. The men were also allowed into Tripoli approximately twice a week, but as nothing could be obtained there, and there were no recreational amusements in the early days, the men soon became bored with these trips. Later, however the shops were opened and contained nothing useful at fabulous prices, while a good cinema opened, this the men enjoyed. The training and re-equipment of the Regt took on a new phase, operating in close country needing a new organisation. Armoured Car Tps were equipped with the Daimler AC (2) and one Daimler Scout car, it being considered essential that for road work, vehicles capable of being driven in reverse should be used. And the Dingo presented a small target, often as an advantage to the leading vehicle of a Tp. Further to this it was considered that dismounted parties would often be essential for the gaining of information and the Scout Tps in Sqn was also formed. This Tp to consist of 4 sections per Tp, each section of 6 men carried in a White Scout car and with an Infantry No. 18 set for the passing back of information. When AC Tps became held up, these sections would be dismounted and working forwards or to a flank obtain the necessary information. Training therefore in Infantry tactics and the use of the 18 set and 2 pdr gun became necessary. Also considerable training in driving and maintenance of the Daimler had to be done, this engine having a fluid flywheel and being differently driven to other vehicles. After commencement of training, troops were taken back to Benghazi for car ferrying parties. Captain Petch DCM commanded this party, consisting of 50 men from each Sqn. Training therefore became extremely difficult. Capt Churton joined the Regt from the Cheshire Yeomanry and was posted to the Sqn. Lt Garrard was posted to the Sqn from RHQ. Lt Williamson and Lt Moore returned from hospital in Cairo. Capt Crankshaw MC took over 2i/c of the Sqn from Capt Petch DCM. Capt Crankshaw had been Adj for 6 months. Capt Petch had served the greater part of his war service with A Sqn and had been a Sgt in the Sqn in pre-war days. A very bold and experienced Tp Ldr he had done great service in the Sqn against the Italians in the first Libyan campaign and also had great deeds against the Germans throughout 1941/1942. As second in command of the Sqn his hard work and experience were invaluable. He will be greatly missed by all within this Sqn, in which he has had such an excellent influence. Capt Dier of C Sqn left the Regt for UK and several men from the Sqn were posted to Home Establishment, including SQMSGore. Sgt Longmate and L/Sgt Hale left the Sqn for other employment. Football and Passball pitches were manufactured and as far as possible the fitness of the men returned. Long periods of work in AFVs not being the best way of keeping men fit. During this period the 7th Armd Div of the 8th Army had pushed the enemy AFRIKA CORP as far back as the MARETH line, and after 3 weeks occupation of TRIPOLI the harbour was opened and soon was working at full pressure. There can be no doubt that this period of rest and training had done considerable good to the Regt, on the whole the men having been very tired when they arrived, after more or less continuous period of Field Service in the front line since the early days of July.
March 1943	CO: Lt Col AT Smail
Mar 43	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/3/43	RHQ. C Sqn left and came under orders 8th Armd Bde in MEDENINE area. C Sqn. Though we still had some 15 men away, we left the Regt to report to 7th Armd Div. Arrived at ZOARA just before dark where we spent the night.



2/3/43	C Sqn. Continued to MEDENINE where we reported to 7th Armd Div and were placed under command of 8th Armd Bde. The situation at the time was that 30th Corps opposed the MARETH line. We were in the North which was thinly held by the 51st Highland Div and our role was to do close recce for 8th Armd Bde in the event of a break through.
3/3/43	C Sqn. The day was spent in recce of our area. The country was hilly with some cultivation and occasional olive or palm groves, but not bad for Daimlers which so far were performing well over rough ground. At about 1800 hours two Tps were called in as a small scale attack by German and Italian troops had started in the northern sector. 1Tp and 3Tp went to SIDI MAKRELOUF to await events and at 2130 hours were ordered to go about 5 miles North. It was very dark and they had considerable difficulty but made the area soon after midnight.
4/3/43	C Sqn. At first light they contacted 51st H Div who reported all quiet and that the enemy attack never developed. They remained out all day and were relieved in the evening by 2Tp.
5/3/43	C Sqn. 2Tp spent the day with 153 Bde Highland Div and was relieved in the afternoon by 4Tp. A quiet day.
6/3/43	C Sqn. The expected enemy attack developed from TOUJANE and HAILUT PASS directed against the main road about 3 miles West of MEDENINE – with minor attacks in the northern positions. 8th Armd Bde moved South to counter the main thrust and the Sqn came under Div. 3Tp took up position on the northern battle position at 7692. The enemy attack was well held by 201 Guards Bde and 131 (Queens) Bde with 8th and 22nd Armd Bde in support. The enemy never even reached the main road which was presumably their first objective
7/3/43	RHQ. The Regt less C Sqn moved at 0900 hours and leaguered for the night at BEN GARDANE C Sqn. Five minutes after midnight we put down a heavy barrage for half an hour and at first light, which was very misty in places, it was clear the enemy were calling the attack off. 4Tp came in and in the evening 1Tp relieved 3Tp. By evening the enemy had withdrawn almost to the foothills leaving many dead and derelicts. A Sqn. Having rested and re-equipped and got to like the local Chianti, the Regt was ordered back again into the line, we thought just in time for the final advance, though a fortnight was to elapse before General Montgomery lifted the staring gate. It was felt that the new organisation was untried and that more time was needed for training, especially in the Scout Tp (5Tp) and to a lesser extent in the Jeep Tp which, though very mobile and capable of ranging wide, may prove vulnerable if mixed up in a battle. The Sqn left at 0910 hours and with a halt for lunch at ZUARA arrived at BEN GARDANE at 1800 hours for the night. B Sqn. We left for the front once more and the day's march brought us to BEN GARDANE in Tunisia. Tunisia is the eighth country that the Sqn has been in since the war began. Capt Clarke MC had taken over 2i/c while Capt Horsford was in Cairo.
8/3/43	RHQ. Resumed march at 0700 hours and arrived MEDENINE at 1200 hours. Came under orders 7th Armd Div. C Sqn. Mar 8th – 12th. Remained in same area – training. Remainder of Regt came up and we reverted to their command. A Sqn. We left at 0700 hours and arrived at E7380 at 1310 hours where we were just East of 7th Armd Div HQ, to



	be held in reserve for at least a week. The Daimler car had gone well on the journey but the wireless sets had given trouble. Major Lawson was ordered especially by the Army Commander to go over to the First Army and instruct the Americans in the use of ACs. He was very reluctant to leave the Sqn which he had had for two years (it was also his uncle's – Major Bertie Lawson - during the last war). General Montgomery said he wanted him to go as he was his best Sqn Ldr in the 8th Army; every man in the Sqn was sorry to lose him. Capt Reid Scott, who had just returned from being ADC to Field Marshall Wavell in India, took over the Sqn. The CO and he had dinner with the Army Commander the night before and both were disappointed in the low level of conversation which was chiefly about Army wives – a subject on which much better information is always available in the 11th Hussars Officers Mess. Major Lawson and the Colonel went to see the Army Commander, to whom the 11th Hussars seem to have ready access, while the Sqn made themselves comfortable in a little wadi just West of RHQ. B Sqn. We moved on to MEDENINE and stayed about 4 miles NW of it, very close to RHQ. During the two day march we had very few breakdowns.
9/3/43	RHQ. B Sqn relieved a Sqn of 12th Lancers in area 4 miles West of MEDENINE. C Sqn remained in area 6 miles North of MEDENINE and came under Regt control. RHQ position at E7181 A Sqn. 9th – 10th. Nothing happened of any note. The whole Army were congratulating themselves on the battle of March 6th when 52 German tanks from 10th, 15th and 21st Panzer Div had been knocked out with no loss of tanks to ourselves and only slight loss of men. The Sqn carried on with 2pdr training, MT training for Daimler drivers, a mine lifting course, chiefly for the benefit of 5Tp, also small Tp scheme for the benefit of Scout section Ldrs. B Sqn. At 0600 hours we took over from A Sqn 12th Royal Lancers (Major Spencer). We had two patrols out, 1Tp and 2Tp going out to E6181 and E6075. SHQ remained close to RHQ.
10/3/43	B Sqn. 10th Mar to 18th Mar. We remained in the line during this period and very little happened. The enemy were in the hills so we saw them only occasionally. The patrols for the first two days used to come into SHQ for the night, but after that they stayed with Infantry who were holding the line round MEDENINE, and went out at first light. On the 16th 3Tp under Sgt Smith ran into a small German patrol on their way out to their patrol position. The German patrol had the surprise and opened fire at short range with small arms. Sgt Smith was hit in the eye. This caused some disorder in the Tp during which the Germans managed to get away. Sgt Smith was brought into SHQ and Sgt Richmond with the Daimler and the Dingo remained on patrol. When Sgt Smith arrived he was immediately sent away by the doctor to the nearest MDS. He was not too bad but unfortunately the doctor thought he would lose his left eye. 2Tp was then sent out to relieve Sgt Richmond who came into SHQ. Lt Wells Cole then took over 3Tp in place of Sgt Smith. On the 17th the 2nd Armd Bde under Brigadier Fisher moved out towards the hills to try and attract the enemy attention away from the Gds Bde who were doing an attack in the North. The Sqn had to help in this as it was in our area, so that morning 3 patrols were pushed out West towards the hills. No opposition was encountered except for a small amount of shelling and by 1200 hours everything was back to normal except we left the 3 patrols out owing to the bad visibility.
11/3/43	A Sqn. Major Lawson left the Sqn, after many sad goodbyes, and drove to CASTEL BENITO aerodrome in the Sqn Ldr's Ford, which I never expected to see again, though it turned up 3 days later having given lifts to Generals of various calibre on its way back from TRIPOLI. All Tp Ldrs and Scout Tp Section Ldrs attended a demonstration under Major Wainman whereby the leading Tp of a Sqn was able to 'spot' for the Gunners as an OP through direct wireless communication, from the Tp Sgt's car to the leading Bty of guns, the idea is to bring very quick fire to



	bear on fleeting or opportunity targets, or perhaps a single 88mm left behind by the enemy to delay us. The idea is good but it may not work in battle.
12/3/43	RHQ. A Sqn relieved NZ Div Cavalry on the left of B Sqn in area NE of HALLOUF. C Sqn rejoined the Regt. A Sqn. The Sqn remained in the same position and there was another gunnery demonstration; 2Tp and 3Tp took part and C Sqn were responsible for the wireless which broke down; luckily 5Tp (Mr Williamson) had brought theirs which worked well.
13/3/43	C Sqn. Moved down to RHQ area, 4 miles West of MEDENINE. A Sqn. At 1530 hours the Sqn less 5Tp left to take over a bit of the line of observation, of about 12 miles front, to the SW of MEDENINE with B Sqn to our North and the Royals to our South. We leaguered in a wadi with A Sqn of the NZ Div Cavalry; they are grand chaps but are equipped with carriers and were using four Tps on a line where I considered the job could be done by two patrols standing a little further back and taking advantage of the high ground. The front might be described by an arc with MEDENINE as the centre with the patrols out to the SW watching the hills at KREDDACHE down to ZEBBA and SHQ 4 miles SW of MEDENINE and just behind an Infantry and A/Tk gun (6pdrs) screen, held by the Cheshire Regt and the Northumberland Hussars (A/Tk gunners).
14/3/43	C Sqn. SHQ, 1Tp and 4Tp moved to take over 2 patrols from New Zealand Div Cavalry. 1Tp went to 6931 and 4Tp to 6859 whilst SHQ stayed at 7658. A Tp of Deacons were attached. A section of Scout Tp walked over from SHQ to 1Tp over difficult country but got back again ok. No enemy were seen. A Sqn. 3Tp Capt Churton was sent to do the northern patrol and 2Tp Lt Garrard to E6664. Each Tp was accompanied by a NZ Tp Ldr to show them the ground and points of interest. KREDDACHE and KEF EL ANEBA were believed to be strongly held by units of the Panzer Grenadiers and Recce Group, otherwise the hills were reported to be thinly held, chiefly by small "thug" parties living in the villages whose inhabitants were inclined to favour the other side. The main danger was that the wadi in the hills and the tracks were littered with mines. The Ghurka Rifles had done a night patrol to KEF EL ANEBA for the loss of one man missing, but 3Tp picked him up in the morning, tired and hungry but otherwise quite unconcerned. The Sqn Ldr visited the patrols. The ground in between was found to be good tank going – though bad for wheels due to numerous little wadis running NE to SW. The two Tps could just cover the ground, though they could not see each other. The patrols returned to SHQ for the night having seen nothing of interest except natives and their flocks.
15/3/43	C Sqn. 3Tp relieved 2Tp who had to go to RHQ to have wireless sets changed. 2nd Btn 60th also of 4th Light Armd Bde started to advance North up the tracks through the hills. We received orders to do the same on the 16th. A Sqn. 1Tp Sgt Trumper went to the northern position and 4Tp Capt Wingfield Digby to the southern. Major Wainman and the Sqn Ldr visited both patrols and met Brigadier Fowler (CRA 1st Armd Div) who was recceing gun positions for a shoot into the hills. They also saw Major Burdon (C Sqn) who was preparing to take over from the Royal on our left, and Brigadier Currie, Commanding 4th Light Armd Bde, who were operating in the hills in a NW direction from HADDADA. During the day several senior officers called in at SHQ for the news and Capt Crankshaw provided a most efficient information bureau with speculations of his own to add spice. The Sqn Ldr soon discovered that having patrols 6 miles out in front was a mere formality as Capt Crankshaw could see everything in the hills that the patrols could see by standing on top of his car and using his excellent eyes and a good pair of German glasses. The Northumberland Hussars were relieved by 76th A/Tk Regt and the Cheshire Regt by the



	Northumberland Fusiliers, 5Tp
16/3/43	RHQ. Royals relieved C Sqn, otherwise no change. C Sqn. One Scout section under Cpl Osborne, newly trained in mine detecting and lifting, left for 3Tp at first light. Their orders were to move West down the wadi along the track till they met a Sapper party who were working from the other end. At about 0800 hours Lt Lovett's scar hit a mine and was damaged but the crew were ok. The Scout section got to work and gradually cleared up the road to the West, picking up the mines which were scattered all the way along, and in some cases very deeply buried and hard to detect. In the afternoon, Sgt Christmas hit a mine, damaging the car and injuring Lt Champion who had only just joined. The LAD recovered the vehicles but, unfortunately, the Tech Officer, Lt Brown, hit a third mine in his jeep on the way back and broke his nose. But LCpl Lamb who was with him broke both his legs and was pretty bad. The doctor was quickly on the spot and by last light all were back out of trouble. A Sqn. 2Tp and 3Tp were on patrol. The remainder of the Sqn carried out field firing in the Wadi KHEL. Shooting with the 2pdrs was good, but more practice needed in working the commander and gunner in co-operation. Lt Williamson fired his 2 mortars (Sgt Fitzpatrick and LCpl Marple) with reasonable accuracy. I doubt whether we shall have many opportunities of using them. 2Tp and 3Tp reported no movement seen except for occasional explosions. 2nd Armd Bde moved forward into the area below the hills NE of KREDDACHE in order to draw fire from the enemy so that our guns could fire at them. The enemy would not show himself and the party packed up at midday. Sqn Tac HQ were with the Queens Bays out in front during the 'demonstration'. 1Tp and 4Tp returned to leaguer with the Sqn and reported no movement seen.
17/3/43	C Sqn. 2Tp sent out on the same job with a party of RE's. They worked all day but in the evening, although they had only made about 3 miles, the Dingo went up injuring LCpl Woodward (broken leg and face lacerations). The driver was ok. They stayed out all night and were relieved next morning by the Royals.
18/3/43	C Sqn. Shortly after 2Tp got in we received orders to relieve another Sqn further West in the hills. Remained in same area for the rest of the day. B Sqn. We handed over to B Sqn 12th Lancers (Major Speke MC) and the Sqn moved down just South of the PAPAHOON road. Remained there for the day. A Sqn. 2Tp and 3Tp on patrol in same position. The Sqn is getting slightly bored looking like a cud-face when there do not even appear to be any enemy to interest one. Considerable maintenance was carried out as the drivers began to discover the points to which particular attention should be paid on a Daimler AC. Every effort was made to beg, borrow or steal guns for the Dingos and Jeeps which are equipped with one miserable Bren gun each. Capt Crankshaw and Sgt Mitchell were very successful scroungers and we soon had 1Tp Dingo (Cpl Drew) fitted with a .5 Browning from the RAF and 2Tp had twin Brens on their Dingo. 5Tp went out on training every day practising walking, using cover, working No. 18 set etc. Except for explosions caused by our Infantry taking up mines in the hills SE of KREDDACHE our patrols reported no movement seen.
19/3/43	RHQ. RHQ moved to E7265. 12th Lancers relieved B Sqn. C Sqn operating in conjunction with 4th Light Armd Bde in area E5555. C Sqn. Moved first thing into the hills to E5555. We took over 3 patrols at E5358, E5156 and E5535. The first two patrols were to cover RE working parties down the tracks which were heavily mined and covered by



	enemy guns, 4Tp on the right, 1Tp centre and 2Tp on a watching patrol at GUERNESSA in the South. Both 1Tp and 4Tp made quite good progress before dark. They all stayed out for the night. A Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp on patrol in the old position except that they interchanged to give them a change of scenery. Both Tps carried out firing but the area was full of Bedouin. 1Tp reported 3 men walking about on the skyline at E6458 otherwise no movement seen. The chief excitement during these days of static patrols were certain night patrols carried out by the 1/2nd Gurkhas, 60th Rifles, RB's etc and the phenomenal amount of aeroplanes that were collecting in our area. We woke up one morning to find about 70 planes on the 'drome just West of MEDENINE. Except for a little night bombing direct at the aerodromes in our area, no German plane had been seen for days.														
20/3/43	C Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp continued their advance down the tracks. 4Tp was joined by a Scout section under LCpl Howard for close support of REs as the ACs drew artillery fire. At 0810 hours 4Tp came under artillery ranging fire and as it was very accurate they decided to withdraw. Just as the Scout section was mounting several rounds came in on them wounding 3 men. All men and vehicles were extricated and withdrew half a mile to dress the wounded. Unfortunately whilst doing this several more accurate gunfire was brought down on them doing considerable damage. Though the vehicles were ok the casualties were:- <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <th>Killed</th><th>Wounded</th></tr> <tr> <td>Tpr Dunthorne</td><td>Lt Wentworth Stanley</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sapper Usherwood</td><td>Cpl Adams</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>LCpl Howard</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Tpr Smith</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Tpr Sherwood</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Tpr McGuire</td></tr> </table> Tpr McGuire died on the way to hospital. 1Tp were also shelled and no further progress could be made. 3Tp came in just before dark. Later that night orders were received to withdraw whole Sqn to Regt at first light. Operations against MARETH line commenced. A Sqn. 2Tp and 3Tp were on patrol and had nothing to report all day. The Sqn Ldr went to RHQ for orders in the afternoon. The long awaited offensive was to begin tonight with an attack in the North on the MARETH Line by the 50th and 4th Indian Divs. The plan included a wide outflanking movement (one of General Montgomery's left hooks) by the NZ Corps embracing 8th Armd Div, the whole commanded by General Freyburg. The 30th Corps which comprised the 50th, 51st and 4th Indian Divs was responsible for making a breach in the MARETH Line by the sea, through which 10th Corps comprising of 1st and 7th Armd Div was to pass, or better still if all the enemy ran, 10th and 30th Corps would advance abreast. It was claimed that we have a 3 to 1 tank superiority (a moderate estimate). A special route "task" force, including many sappers, was to precede the Armd Divs to deal with mines. On his return from RHQ the Sqn Ldr explained the plan to the whole Sqn. That night we could see the flashes of shelling in the North but could not hear them. There was some night bombing around us. 2Tp reported a few men in the hills, who may well have been Bedouin. B Sqn. 20th – 24th. Stayed in the same position with two Tps out watching the exits from the hills. These Tps came in at night. While sitting here we seemed very out of the battle and got very scanty news of how everything was going.	Killed	Wounded	Tpr Dunthorne	Lt Wentworth Stanley	Sapper Usherwood	Cpl Adams		LCpl Howard		Tpr Smith		Tpr Sherwood		Tpr McGuire
Killed	Wounded														
Tpr Dunthorne	Lt Wentworth Stanley														
Sapper Usherwood	Cpl Adams														
	LCpl Howard														
	Tpr Smith														
	Tpr Sherwood														
	Tpr McGuire														
21/3/43	C Sqn. At first light Sqn moved to RHQ at E7063 and soon afterwards further orders to send a patrol back to where we had just left. 2Tp went back and stayed out the night at E5555. No movement seen. A Sqn.														



	1Tp and 4Tp were on patrol, each accompanied by a scout car (Cpl Pearce and Cpl Williamson) to practice Tp Ldrs in having a fourth vehicle to look after. The Sqn Ldr inspected the Echelon who were "sitting pretty" in a very nice spot at E???
22/3/43	C Sqn. 2Tp stayed out all day and Sqn remained in the same area. 2Tp came in just before dark. No movement seen. 4Tp had a car evacuated with flywheel trouble. A Sqn. 2Tp and 3Tp on patrol in the old positions and had nothing to report except explosions which indicated that the enemy was drawing out. The Sqn Ldr went to RHQ to get news of the attack and learned that the Americans had captured 1000 prisoners (only 1ties) and that 50th Div on the sea had about 700. The line of Infantry and A/Tk guns on our front appeared to change hands at least once a day. Today our old friends the 2nd Bn 60th Rifle took over.
23/3/43	C Sqn. 1Tp with Scout section went to E5555 on watching patrol. No movement seen. Stayed out all night. A Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp on patrol. Sgt Lovett with his White scout car accompanied 1Tp on the southern patrol and went to 4Tp during the day. At last light the Sqn Ldr visited RHQ for orders. The 4th Indian Div were sending a party to KREDDACHE and 4Tp were to stay out for the night on the road at E5769 in order to give them confidence and act as a link. As it turned out not a soul came near them. It appears that the great push is going very slowly and 10th Corps was sent round to support NZ Corps, the whole to become 10th Corps under General Horrocks.
24/3/43	C Sqn. During the day the 4th Indian Div relieved 1Tp who had to go a long way round to get back as the tracks were blocked with transport going West. Unfortunately we had a slight accident with a lorry and had to spend the night out. A Sqn. The Sqn Ldr visited 4Tp in the early morning and replenished them. 1Tp relieved the Royal's southern patrol at E6175, 3Tp was relieved by our B Sqn from the southern patrol as the Sqn side-stepped one patrol to the North. The Sqn moved to E6374 and at last light 2Tp was sent out to maintain a link with the leading Bde of 4th Indian Div (Brigadier Kutch) for scheme purposes. 1Tp and 4Tp returned to the Sqn for the night.
25/3/43	RHQ. A Sqn relieved Royals in area LEBENE. RHQ moved to E7181. C & B Sqn in reserve with RHQ. C Sqn. 1Tp arrived soon after first light and had to go to LAD. 4Tp also had a crew with LAD waiting a new car as their flywheel casing had gone; probably as a result of near misses from shelling. Both got in before dark. Our push on the central sector had failed but General Freyberg, who had been out-flanking to the West, had made good progress and had got 2000 PoW with quite a bit of kit. A new draft of 25 for the Sqn had arrived within the last week and were gradually being absorbed. Regt moved up to area just West of MEDENINE. B Sqn. We moved at 0630 hours back to our old Wadi at METAMEUR where we again sat doing nothing. A Sqn. The Jeep patrol Lt Moore relieved 2Tp of their liaison duties and 3Tp went to their usual position at E6373. The Sqn Ldr went to a conference at 4th Armd Bde after which it was decided that A Sqn should relieve C Sqn of the Royals. SHQ went to E6979 with three patrols, 1Tp, 4Tp and 3Tp, on the 60 Grid line between 82 and 88 Northings. 1Tp in the South watched the Royals getting blown up on mines. 4Tp in the centre had a good position of observation on a hill and had a White Scout car section attached, Sgt Lovett, which was invaluable. 3Tp and 4Tp leaguered together for the night at E6387 in order to get



	to their positions at first light the next morning. 1Tp leaguered with the Sqn. The country in 3Tp and 4Tp areas was mountainous and entirely unsuitable for ACs – the Sqn will have to form an Alpine Tp if this goes on.
26/3/43	RHQ. C Sqn liaising with Indian Bde in area HALLOUF. A Sqn liaising with Gds Bde in area LEBENE. C Sqn. Sqn had orders to find 4th Indian Div who were working on the left flank of 7th Armd Div, and keep contact between forward elements of both Divs. 2Tp and 3Tp went ahead, 2Tp to the Essex Regt and 3Tp to Div HQ. The Sqn moved later in the day and took over from 3Tp. 2Tp stayed out for the night. B Sqn. 26th – 29th. Remained sitting at METAMEUR. Lt Newton went out on the 27th to recon the road through HALLOUF pass where we were likely to go, and returned the same day. On the 29th 2Tp went and reconed a track up to ??? where the Div was moving to the next day. He stayed out all night. A Sqn. 3Tp and 4Tp took up the same patrol at first light. 3Tp role was to give early warning of any westward movement by the enemy towards TOUJANE and North over the pass at E4989. Throughout the day there was some enemy movement reported in area E5485 and there was a certain amount of shelling at the RB's and 22nd Armd Bde who were in the low ground SE of REIAT SIA. 2Tp was sent to relieve 4Tp at E6085 and Lt Garrard left his Tp near the road at E6486 and went up to 4Tp position to get the picture for the next day from Capt Wingfield Digby MC. 4Tp came back to the Sqn for the night and 3Tp leaguered with 2Tp.
27/3/43	RHQ. The Regt in reserve less A Sqn who were liaising with Gds Bde. C Sqn. 4Tp relieved 2Tp. Reported the advance of our Infantry patrols through the hills towards TOUJANE. A Sqn. The Guards Bde were told to hold the same line – and the North of it – as our 2 patrols, so 3Tp were able to hand over their position at 0800 hours and 2Tp were ordered to stay put but to keep in touch with the left of the Grenadiers who were on the left of the Bde. A draft of 14 men were sent to the Sqn. They seemed good fellows – one looked about 14 years old, but we did not look at his teeth. They were short of training, so Sgt Turner (2Tp) and Cpl Drew (1Tp) were sent back to instruct them in MT, gunnery, elementary wireless and 11th Hussars ideas. And, at the same time, to command the Sqn's two spare ACs on the Echelon. Finding one's way about in this country is very different to the Western Desert and all agreed that it was much easier to navigate on "the blue" than to find one's way along a maze of tracks, very few of which were marked on the map, and trust in being directed by soldiers who never seem to know the name of their CO in most regiments around us. 1Tp went out at 1700 hours to relieve 2Tp. Sgt Trumper went on to get the lie of the land in his dingo, leaving his Tp on the road. Both Tps leaguered for the night at E6486. The baths at the French barracks at MEDENINE proved a great boon and a large party was sent in daily. The Sqn Ldr was unfortunate enough to arrive there one evening when the Sisters from the Divisional CCS were in occupation. The mornings are getting lighter as summer draws near and SSM Moore has the Sqn out of bed earlier every day.
28/3/43	RHQ. A Sqn called into reserve. C Sqn. Sqn was recalled to RHQ and arrived there by midday. A Sqn. 1Tp moved their position forward to E5875 from which an excellent view could be obtained of DJEBEL REINTSOA and the ground in between, which was full of mines. The Sqn Ldr and the SSM visited the Echelon to vet the new draft. When the Sqn Ldr goes away it seems to be a signal for a move to take place for at 1000 hours the Sqn was ordered to rejoin the Regt in their



	old area at E7479 to be ready to move through the MARETH Line or through the HALLOUF Pass. 50th Div had discovered in the early morning that the MARETH Line was unoccupied - they had lost touch with the enemy. ARRAM was taken without opposition and suddenly the authorities woke up to the fact that Jerry really was on the run. The plan now was for the Infantry to advance up the coast; clearing a path through the minefields which was the only danger, though a large one, and for 7th Armd Div to follow up. We spent the night together in the same place, having heard that 10th Corps and the New Zealanders had had a most successful battle South of EL HANMA.
29/3/43	C Sqn. Remained same area. A Sqn. The Sqn was hoping to be let off the leash to which we seemed to be attached, to go and chase the enemy. The Infantry were pushing on up the coast and 10th Corps had nearly reached GABES. The day was spent in maintenance and troop discussions. The Colonel and the Sqn Ldr went to see 22nd Armd Bde. The air was full of aeroplanes, mostly Kittyhawks and we got frequent Toc/R reports during the day indicating the enemy was pulling out. At last in the evening orders came for the Regt to move with the Div to Z3322, 6 miles East of GABES.
30/3/43	RHQ. The Regt was ordered to move at first light to the area South of EL MDOU in advance of 7th Armd Div. The enemy having withdrawn from the MARETH positions this was a peace march. 7th Armd Div was ordered to halt in area Z4305 and the Regt remained in this area during the day. C Sqn. Regt moved through MARETH line, now evacuated, to ????. Stayed here all day. B Sqn. We moved at 0630 hours to Z3837 where we stayed and 2Tp joined us there. A Sqn. The Regt moved off at 0615 hours in the order RHQ, B, C & A to go nose to croup along a well defined track running parallel and about 5 miles West of the MEDENINE – GABES main road. Our speed of advance was regulated by the speed the sappers could pick up the mines in front of us. As we moved off it rained just enough to lay the dust. It appeared from the Toc/R that the enemy was concentrating his stuff in the Wadi AKARIT where it was thought he might make a stand. The Regt reached Z4005 where we were held up by the sappers, so we halted and spent the remainder of the day doing maintenance and resting.
31/3/43	RHQ. The Regt continued the advance at first light and halted in area Z3523 where it went into reserve. C Sqn. Moved North again to area Z3520. GABES had fallen but the enemy were holding the line of the Wadi EL AKARIT. B Sqn. We again moved 11 miles up to Z3424 where we again sat just in front of 7th Armd Div HQ. A Sqn. The Regt moved off at 0630 hours with A Sqn bringing up the rear and by 0745 hours we had arrived at our position which was just North of 7th Armd Div HQ. The Germans had left very little for our benefit, except masses of mines, but it was gratifying to hear from the local 'bedu' that there had been much bombing from the RAF. But what worried him much more was that the Germans and Italians had both had ideas on his wife and daughter. We were told about the success of the 10th Corps and New Zealand battle and the plan for breaking the Wadi AKARIT line. The 51st Highland Div were to break it in about 2 days time and at last we were going to have something to do, for 7th Armd Div were to follow through the break and pursue.
April 1943	CO: Lt Col AT Smail



Apr 43 11th Hussars	(Prince Albert's Own)
1/4/43	RHQ. 1st – 6th. The Regt was in reserve during this whole period while the Infantry Div were preparing to and attacking the GABES Gap. C Sqn. Remained in same area. A Sqn. There was much chat in the Sqn as to whether it was possible to "April Fool" SSM Moore and get away with it. As far as I know no one tried it except SSM McCarthy (C Sqn) who arrived five minutes too late as SSM Moore had just left to go and pull RHQ's leg. We expected to be here for 2 days until 51st Div were ready to attack; but Toc/R reports, which nowadays come in regularly throughout the day, indicated that there was much less MET on the Wadi AKARIT line than yesterday and it was believed that, with the Americans only 30 miles away on their right flank, there was an even money chance of the enemy pulling out; this would be to our advantage as the enemy had DJEBEL TEBAGA FATNASSA which gave him a commanding view over our whole area. The day was spent in gun cleaning, more maps being issued and some withdrawn, NAAFI kit being issued, clothing washed and general sorting out. The Sqn Ldr and the SSM both received letters from Major (now Lt Colonel) Lawson who was already with the Americans. He said how he wished he were still with A Sqn. Lt Colonel Payne Gallway also wrote from the 1st Derbyshire Yeomanry saying he would be joining us soon. B Sqn. We stayed in the same position and sent people into GABES and bathing every day. Tp Ldr toured the countryside to get the lie of the land.
2/4/43	A Sqn. The Sqn Ldr and three Tp Ldrs did a recce of the forward area where it was expected 7th Armd Div would go through. We went through GABES which showed signs of its attention from both the Navy and RAF, then up the coast road where we made friends with the Staffordshire Yeomanry and had a look at the range of hills facing us, which the enemy, who had excellent observation from both ROUMANA and FATNASSA, shelled us with 75's. We returned via a very good road, "Autobahn" standard, running from GODREF to BIR EL KRENN and saw masses of troops moving up, especially gunners. Capt Crankshaw accompanied by Capt Churton, Lt Garrard and Lt Williamson had a look round in the afternoon visiting Major Grant Thorold at HQ 2nd Armd Bde and returning quite close to EL HAMMA. Each Tp Ldr was now in a position to explain to his Tp what sort of country they might expect.
3/4/43	A Sqn. "Waiting for things to happen" is how most of one's time in war is spent, but it can all be put to advantage with a little organisation and trouble. It was a cold day, but bathing in GABES was allowed for 25% of the Sqn at a time. The Sqn was stuck away in a fig grove where the Jerries had built excellent slit trenches. The day was spent in maintenance and gun cleaning with talk on the new ACs, which need a good deal of looking after. The bathers saw petrol being unloaded from tank landing craft at GABES which is encouraging. The RAF shot down 14 Sukas out of 20 and we had the satisfaction of seeing a night bomber pulled down in flames by AA in the darkness, after which there was a rum issue.
4/4/43	A Sqn. After a rainy night, it was a fine day. There was bathing again and in the afternoon a football game to see what new talent we had in the Sqn.
5/4/43	A Sqn.



	I wish we were going to stand on Epsom Downs today to watch "April the Fifth" win the Derby. But one must be content with the arid plains of Tunisia. At 0800 hours all Sqn Ldrs attended a conference at 7th Armd Div where General Erskine gave us a resume of the forthcoming attack on the GABES Gap. The attack had been delayed 36 hours so that the 50th and 4th Indian Divs could be brought up and used as well as the 51st Div. Intelligence said that the 51st would be opposed by the 90th Light and that the remainder of the line was held by four Iti Divs (very under strength), with 21st Panzers in reserve in area Z0660 and the 15th Panzer further back. The 90th Light was supposed to be in good order and the 15th and 21st Panzers could not muster more than 35 tanks between them. The real danger was the 10th Armd Div which had 92 tanks (including 25 Tigers with 88mm guns) which was sitting watching the Americans.
6/4/43	A Sqn. We could distinctly hear the guns open up at about 0415 hours and fire continually well into the morning. We expected to move any time after 12 noon as the 7th Armd Div were to take over the position of the New Zealanders when they moved forward. Many spent the morning writing their last letters for a week or so to their girl friends, but an anti-climax was reached at 1600 hours when, after waiting all day, we were told that we would not be moving today.
7/4/43	RHQ. Information was received that the enemy had vacated the GABES Gap position. The Regt moved at first light and were ordered to get to the head of 22nd Armd Bde who were leading 7th Armd Div. There was considerable congestion passing through a minefield East of TEBAGA FATNASSA. Once clear of this obstacle B Sqn were ordered to advance on the right and C Sqn on the left. 7th Armd Div was directed on SI MOHAMMED NOUGES RHO and A Sqn leaguered at Z1572 with C and B Sqn in touch with the enemy to the North. In this advance 51st Highland Div were operating on the line of the coast road with 7th Armd Div covering their left flank and 8th Armd Bde on the left of 7th Armd Div. C Sqn. At 0640 hours orders to move as soon as possible to assembly area North of GABES. By 1130 hours we were passing through the gaps made in the enemy minefields and across the bridges made over the A/Tk ditches. One of 4Tp cars had flywheel trouble and had to be abandoned. We kept the crew and ordered up a spare. Our role was to fan out and advance North with the Z13 easting as the left boundary and our right boundary running NE through the ruins at Z1473. Sqn advanced two-up with 3Tp on the left and 1Tp on the right. At 1345 hours 3Tp reported 8 MET and men spread out between 1278 and 1678. At 1355 hours 3Tp reported 4 tanks at 1579. At 1405 hours 3Tp reported these tanks now totalled 10. 1Tp confirmed this and was accurately fired on by a 38mm which forced him to withdraw. He contacted a KDG patrol which gave him information about the left flank. 3Tp was ordered round to the West to contact 8th Armd Bde and the SSM contacted CLY Regt Group and kept them informed of the local situation. During the evening the 8th Armd Bde heavily engaged the enemy in area 1080 and 22nd Armd Bde behind our screen also engaged them from the South. Enemy shelling was fairly accurate just before dark. 3Tp remained with 8th Armd Bde and the Sqn got together after dark and stayed with the CLY. The enemy had definitely thinned out during the last hour of daylight. A Sqn. At 0700 hours came the order to move immediately as the enemy during the night had gone (just as we had said they would). The Regt moved off and went via GABES, OUDREF and after a certain amount of jockeying for position at ROUMANA we caught up with the leading Regt of 22 Armd Bde at 12 noon in the Wadi RMEL. B & C Sqn were out in front but we could get a good view of the enemy MET which was moving around on the feature KATES SA TOUR. At 1600 hours we moved forward and spent the night at Z1469 next to RHO with Adv Div hard by. As soon as it got dark we were heavily attacked by mosquitoes, but in an hour or two it got colder and they vanished. From Toc/R reports and information from our own patrols the enemy was obviously moving most of his stuff North, but was leaving behind strong rearguards of guns and tanks who were mobile enough to break contact at night and move off. As is always the case in the front line, one never has anything better than a very rough picture of what



	is happening except on one's own immediate front, whereas at GHQ in Cairo an up to date picture is usually obtainable – it is the fog of war. Today it was almost impossible to discover what was happening on the NZ 1st Armd Div and American fronts, but in the evening we heard that the NZ 17pdr had broken their duck and bagged 2 Tigers and the 8th Armd Bde 2 more. B Sqn. We moved at 0700 hours through the gap in the minefield just East of ROUMANA which the Highlanders had made during the night. Our role was to get across the Wadi AQUARIT and the minefield as quickly as possible and get in front of the 22nd Armd Bde who were pursuing the enemy. This we managed to do by 1200 hours after a lot of delays in getting through the gaps. 4Tp then followed up the line of the road and 2Tp went out on his left. SHQ stayed with the 1st RTR who were on the right of 22nd Armd Bde. Very soon both Tps were held up. 2Tp by an 88mm gun and some Infantry, and 4Tp guns, Infantry and a few tanks at Z2479. The situation remained the same for the rest of the day, everyone being held up. At last light 3Tp went out to relieve 2Tp and 4Tp came in. We spent the night at Z2174 with the 1st RTR.
8/4/43	RHQ. The advance continued at 0600 hours and RHQ leaguered with 7th Armd Div in area Z1494. C Sqn. At first light we moved out with 2Tp on the left and 1Tp on the right. 0615 – 1Tp reported at 1483 four 105mm firing SE. Actually they were shelling the Echelon and reserve Tps who had to move out of the area. 0655 – 1Tp reported 7 Or 8 Bredas firing at our planes at 1883. 0716 – 1Tp reported 30 MET moving East with 8 tanks and two 88mm doing rearguard. 0722 – 1Tp reported Infantry marching East and later 4 lorries of Infantry. 0723 – Tp could see Infantry on the ground at 1486. 0732 – 2Tp reported 1 tank moving East and scattered Infantry in the area 1088. 0755 – 1Tp reported at 1784 eight lorries of Infantry moving East, the 2 leaders towing guns. Since he was only 1 mile to their East and they were coming straight towards him, he attacked and caused the crews of the 2 leading lorries to jump out and run for it. He then closed the range and captured 4 lorries, a 105mm gun and a 6pdr A/Tk gun and some 40 prisoners, mostly Italian. During this time he was fired on by a 88mm to his NW and only a short way ahead of 2Tp. 2Tp reported a large tank stationary and firing at 1Tp only ½ mile ahead of him and thought he would attack hull down from 500 yards. This he did and the crew bailed out and he captured two. The tank was a Mark VI Tiger with an 88mm. It had previously been damaged by 8th Armd Bde and left as a pillbox. 0830 – 1Tp carried on into the rest of the column and took 5 lorries and 1 Volkswagon with 2 officers and 30 men, mostly Italians. 0842 – 1Tp could see some 50+ Infantry and 3 guns trying to get out of action a little to his North. He went in and got three 105mm and about 100 Italians. Evidently a Tp of Italian guns with a backing of Germans had got left behind the main rearguard which was obviously German. After this we advanced fast almost due North till enemy resistance was encountered in area Z2294. There were thick olive groves in this area and A/Tk guns very difficult to spot. At least two 88mm were in action and at 3451 there were three 105's which accurately shelled SHQ. The only damage was a large piece of shrapnel through the rear-link mapboard, narrowly missing Capt Petch. The 8th Armd Bde were at 128 1998, but everything was held up for almost an hour as the guns could not be seen. The two 88's were thought to be in position at 1997 but as they had not moved for some time 2Tp was sent round to the left to draw fire. He went right through the area where the 88's had been and took 12 Italians of the PISTOIA Div prisoner. Shortly after the Bde moved on again, with the railway line at 2902 as the objective. Our tanks were again held up before dark by enemy in the 3000 area. In the orchard at 2999 there was at least one Tiger and one other tank in action. To their South there were two further 88's in action but these moved off North before dark. Just before dark three 105's opened up and shelled us accurately. Our tanks replied at long range but it is not known with what effect. We moved after dark but got on a very dusty track and after two Humbers had gone off the track and nearly overturned, we packed up for the night. Both Humbers were damaged but by working till 0300 hours the fitter got one ok and the other a runner, which went to LAD next day. 4Tp Lt de Wend Fenton spent the night with 1st RTR who moved up to the railway after dark. 3Tp was still with the 8th Armd Bde in the Dingo – both Daimlers being worn out – the second one just managed



	to rejoin the Sqn the next day. Lateral liaison by Tps with different Bdes, proved of great value to Commanders. A Sqn. We just had time to get in breakfast before we moved off at 0700 hours with the rest of the advancing Army (how I hate getting mixed up with gunners, Infantry etc of whom we ought to be in front). The enemy was slowly moving off in his own time – he must be jostled! B Sqn on the right and C Sqn on the left were leading. C Sqn got some guns and prisoners and 1 Tiger tank (a lame one). We picked up 3 Italians. A Sqn went to Z2384 where we spent most of the day behind B Sqn HQ, and in readiness to move up on their right if necessary to fill in the gap where the coastline branches NE. At 1500 hours 1Tp Sgt Trumper were despatched to relieve 1Tp of B Sqn Sgt Matheson in front of the 51st Div which was held up by a blown bridge on the coast road and covered by fire. The enemy rearguard here was covering the evacuation of MAHARES. 1Tp leaguered in the area and the Sqn 3 miles North of our day position where we had an excellent view of enemy guns shooting from the area of GRAIBA station. B Sqn. 1Tp went out and worked up the line of the main road and 3Tp advanced on his left. The enemy had left a few people behind in position and 3Tp was fired on by A/Tk guns at close range from some trees and had to fall back. By 0800 hours the enemy had cleared out and we pushed on. 1Tp on the right came across a minefield, but with the help of a Scout section got through it ok. Both Tps pushed on with the 1st RTR behind them until 3Tp came across a large concentration of MT at Z2396 with tanks and guns. These were immediately engaged by 22nd Armd Bde and the battle continued around this area all day. 1Tp on the right was held up by some guns and Infantry in a wadi across the main road at Z3093. At 1200 hours 2Tp went out and relieved 3Tp who came in. At 1500 hours we were ordered to move up more NW so as to get in front of the 22nd Armd Bde who were going to move NE. 2Tp moved about 2 miles NW and took a position up just in front of the 4th CLY. 4Tp was then sent out to 2Tp's old position. The situation remained like this for the rest of the day. Both Tps came in for the night which was spent at Z2294.
9/4/43	RHQ. 7th Armd Div was directed NE to GRAIBA and as 8th Armd Bde was advancing due North it was necessary to cover the left flank of 7th Armd Div. C Sqn were given this role, B Sqn were ordered to act as advance guard and A Sqn right flank guard with the additional roles of entering MAHARES and SFAX as soon as possible. The country was difficult to cross, heavy sand, cultivated olive groves and wadis. During the day the enemy took up a series of delaying positions and by night 7th Armd Div had reached EL AGAREB. RHQ leaguered with A Sqn at U6824. C Sqn. At first light 4Tp and SHQ pushed forward over the railway then NE to 4409 over rough and slow country. 3Tp remained with 8th Armd Bde, 5Tp Lt Woodhouse went to 1st RTR for liaison. B Sqn on our right was held up by A/Tk guns at 3904. In this close country there seemed to be considerable doubt as to who should move first after ACs were held up by A/Tk guns. If ACs halted to have a look, all the tanks halted also and there was considerable delay before they went on again. 0950 – 4Tp was at 4309 held up by A/Tk and soon after this 2Tp came up on his left at 4211. Soon after 1000 hours we all moved on the Bde axis along a track running NE from 4401 to track junction 5218. B Sqn were on the right and C Sqn on the left with A Sqn on the coast road. The advance proceeded slowly in the face of light rearguards with a few 88's in area U5321. 2Tp had to do a left flank guard on the road at 4019 whilst 4Tp had gone on to 4717. At 1530 hours 4Tp reported MET moving East along the road between 5036 and 5535 – first 10 and then more than 50. SHQ moved to his position and it was seen that all three tracks at 5535, 5533 and 5529 were carrying a steady stream of traffic East to the junction at SIDI AGAREB. This junction was made the objective of the Div with the object of cutting off all traffic on the 3 tracks. Progress was especially slow and 4Tp, later followed by SHQ, went out to track at 5328 to harass and delay. Two Tigers and MET at 4025. 5Tp went to 4824 in his Dingo to fill the gap. Unfortunately by this time we were short of cars. Our two reserves only just arrived and were with B1 as also was 1Tp held up



on a narrow track. The forward and rear link and one Daimler and one **Dingo** were all there were to harass the road.

4Tp went to the East at 5328 whilst SHQ went to 5328. 4Tp at first drew a blank but SHQ met a tank towing a lorry. An OP from 3rd RHA in a Honey tank with a gun strengthened our forces and after a running fight got the tank and crew, an M13 of the ARIETE Div. Three or four other lorries were engaged in the same area and these were hastily evacuated by their owners, most of whom made their escape in the very rough ground. Nine PoW were taken.

5Tp reported further MET moving East along the track at about 5029. 4Tp with his Daimler joined SHQ and stayed back to destroy the M13 with his 2pdr as HACs could not do this. SHQ then went West to the ridge to look for the MET reported by 5Tp. They met it just over the top – a column of 30 to 40 German lorries – the head only 300 yards away.

The column was immediately engaged with good effect, all the leading lorries turning tail and many of the crews bailing out. 4Tp was called up to assist and as he did so forward link had a stoppage and moved back 100 yards to clear it and to collect the OP who did not know what was going on. Lt de Wend Fenton unfortunately did not see the enemy and went right over the top of the hill onto an A/Tk gun. He stopped and engaged it, but after a few rounds an A/Tk shell pierced the turret, killing Lt Fenton and wounding the other two crew, Tpr Pettit and Tpr Webb, both of whom were picked up by SHQ.

After this it was decided to withdraw – which we did just before dark. We were fired on by our own tanks on the way in, but no damage. The wounded were taken over by RMO of 3rd RHA. 3Tp coming in went over a bank and turned over, but without damage. The crew slept by their **Dingo** and it was corrected early next morning.

A Sqn.

Orders for an advance on a Div centre line which ran roughly on a line of about 15 miles inland from the coast were received. 11th Hussars were to lead, A Sqn on the right, B Sqn in the centre and C Sqn on the left, all minor opposition was to be by-passed.

The Sqn moved at 0530 hours, across very bad going in the Wadi CHERITET with 3Tp Capt Churton leading. We reported a landing ground clear at Z2896 but ditches had been dug across it. B & C Sqns reported enemy NE of GRAIBA, but A Sqn pushed on and gained contact with the enemy at U4503 at approx 0700 hours. Throughout the rest of the day contact was maintained until the evening, in spite of very heavy going.

The country was very different to that which 11th Hussars are used to – we were going through olive plantations most of the time, which reduced visibility to 300 – 400 yards and the cultivated soil reduced our speed to 5 mph. It was ideal country for enemy rearguards with A/Tk guns. On the whole the Daimlers pulled very well.

3Tp located 4 MET (one with an A/Tk gun) SW of CHAHAL Station which they drove off with fire, killing one. For the rest of the morning they chased this bit of the enemy rearguard, culminating in a very successful action at U5514, resulting in the capture of one 75mm A/Tk gun intact, 4 MET destroyed, 5 Germans killed, about 5 wounded and 4 PoW.

At 1100 hours 4Tp Lt Wingfield Digby was sent into MAHARES to link up with 51st Div; he was withdrawn in the afternoon from this attractive fishing village.

2Tp were coping with Sgt Hall's car which had broken down and 1Tp were ordered at 1200 hours to take over as leading Tp from 3Tp who were low in petrol after the action in the olive groves.

Lt Williamson in his **Dingo** with 1 Scout car Cpl Pearce had been despatched to act as a link with 51st Div who were slowly advancing up the coast road.

At U4606 SHQ overran an abandoned workshop, capturing 42 M13's and 6 Italians.

The Sqn's objective was now to get observation onto the enemy who were pouring East from AGARES. 1Tp and 4Tp moved to X roads U6927 where they spent the night, hoping to intercept anything that came down the road, but nothing came. The Sqn were with Tac HQ 1 mile behind and we were all given a free display of fireworks, far better than any 4th of June show at Eton, by the enemy blowing up his ammunition dumps in the trees at U7227. The explosions were terrific.

B Sqn.

The Div was directed on U6230 and we were leading with C on our left and A on our right. The whole day was one big struggle against soft going and we found it impossible to keep ahead of the tanks.

After going 8 miles 3Tp got badly stuck so 1Tp was sent out on the right. The first rearguard position was soon dealt with by 22nd Armd Bde and while this was going on the three Tps remained in observation but could see very little owing to the country being very wooded.

1Tp tried to work up to the right of the enemy position but his progress was so slow owing to the going that the enemy had long gone before he could do any good. After this the advance continued and we found a track so the two outside Tps were called in and 4Tp and 2Tp went down the track in front



	of the Bde. The next enemy position was at U5018 and this consisted of an 88mm and tow 105mm and was again engaged. While this was going on the two Tps in front could get no observation so they were brought back in turn to refill and 2Tp was relieved by 3Tp so when the enemy withdrew 4Tp pushed on down the track with 3Tp close behind. These two Tps carried on down the track until they came on to the metalled road and at U5322 4Tp was fired on by an 88mm and had to get back behind a ridge. This 88 was engaged by our guns and immediately about 8 lorries came out of a wadi about 3 miles in front of 4Tp and withdrew North along the road. 4Tp Dingo would not start and 3Tp carried on down the road. He went for about 4 miles and came under Breda and MG fire from both sides of the road. He fell back a bit while 22nd Armd Bde was coming up behind. He was fired on again, this time by an 88mm so he got off the road and tried to work up amongst the trees. By this time the tanks of the 22nd Armd Bde and also their B1 lorries who seemed to have put on a spurt and gone through the tanks, had come up and the enemy opened up with about 4 guns. The Tp had to drop back a bit, and remained in observation for the rest of the day while the battle went on until dark. At last light the Sqn stayed at U5625 and 3Tp came in. By this time 2Tp and 4Tp each had only one Daimler left.
10/4/43	RHQ. The advance continued at 0600 hours and it was found that the enemy had retired during the night. C Sqn were called into reserve. A Sqn entered SFAX and the leading Tps were given a big reception by the inhabitants. 7th Armd Div was halted in the area U7246 and the Regt was ordered to push up the two roads leading North from SFAX. A Sqn proceeded on the eastern road and B Sqn on the main road. RHQ moved to U7855 during the evening. During the afternoon B Sqn made contact with the NZ Div at crossroads U7675 and then moved East to recce the roads running North between the coast and the main road. C Sqn. 2Tp who had stayed out the night came East along the track early in the morning, passing 2 Mark III and two 18 ton half-track carriers and 20 or 30 MET abandoned on the way – he also picked up a few stragglers, but after getting them on to the Div axis he put them down again as no one wanted them. 1Tp also came in and the Sqn went into Regt reserve. A Sqn. From the previous night's demolitions it was assumed that SFAX was evacuated. 1Tp was ordered to get observation onto the coast road from U7506 as the Highlanders were well behind our right flank owing to mines and demolitions on the coast road. 2Tp was directed on SFAX itself and arrived with 1Tp not long after at 0750 hours amidst prolonged cheers from the population who swarmed over the cars and made much of Lt Garrard. SHQ passed through SFAX at 0850 hours and Capt Crankshaw was told by a 51st Div officer – "Well, if the 11th Hussars were first into Tripoli, at least they did not best us for SFAX." Capt Crankshaw politely told him that we were ¾ hour ahead of 51st Div and already had one Tp 10 miles up the road. 4Tp meanwhile had been crossing some very difficult going and had Sgt Andrews car broken down at U7038, where Sgt Mitchell was sent to repair it. A Sqn was made responsible for the CHEBBA road running NNE and 2Tp with 1Tp in support with 1 Scout car Cpl Williamson were sent to clear mines. B Sqn were late in getting onto this road (the main road North to EL DJEM) owing to the going, so 3Tp was sent up it with Sgt Lovett and his Scout section. Both roads were mined and blown in many places, but by being careful and by good work of the Scout section with their sapper each, good progress was made. 3Tp found a train of 6 wagons full of German bully, sausage meat and so they helped themselves for A Sqn and remained there on guard until RHQ sent some lorries which, although promised, never came and 3Tp were withdrawn to SHQ in the afternoon. By 1100 hours 2Tp had reached a point 2 miles South of DJE BENINIA with 1Tp close behind. RHQ told me to halt them just as they were gaining contact with the enemy. While waiting, both Tps were replenished with petrol. Seven miles out of SFAX there was a demolition at U8746 and unfortunately the Sqn Ldr's car was blown up on a Teller mine whilst negotiating it. LCpl Martin, the driver, was wounded and had his right leg fractured, and so the only AC in the Regt which started the advance from EL ALAMEIN was knocked



	out temporarily. Later a German lorry we had picked up was also blown up, slightly wounding Tpr Cahill, Tpr Hillman, Tpr Crowe and Sgm Wylie. At about 1500 hours B Sqn on our left had caught up and we were allowed to advance. In spite of mines, by night fall all 2Tp was in CHEBBA after an advance of over 70 miles during the day. 1Tp spent the night there with them, also Sgt Fitzpatrick and the 2 mortar sections who took up their petrol and rations. The local populations of all places seemed delighted to see us, and Lt Garrard who speaks French and German well was able to take full advantage of all information. The Sqn spent the night at MELLOULECHE and felt very pleased with such a successful day's operations, also the Jerry food to eke out our rations which, though enough, were not more than enough. CHEBBA produced some local red wine which was readily sold. Four Italian PoW were picked up in SFAX by 2Tp, who got two Czech prisoners from 15th Panzers just outside; they were very talkative and anti-Nazi and were despatched at once to an Int officer in SFAX. It was obvious that 15th Panzers had used our road, for many tanks were left. The total bag of tanks found demolished and left by the road during the day was one Mark III, three Mark III Specials, five Mark IV Specials, one American half tracked White with 75mm gun, about 30 burnt out lorries, three bowlers in perfect working order but empty petrol tanks denoting the enemy was short of petrol and had to leave in a hurry. The unsatisfactory part of the day was just when 2Tp were about to make contact (they saw a staff car tearing round a corner out of sight) higher authority halted me; the enemy were going quickly but the more they are jostled from behind the more would be their confusion and the less time they would have for mine laying. The weather is lovely and the countryside gets more pretty the more North we go. B Sqn. The 22nd Armd Bde moved out at first light to area U7247 with the Sqn leading. This area was reached at 0900 hours without encountering any enemy. We were then told to move East and work up North along the main road and relieve A Sqn who were doing it. 2Tp and 3Tp went immediately to U8248 where 3Tp remained and 2Tp started working up the road. After going 4 miles he came across Lt Wingfield Digby A Sqn and took over from him. SHQ hit the road at U8243 and 4Tp was sent up to relieve 2Tp while SHQ came on behind. 4Tp took over and carried on up to U7775 where he came across the 8th Armd Bde and remained with them as the link for the night. At 1500 hours the Sqn was ordered to move East and work up North along the tracks on A Sqn's left who were on the coast road. At 1800 hours the Sqn reached U9369 and 1Tp went up the left track and 3Tp and SHQ up the right hand one. After going 4 miles everyone stopped for the night, 1, 3 and 4Tps remaining out. This was an unsatisfactory day as we never quite knew what was happening and we were shifted about all day.
11/4/43	RHQ. A and B Sqns reached the road KSOUN ESAF – EL DJEM during the morning when orders were received for the Regt to concentrate in area U7675 which it did at midday. C Sqn. At short notice we turned out to escort General Montgomery on a parade in SFAX. After the parade he inspected the Sqn, talking to all Tp Ldrs. In the afternoon we went North up the road and joined the Regt. A Sqn. I hoped to advance at first light to gain contact but higher authority would not allow it. SHQ and 4Tp moved forward to CHEBBA where we had breakfast. At 0700 hours the starter dropped his flag and 1Tp with Cpl Williamson's Scout section moved on and by 1100 hours had reached KSOUN ESAF from where I was not allowed to let them go on. SHQ had tried a cross country way, owing to the mines on the main road, but got badly stuck in mud out of which the Daimlers pulled better than the Humbers. At 1130 hours we were told that the KDG's were to take over our line and the Regt was to concentrate right back at U7863 20 miles South of EL DJEM – why in the hell? Not to be done down, however, we put in a quick bathe near RASS SALAKTA and arrived at the concentration area at 1500 hours. The Sqn was most disappointed at being pulled out but hoped that the idea was that we were to join up with the Americans near KAIROUAN. The real reason was that having got SFAX, 30th Corps had done its job and handed over the line to 10th Corps. However, we had had a few days pretty successful operations; the only criticism being that whenever we were about to gain proper contact with the enemy we were halted. We were naturally not told till afterwards that the reason was that 10th Corps were taking over the line.



	B Sqn. At 0630 hours we continued on up North and after going 10 miles 2Tp was sent out along a track which ran North between 1Tp and 3Tp. At 1030 hours the KDG's arrived and took over from us and all Tps returned to SHQ. At 1200 hours we moved back into reserve with the Regt at U7763.
12/4/43	RHQ. Received orders that 7th Armd Div would in probability remain in the same area for a week. At 1800 hours received orders to move at 0500 hours the following day. A Sqn. The day was spent in gun cleaning and completely digging out and re-packing the cars as we were told we would be there for 5 days. A party went bathing, Sgt Mitchell carried out certain repairs and by the evening when we were all set for a 5 day halt, the order came to be ready to move the next day. B Sqn. We remained in the same place and a party went into SFAX which was very disappointing. Another party went bathing.
13/4/43	RHQ. The Regt and 7th Armd Div carried out a peace march to KAIROUAN and leaguered 2 miles South of the town. A Sqn. We moved off at 0530 hours to a position 3 miles SE of KAIROUAN where we arrived at 1030 hours. The Sqn Ldr went with the CO to meet Lt Colonel Payne Gallwey. He was very well and we brought him back where he saw most of the Regt and got loaded with our precious whiskey. It was great to see him. There was much chat as to why the 7th Armd Div was up – we were neither in the line or right back in reserve, so maybe we were put out to be seen by the enemy Toc/R. The Sqn was still doing well for fresh meat owing to six sheep which Lt Williamson had bought on patrol – they had all travelled back in one White Scout car with seven men. B Sqn. We moved with the Regt to KAIROUAN and stopped about 2 miles South of it. This was a great day as we saw Colonel Payne Gallwey who is now commanding the Derbyshire Yeomanry in the 1st Army. We stayed here all April 14th and 2 recce parties went out to look at the country in jeeps.
14/4/43	RHQ. Regt remained in the same position and Sqn sent out parties to recce tracks running North from KAIROUAN. A Sqn. Capt Crankshaw and Lt Moore each took out a party to recce the area North of KAIROUAN with a view to the Div using it on three tracks running North. The ground did not always agree with the maps and there were several impossible wadis. It was decided that, in view of the extra Jerry food, a “white elephant” should be started again on the Echelon, this, with 15 rations given us for feeding prisoners (which we did not feed), might be useful one day.
15/4/43	RHQ. Regt moved to P0366 and remained in reserve, although A Sqn came under orders 22nd Armd Bde. A Sqn. The Regt was ordered to move to P0367. The road was very congested with traffic and no one seems to bother these days about air precautions which only shows how little we have been bothered lately. The Regt was on a slope overlooking a most lovely bit of vale and the countryside was covered with spring flowers. A Sqn came under orders of the 22nd Armd Bde (Brigadier Hinde) from midday. In the evening the Sqn Ldr with Capt Horsford went over to see the Brigadier who was only 4 miles away at P0664. The 22nd Armd Bde were parked on a ready made aerodrome – level with short grass and, as I thought what a perfect football ground it would make, I decided the Sqn must move over the next day. B Sqn.



	We moved about 15 miles to P0365 where we again sat.
16/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. The Sqn Ldr and Lt Moore reced the area SE of DJEBIBINA with a view to acting as advance guard to 22nd Armd Bde, but the ground there is not easy for ACs owing to several wadis with steep banks and a soft bottom. We met the Royals who were in the line. Saw Brigadier Hinde who allotted the Sqn a place on the enormous plateau just in front of Bde HQ and returned to bring the Sqn over in the evening. We expected to be here for 2 days before moving forward in support of 131 Bde who were to be on the left of the general attack on the ENFIDAVILLE line. The New Zealanders on the coast had been repulsed in a small scale attack and the line was believed to be strongly held, chiefly by Germans. B Sqn. 16th – 26th. Remained concentrated with RHQ.
17/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. Three recce parties consisting of Tp Ldrs and young NCOs went to at the area SE of DJEBIBINA. A Derbyshire Yeomanry AC was found at P2262 burnt out and with two men's remains still in it. SSM Moore arranged a burial and Sgt Mitchell examined the engine; the tyres on this car were still burning after 4 days. A football match in the afternoon met a quick end as the bladder broke.
18/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. Everything seemed very quiet and church services were held in the open without interruption and the men were able to wash clothes in a nearby wadi with running water. Capt Wingfield Digby, who had done invaluable work in the Sqn as a Tp Ldr since EL ALAMEN was transferred to B Sqn – his old Sqn. In the afternoon there was a Sqn Ldr's conference at RHQ to discuss the present establishment of ACs, Dingos, Jeeps etc in a Sqn. It was decided:- BLOCKQUOTE a) that 5 AC Tps were essential. b) that the Dingo was invaluable in enclosed country and the ideal Tp was 2 Daimler ACs and a Dingo in enclosed country and 2 Daimler ACs and possibly a Humber on the desert – anyhow 3 ACs of sorts. c) that in the case of 2 Daimler ACs and a Dingo it was essential to have at least one Daimler with the Echelon to replace any casualty – a Tp of 1 Daimler and a Dingo could not be considered workable except as liaison or in an emergency. At least three more DACs per Sqn should be available on B2 Echelon. d) that the Scout Tp should consist of 3 or at the most 4 Scout cars commanded by an officer in a Dingo who, when his cars are attached to AC Tps during operations, should be used for liaison duties. e) that the Jeep Tp should be abolished. f) that Sqn HQ should consist of 4 HACs as at present with 1 or possibly 2 Jeeps. Orders came for the attack on the ENFIDAVILLE line which was reported to be strongly held with Italians strongly stiffened by many Germans. A Sqn was to have a patrol at P0882 at first light on the 20th to feel forward up to the track running NW to BIRELOGLA. The 22nd Armd Bde less 5 tanks was to concentrate in the area South of SIDI ABEK by last light on the 19th. 11th Hussars less A Sqn to be in Div reserve.
19/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, RHQ, C and B Sqns moved to SIDI BOU HAMA in the afternoon. A Sqn. The Sqn Ldr with Capt Churton and Lt Moore with Sgt Trumper carried out a recce in Jeeps of the crossing of the Wadi KETEN in view of the forthcoming operations. Training was done in the morning; in the afternoon there was football and at 1600 hours the Sqn moved



	to P1075 where we spent the night just behind Bde HQ who got quite heavily shelled on arrival with the 2 ACVs as the aiming mark. 1Tp spent the night near DJEBIBINA with a Tp of the Royals.
20/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. 1Tp got badly stuck on their way out and had to have both their ACs hauled out by a 22nd Armd Bde Scammel. 2Tp took over their role and by 0700 hours were in observation in the area P0884. For 3 hours 2Tp was shelled spasmodically and during a hurried move overturned the Dingo (LCpl Atkinson) which was easily righted by Sgt Lovett and his scout section which was attached. 2Tp reported continuous movement of MET North and South at P0093, in all about 100 MET each way during the day. There was also movement on the road at P0885 and 2Tp might have been able to intercept some of the MET if it had not been that the ground in between was dead flat and covered by artillery fire at close range. SHQ with 1Tp, 3Tp and 4Tp spent the day at P114795 concealed in a cactus plantation from where an excellent view could be obtained of nearly everything 2Tp reported. There was spasmodic shelling throughout the day of tanks and gunners around us, but I think we escaped observation and we were not actually shelled ourselves. 2Tp had a very successful little action in the evening. A lorry was observed to go forward to P0584, drop some men on the ground and go away NW. Lt Garrard sent his Dingo LCpl Atkinson to try to capture them. The country between the Tps position is very flat and he had to cross 2 difficult wadis in the open ground and cover 2 miles in order to reach them; however he got up their position unobserved at 1800 hours and reported he could not see them. Suddenly the driver Tpr Bannocks saw over the side of the Dingo 20 Germans lying in the corn with rifles pointing at the Dingo. Both sides must have been equally surprised and it was a question of who should jump first. Atkinson could not depress his twin Bren guns enough so he fired over their heads hoping they would put up their hands, but no such luck; so he reversed 30 yards down the road and browned their position which must have caused some casualties but did not move them. If only LCpl Atkinson had had some hand grenades he could have gone back close to them and lobbed one or two over, which must have either hit them or made them give in, but unfortunately the Dingos are equipped neither with hand grenades or Tommy guns. Lt Garrard ordered LCpl Atkinson to remain in observation until he could come up with his 2 ACs, which managed to cross both the wadis but were seen just as they were coming up to the Dingo over a ridge. The Tp was heavily shelled by a 75mm at very short range and was obliged to withdraw without getting any prisoners. It was a great pity, as 20 Jerry sappers in the act of laying mines would have been a good bag and the Tp could have known that they were obtained entirely by their own efforts instead of just picked up as strays. One of the lessons was that all Dingos with AC Tps should carry grenades – they were fitted the very next day – and secondly that the Dingo is a very useful AFV in enclosed country because it is small and difficult to pick up. Lt Williamson brought orders from Bde to the effect that our orders for the next day were the same as the previous day. The 50th Div, NZs and Indians had made fair progress but it appeared that the holding attack on the 8th Army front was to be carried out as cheaply as possible.
21/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. 1Tp moved at dawn to 2Tp's old position at P080836. SHQ with the remaining Tps spent the day in the same place at P113795. 1Tp reported movement throughout the day at P050846 both ways and could see an enemy military policeman standing there on the road directing traffic. At 1400 hours a lorry which he had directed off the track in a SW direction, as if to relieve an Infantry post, went up on one of their own mines. The Sqn Ldr reported to the Bde Commander at RHQ 5th RTR at 0715 hours but the general situation on the whole front seemed unchanged. Reports of 1st Army successes were rather confused, varying between 17 and 35 tanks knocked out; whichever number was right, it served as Dutch courage combined with the RAF claims.
22/4/43	RHQ.



	Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. 4Tp moved at dawn to the same position of observation; this place has not been shot up now for 2 days, which bears out the policy of going out at first light when the ground mist still hides movement – and staying still for the rest of the day. At 0630 hours came a special request from the Corps Commander that a demonstration should be made in the direction of BIR EL OGLA to deceive the enemy that our attack was going to be put in towards PONT DU FAHS. 2Tp was ordered to proceed up to the farm at P066832 where he had nearly captured 20 Germans 2 days ago. He arrived there without being fired at but was not allowed to proceed North across the next wadi until covering fire could be arranged. The Royals who had a set on A Sqn's forward link were most helpful and though not in our Bde sent off an OP with a Tp of theirs up to 2Tp. Unfortunately the OP (a Stuart) went up on a mine 1 mile up the road North of DJEBIBINA which attracted Jerry's attention who plastered them with 88mm fire. The driver of the tank had his leg blown off and the Tp had to retire out of it. While waiting for support 2Tp picked up 5 German PoW at the farm. A German officer and 2 men had been on patrol the previous night and had been blown up on one of their own mines. A medical officer and his orderly were sent out but their vehicle had broken down and they had carried the wounded driver into the farm. Lt Williamson in his Dingo and Sgt Lovett with his White Scout car were sent to take the prisoners to Bde HQ for interrogation. They also took the Frenchman who owned the farm for being good enough to take in these Germans without telling us! Although Lt Garrard speaks fluent German he could get nothing out of them, no more could 7th Armd Div intelligence people. The Frenchman has since joined the Fighting French. At 1300 hours an enemy half track White Scout car came down the road at P080835 and when within 800 yards range, Sgt Hall could not resist firing at it with his 2pdr, thereby not only giving away the Tp's presence but also not getting full fire effect from the whole Tp shooting at once; the result was that the enemy White got back under cover before a second shot could be fired and soon after produced a 75mm firing at 2Tp at close range. The Tp had to withdraw, being shot at the whole time. Nothing much occurred during the day. The Colonel came up to see us; the Sqn Ldr paid 2 visits to the 5th RTR and when in the afternoon the Sqn was told to take over 5th RTR patrol the Sqn Ldr went to see the Brigadier at Bde HQ to arrange for the 4th Light Armd Bde to take over the left hand patrol we had done for the last 3 days.
23/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. Took over 2 patrols, 1Tp at SIDI ZID and 3Tp at FAREH EL RHEZIA. 3Tp who were without Sgt Green took Sgt Lovett and his Scout section to act as third car. SHQ were at the farm at P101855 which was alive with fleas and we were obliged to move a bit away. 1Tp could see parts of the road going to SOUAF and one Infantry position on the next ridge to them. There were at one time 12 men walking about on the track 1500 yards to their NW who appeared to be laying mines, but nothing could persuade them to come within proper Besa range. The gunner OP who was with 3Tp sorted them out with his 25pdrs. 3Tp were able to report considerable Infantry and MET movement to his NW and just failed to capture 2 enemy motor cyclists who came up to his Tp, stalking them between the houses with MGs. Throughout the day we had excellent co-operation with the 5th RHA and SHQ spotted for them and for the 3rd RHA in the 4th Armd Bde on our left. The Royals had a Tp ambushed by a tank and half track 75mm at the farm at P0683 and had their cars knocked out and had to come in on foot. We spent the whole afternoon trying to get the gun on to them. The B1 and Tps in rest spent the day at the village at 113795 where the Sqn leaguered for the night.
24/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. A Sqn. 2Tp went to SIDI ZID and 4Tp Lt Moore went to FAREH EL RHEZIA with a Tp of Sherman tanks close behind to secure these two Tps from a threat from the left as the wadi on their right was impassable. SHQ called on the 5th RTR on our way out and were told that only an hour ago 50 Germans in open formation had been seen only 500 yards away advancing on their leaguer but had been shot up at



	the last minute by a standing patrol. We soon discovered that this had been a mining party as Cpl Pearce's Scout car was blown up 100 yards East of X tracks P108821 after the whole of 4Tp had been over the spot, and the Tp Ldrs Sherman was blown up actually on the X track. 4Tp continued with the other 2 Shermans and Lt Williamson was sent across with Sgt Lovett to 'delouse' the area. Unfortunately Sgt Lovett's Scout car was blown up in the wadi track. 2Tp and 4Tp got to their positions alright as did SHQ at the farm at 102855. We had not been there 30 minutes before we were suddenly and very accurately fired on by a 150mm whose second shell fell 5 yards away from Sgt Fitzpatrick's Scout car, wounding Tpr Hulme in both legs and Tpr Smith '81 in the right arm and side, breaking his arm (he was seriously wounded). Tpr Shoals (driver of the Sqn Ldr's jeep) was slightly wounded in the leg. The armour plating on the White was not penetrated though it was hit and the wounded chaps were outside on the ground. The Sqn Ldr's jeep had one wheel damaged and the radiator punctured. We were able to get moving down the reverse slope just before the next shell landed in the exact spot where one of the cars had been 10 seconds before. The wounded were bandaged up, for which Jerry seemed to give us a respite, and sent back to the 5th RTR doctor. SHQ was again shot up and was moved out of every re-entrant up the wadi until we eventually got to the little branch wadi at P116830 where we remained untouched for the rest of the day. At approx 1000 hours both 2Tp and 4Tp were shot out of their positions, 4Tp going to P092835 and 2Tp joining the Shermans at P084860. 4Tp who had no cover except the corn were left for 2 hours and were then shot up until they got South of the DJEBIBINA – ENFIDAVILLE road, and as there was no longer any need for them they returned to rest with the B1. Meanwhile the B Echelon (SSM Moore) had arrived at the B1 but must have been seen getting there as within 5 minutes they were being shelled by 4 guns and in the period of ¾ of an hour 50 shells landed in the area. Although there were 3 petrol lorries there, the men behaved excellently and SSM Moore and Capt Churton and Sgt Trumper between them managed to get everyone away in ones and twos and the only casualty was LCpl Marsh (3Tp) slightly wounded (he is Capt Churton's operator). The whole lot returned to the area P122762 where they had been 3 days before and which seemed to be out of range of the enemy guns. For the remainder of the day 2Tp reported MET movement on the roads to their NW, Infantry in Sangers on the ridge opposite them and guns firing from every direction. The whole salient, which was occupied by the 11th Hussar on the left and the RB's and 5th RTR on the right, was the old story of "cannon to right of them, cannon to left of them". The enemy guns stuck in the wadis were impossible to see whilst the enemy could get OPs looking in on our flanks and could spot any movement on our part. Every bit of cover was ranged. The Sqn Ldr paid 2 visits to the 5th RTR to meet the Brigadier. The weather is not bad but it still rains quite often, the only advantage being that we can "splice the main brace" i.e. rum ration. The country is undulating and hilly with patches of cactus surrounding small native hovels. Most of the country is pasture land with a certain amount of growing corn. The spring wild flowers are quite lovely. There are a few French farmers whose property gets knocked about but they have made money by selling eggs etc to the Germans for French Francs which are, of course, worth nothing really.
25/4/43	RHQ. Easter Sunday. A divine Service was held in the morning. Remained in Div reserve less A Sqn. A Sqn. 3Tp with a 5th RHA OP in a Stuart were at the old place at SIDI ZID with a Tp of Shermans within a mile behind. 1Tp were in support concealed in an olive grove near the X tracks P108822. SHQ was in the cactus at P118790. 3Tp had about 15 shells on their position but stuck it out and were left alone after that. It appears that until one actually moves the enemy are not quite certain that one is there and if one does not move off while they shell you they think you are not in that place. On the whole it pays to stick out the first deluge as they are very accurate following one round on the move. Using the Dingo on a flank 3Tp Cpl Luke reported considerable movement during the day up and down the road at P0788 and the OP was able to direct the 5th RHA onto any movement and was so successful in dispersing groups of Germans that they all seemed to go away. 1Tp were able to report much MET movement on the road at P0588. It appeared that more stuff was going out of this "Thug" area. The general impression was that partly owing to the French Corp turning their right flank, the enemy were thinning out their line but leaving some well concealed and well positioned guns which were placed to receive less shelling than they could mete out. The Rifle Bde



	patrol on our right captured 3 miserable Germans which the Brigadier, who visited them, was proudly able to bring back on his Dingo.
26/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less A Sqn. C Sqn. At 1500 hours the Sqn moved out to take over a sector from A Sqn. SSM McCarthy, having reconnoitred the route, was leading the Sqn. After about 3 miles the track got very bad and, while going down the side of a wadi, the track gave way and the car overturned. SSM McCarthy and LCpl Jones tried to jump out as it went over but they both got trapped. Luckily there was a winch close by and after about 10 minutes we had them both clear. McCarthy had evidently suffered internal injuries for to our great regret he died a few hours later. LCpl Jones had a compound fracture of the leg but, as far as could be said, he should recover. We moved onto A Sqn area with the intention of taking over next day. A Sqn. 4Tp went to SIDI ZID and 2Tp to FAREGH EL RHEZIA. There was generally much less shelling than before and the usual cry was started at Corps HQ and then down to the fighting patrols of "suspected EBO (Enemy Baled Out); can you confirm or deny?". The Royals in the 4th Light Arm'd Bde on our left were pushing on as the enemy were evacuating the "Thug Area". At 1300 hours 4Tp pushed on and crossed the SOUAF road at P0889 and 2Tp came up on the left of 4Tp. 4Tp were slightly shelled but the enemy allowed them to stay in that area, having evacuated RAS EL KEF. The Rifle Bde on our right were unable to get forward. 4Tp found a minefield at P0988 stretching from the road North for 400 yards. SHQ moved forward from our hiding place in the wadi at P1284 and got its usual dose of shelling, but found a quiet place in a wood at P0884. Major Burdon, Sgt McHardy and Sgt Lawrence came to us in the evening to have a look around before taking over the line from us. The two Tps on patrol withdrew at last light and the Sqn leaguered in the usual place.
27/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve. C Sqn relieved A Sqn. B Sqn came under orders 22nd Arm'd Bde during the afternoon. And moved to concentration area. C Sqn. At first light 1Tp and 2Tp moved to P0888 and P089853. They were both accurately shelled by two Tps of 105's which they reported at P0753 and P1492, but this was from sound as they were both behind hills. 1Tp also reported an OP and an Infantry line on DJ. DARHAFLA. At last light he withdrew and joined two Tps of Royals. A Sqn. Having handed over to C Sqn we left for the Regt at 0630 hours and arrived at SIDI BON HAMA at 0730 hours. The remainder of the day was spent in maintenance though while in the line the two Tps not on patrol were able to do small jobs and get some rest. Changes were made in the Sqn mountings:- Sgt Asin went to command B2A Echelon, Sgt Longmate already being on B2. Cpl Gingell took command of Jeep Tp (only 2 jeeps). The greatest change was that owing to the sad death of SSM McCarthy (C Sqn), caused by his car turning over in a wadi, Sgt Trumper was posted as SSM of C Sqn and had to leave A Sqn forthwith. Sgt Trumper had done magnificent work as a Tp Ldr for over a year, was a great trainer of men and had made 1Tp into perhaps the finest Tp in the Sqn, a born leader – A Sqn's loss is C Sqn's gain. Sgt Green (3Tp) took over 1Tp (from where he originally came) and Sgt Turner who had been training the Sqn reinforcements on the Echelon went as Tp Sgt to 3Tp (Capt Churton). B Sqn. 27 – 29th. Attached to 22nd Arm'd Bde and sat at P2377.
28/4/43	RHQ. C Sqn came into reserve in the morning and in the afternoon RHQ, C & A Sqn moved to a concentration area at P2377. Regt remained in Div reserve. C Sqn. At first light the Tps returned to positions of previous day with the Royals Tps and handed over. They were again shelled but rejoined the Sqn after handing over.



	The Sqn joined the Regt again. A Sqn. We were expecting to stay here for a few days until the Infantry had been able to clear a gap up the coast road North of ENRDAVILLE for us to pass through. But orders came for us to move to SIDI AMOR in the afternoon. It surprised us that they moved the whole Div in daylight over to the obvious place for an attack; however it is not possible to tell the troops the measures taken for deception and one just has to do as one is told. I have asked Capt Poston MC (General Montgomery's ADC) to come and tell us "the form". The Regt moved to SIDI AMOR and the Sqn arrived "all up". The Sqn was issued with 3 "pool cars" (DACs as immediate replacements) and they were commanded by Sgt Moore, Cpl Drew and LCpl Cooper; the first two remained with the Echelon and the last named came with B1. The Regt had sent a lorry with an officer with £400 in his pocket over to the 1st Army for NAAFI kit (almost unobtainable in the 8th Army). He returned full of good stuff, such as whiskey, chocolate and cigarettes.
29/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve, less B Sqn still under orders 22nd Armd Bde. A Sqn. The day was spent in maintenance and cleaning. The Tp Ldrs went out in jeeps to have a look at the countryside. The Jeep Tp is invaluable when the Sqn is not in action, only 2 jeeps are necessary for various jobs such as taking Tp Ldrs out to get an idea of the country, recce of tracks and liaison with other units. When the Sqn is in the line the jeeps get an easier time though they are very useful as run-outs outside the "shelling area". There seemed to be masses of troops in the area and there was a lot of shelling at TAKROUVA (a high peak with a castle like building on the top) and beyond. At night the noise of the guns and the flashes indicated that activity on the front had not died down.
30/4/43	RHQ. Remained in Div reserve until midday when orders were received to the effect that 7th Armd Div were to come under orders 1st Army. Regt moved at 1530 hours at the head of 7th Armd Div. The Regt was ordered to move all night, but owing to there being no moon and the bad conditions of the road, the Regt was ordered to halt at 2200 hours in GUSSELTIA area. A Sqn. At midday there came an order which cheered everyone. We were to go to 1st Army and concentrate SW of MEDJESSEL BAB; the 4th Indian Div were to come as well. The attack up the coast from ENRDAVILLE would have been difficult as the enemy had strong positions and masses of guns in the mountains running parallel to the coast and would have been able to shell our only L of C. The Regt, leading the Div, moved off at 1515 hours and went down to the fork roads 6 miles NW of KAIROUAN where we halted for a quiet meal in preparation for driving through the night. We then went West through mountains and for the first time saw fir trees instead of the everlasting palm and cactus (although they were a change from no vegetation at all in the desert). It was a tricky road to drive on at night without a moon and we were halted at 2115 hours 2 miles West of GUSSELTIA for the night by the Div Commander who said that the road ahead was blown (it was not blown actually). The Sqn was "all up" except for Sgt Turner whose car was giving oil trouble. B Sqn. 30th – May 5th. Moved round with RHQ to 1st Army and remained concentrated with them.
May 1943	CO: Lt Col AT Smail
May 43	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/5/43	RHQ. The march resumed at 0500 hours. The roads as per the intended route did not exist and the road through SILIANA was therefore taken. LE KRIB was reached at 0930 hours and the Regt remained there for the day.



	A Sqn. The Regt moved off at 0500 hours and continued over hills until the country opened out near SLIANA and we were able to push on fast on an excellent tarmac road. The French seem to have built better roads in TUNISIA than they have in France where they are usually in a state of disrepair. We arrived at LE KRIB at 0830 hours having covered 124 miles since leaving the coast the day before. Sgt Turner's car was still the only casualty. The Regt was put on the side of a hill covered with blue anemones, with cattle, horses – not a bad type either – and goats all grazing together. It was a sight to cure eyesore from the yellow sands of the desert. Eggs were procurable at the local farms. There was a water point only 2 miles away and Major Wainman was not slow in discovering a bulk issue NAAFI in the village of LE KRIB. The 1st Army seemed to be much better off for NAAFI kit and comforts of all kinds than we were. However, the advantages of this comparatively civilised part of the world are off-set by the fact that it is very much less suitable for ACs because of the numerous wadis and hills.
2/5/43	RHQ. Regt remained at LE KRIB in Div reserve. A Sqn. The yellow and pale green camouflage on our cars for desert purposes made them very conspicuous on the green grass and cultivation and Capt Churton went out to scour the countryside for paint. By gentle persuasion over the odd bottle of beer, he and Sgt Mitchell were able to get enough paint to do every car in the Sqn. The Sqn Ldr with Major Turnbull and Major Burdon went up to MEBJEZ EL BAB and by walking to the top of Pt. 250, were able to get a good view of the front line. The Regt was under orders to move up into a concentration area.
3/5/43	RHQ. Regt remained at LE KRIB in Div reserve.
4/5/43	RHQ. Regt remained at LE KRIB in Div reserve. C Sqn. The Regt were in concentration area near LE KRIB. Reinforcement Daimlers had recently arrived and a fifth Tp was formed. 1Tp under Sgt McHardy (since Alamein) 2Tp under Sgt Lawrence (since Tripoli) 3Tp under Lt Lovett (since Alamein) 4Tp under Lt Champion 5Tp under 2Lt Creaton Scout Tp under Lt Woodhouse had 4 sections – Sgt Keene, L/Sgt Foster, Cpl Osbourne and LCpl Davies.
5/5/43	RHQ. 7th Armd Div were ordered to move to concentration area with a view to attacking the front NE of MEDJEZ EL BAB the following day. The plan being:- 7th Armd Div to pass through 4th Indian Div after they had secured the position. 6th Armd Div were to move on the right of 7th Armd Div. 78th Div to capture GEBEL BOUAOUKAZ on the left of 7th Armd Div. B Sqn came under orders 22nd Armd Bde. The Regt less B Sqn moved along two roads and leaguered in area TESTOUR. C Sqn. At midday we moved along MEBJEZ EL BAB road to SLOUGHIA. Remained with RHQ the night and assisted in extinguishing a fire which occurred on Regt's forward link. A Sqn. The Div was to move into position for the attack today – the great advance to TUNIS. The general plan was that under a barrage of 425 guns and 900 rounds per gun the 1st British Div and the 4th Indian Div were to take 3 objectives in succession about a mile apart NE of MEDGEY EL BAB and that the 7th Armd Div on the left directed on ST CYPRIEN and the 6th Armd Div on the right directed on DYEBET MEN



	GOUB were to advance through the gap when made. It was expected that TUNIS would be captured within 10 days. Although the enemy supply and transport situation was reported as chaotic, his troops opposite us in the line were crack troops, and were expected to fight well for a few days at least. At 1400 hours A Sqn moved out and followed the right hand half of the 22nd Armd Bde up the right hand of the 2 roads allotted to the Div. The track was so dusty it was difficult for the drivers to see. It was a good thing the Luftwaffe were not operating as we would have made an ideal target. The Sqn halted for the night when everyone else did and spent the night 6 miles south of MEDJEZ EL BAB. B Sqn. The Sqn came under command of 22nd Armd Bde and at 1000 hours main road towards MEDJEZ EL BAB for about 6 miles to join them. Our orders were to move up to the concentration area, behind 1st RTR and 5th RTR who were both moving on separate roads. 3Tp and 4Tp moved up on the left hand road behind 5th RTR and the rest of the Sqn were behind 1st RTR on the right hand road. We moved off at 1400 hours and stayed the night split up on the roads.
6/5/43	RHQ. The march continued at dawn. The 4th Indian Div secured all their objectives and by 0930 hours C Sqn was pushed out as left flank guard to 7th Armd Div. By evening the leading elements of 7th Armd Div had reached ST CYPRIEN. This left the left flank of 7th Armd Div rather exposed and A Sqn were brought in to the SW of C Sqn thereby covering the whole left flank. RHQ leaguered in area North of FURNA. C Sqn. An attack by 4th Indian Div commenced at 0300 hours with the object of making a gap for the 7th Armd Div of the 8th Army and 6th Armd Div of the 1st Army. The Regt was 7th Armd Div Troops, with B Sqn doing advance guard to 22nd Armd Bde and C Sqn left flank guard with A Sqn in reserve. The attack went well from the start and by 1030 hours 3Tp and 4Tp moved North after passing through the gap at 7141. 3Tp ran into an unmarked minefield and 4Tp came under mortar fire, but both were ok and the whole Div moved NE with only artillery opposing. At 1420 hours 3Tp leading were at 8143 when 4 half track carriers and some Infantry approached him from the North. At this time 4Tp were a bit to his rear at 741445 and the leading tanks ahead to the East. 3Tp then engaged the enemy approaching from the North and SHQ, 2Tp and 5Tp came to assist. There was considerable confusion in the area with a tank battle in the West and the country hilly and broken, but 3Tp caused them to bale out and they took cover in some diggings and a farm house. Some of our medium guns opened up on the farm and in the enemy's area but uncomfortably close to us so it was quietened down. 4Tp came on to join us and got mixed up with a tank battle, he was fired on by a 50mm at 500 yards and also MGs but no damage. A Tp of A Sqn took over our left and we started to move on a bit leaving 5Tp out left and 1Tp still in the same area. At 1700 hours the situation was much the same until 5Tp reported seeing some men moving in the area of the earlier engagement. He went in and collected 2 half track carriers, 1 MC and 19 PoW, all of them 69th Panzer Grenadiers. One half track had six 2pdr hit on it and the other, an American, was OK and taken on strength. Soon after a report of 20 enemy tanks in area K7949 had to be investigated which 5Tp did. He spent some time searching the area but found nothing more offensive than haystacks which some tanks admitted nearly reporting as tanksearlier on. At 7948 there were two 88's in action and they fired several rounds at 1Tp and 5Tp but no damage. 1Tp and 5Tp had to remain in the same area for the night and both were joined by a scout section before dark. A Sqn. The procession started to move on at 0530 hours and reached J7041 by midday. The attack had gone very well and the enemy had thinned out before the barrage started as they had heard it was coming. The Infantry had reached all their objectives, RAF support was colossal and the Armd Divs were loosed into the country. 11th Hussars, less B Sqn who were leading 22nd Armd Bde, were to protect the left flank of the Div. At first C Sqn were sufficient but later when the wedge into the enemy became longer and therefore the flank more extended, A Sqn were put in and 1Tp were sent to take over C Sqn left hand patrol at 1545 hours. 3Tp were sent out at 1615 hours on 1Tp left and captured 8 Germans while under fire from an A/Tk gun. Both Tps reported considerable MET movement SW EL BATHAN including 10 tanks and eight 88mm who succeeded in bringing down one of our Bostons just before dark. 2Tp were on patrol next to SHQ and reported until dark on MET moving which seemed to indicated a



	move out. 4Tp was sent to join 1Tp and they spent the night together near a farm at J7645 where 2Tp was on the left blocking the road running South. The remainder of the Sqn were at J7643 for the night. B Sqn. The whole Bde moved off at 0500 hours up behind the 4th Indian Div who were gaining all their objectives. At 0900 hours the Bde was ordered to go through the Indians and direct themselves on ACHOUR. 3Tp pushed out NE to cover the Bde's left flank and 1Tp went SE to MASSICAULT to cover the right. 4Tp followed on with 5th RTIR and SHQ came along with Bde HQ. There appeared to be very little opposition except for spasmodic shelling. 3Tp on the left was held up by the odd A/Tk gun, and 1Tp on the right took some time in getting into MASSICAULT. When he did get in he was unfortunately bombed 3 times by the Bostons and also smartened up by our Shermans. By 1500 hours the Bde were on the high ground at ACHOUR with our left and centre in positions of observation to the North and NE with 1Tp observing to the South and SE. The whole outfit remained like this until dark when all Tps were called in and we spent the night at ACHOUR.
7/5/43	RHQ. The 7th Armd Div continued its advance at dawn and by 1200 hours leading elements had reached the high ground 4 miles to SW overlooking TUNIS. B Sqn entered TUNIS at 1545 hours. C & A Sqn continued observing on the left flank. Heavy rain in the evening, RHQ leaguered at J9052. C Sqn. At first light all continued with the same roles. 1Tp continued NE till he gained the DJEDEIDA – ST CYPRIEN road. He was bombed by 6 FW 190's, near misses and no damage. 4Tp went to 8554 and was bombed by Kittyhawks, no damage. 5Tp got on top of DJ MAHRINE where he was relieved by A Sqn after finding much derelict stuff including 88mm. 5Tp then continued North up the road towards TEBOURBA. At 0630 hours he reported explosions and fires in EL BATHAN. He advanced to 7953 and took 3 PoW on route and gained the road at 7954 by 0915 hours. At 0917 hours 5Tp Ldr's car was fired on by A/Tk guns in the village at 8054 from close range. The first shot missed by a yard, the second shot went through a wheel and through the sump, but the car managed to carry on for 500 yards and the crew all escaped with the remainder of the Tp. 0930 hours – General situation. Head of Div at foot of high hills 9353 with B Sqn trying to push along main MEDJEZ – TUNIS road against A/Tk opposition. DJEDEIDA was still held but demolitions in progress. Further West enemy troops appeared to be those in village at 8054. This village was shelled and 7 or 8 tanks and 2 ACs moved out eastwards in a hurry. By this time a route was being found over the top of the hills between the 2 main roads. 3Tp went over the top of the hill to find the most direct route into the outskirts of TUNIS. B Sqn were by now in the outskirts of the town and meeting quite a bit of resistance so orders to all Tps less 5Tp were to close in on TUNIS as quick as possible. The town was still occupied by German troops, but as our troops entered the population started leaving their houses and filled the streets. A large block of flats near the entrance was held by Germans who fired rifles and threw grenades through the windows – all cars sprayed the windows liberally as they passed and finally a Sherman put a few 75's into it causing some 3 to 400 Germans to come out. 2Tp who were entertaining a staff photographer had a near miss from a grenade which slightly wounded the photographer but they fixed him up OK. A staff car containing 2 Germans drove up close to the Tp Ldr's car and threw a grenade at the car – the grenade failed to go off and a burst of Besa through the windscreen settled the Germans. Tps divided on entering the town and aimed to get right through to the far side, clearing what resistance they met on the way. L/Sgt Nash who was with SHQ engaged and KO'd a 75mm A/Tk gun which he met well sited just round a corner. The population were all for helping and had plenty of information in very excited French, which no one could understand. Several troops were hopelessly immobilised by thousands of men and women endeavouring to shake hand with or kiss the crews. SHQ were on the wrong road and reached the harbour first and engaged a rowing boat and caused 3 Jerries to bale out into the drink. Several hundred prisoners were collected. 3Tp had an engagement with a 20mm Breda and a mortar which they fixed up, together with some 20 or 30 men who were holding the road. 2Tp took about 20 vehicles with 35 PoW of all three branches of the services. By dusk the town was in the hands of the civilian population, many of whom had guns, some were MGs with which they engaged Germans and Italians if there were any handy, and if not they fired them just the same.



We all pulled just outside the town for the night meeting up with our B1 and B Sqn about 1 mile outside. A Sqn.

At 0515 hours 1Tp moved on NE keeping close touch with C Sqn left guard. 1Tp pushed on and by 0900 hours was in a good position at J8150 and for hours reported on tanks moving about to the NE. 4Tp had a good position on some high ground on 1Tp left and reported explosions in EL BATHAN and movement on the far side of the river.

The enemy was undoubtedly on the run and there were many Germans, who must have missed the last vehicle, to be seen walking away or hiding in houses and cactus plantations. 4Tp discovered a German half track and a "Chicago Piano" (4 20mm coaxial mounted Flak guns – excellent) and 1Tp found another Chicago Piano, Lt Williamson and his Tp fetched them all in.

At dawn 3Tp had moved on and at 0715 hours was ordered to go to EL BATHAN and report whether the bridge was blown. At 0815 hours Sgt Turner's car was blown up on a double Teller mine in EL BATHAN. Capt Churton reported the bridge blown and 2Tp relieved 3Tp at midday and Sgt Moore with a pool car took Sgt Turner's place.

SHQ had a good position from where we could do OP for the guns which shelled any enemy movement on our front, our shelling moved on quite a lot of enemy tanks and MET which one would never have believed were there. In the afternoon it came on to rain hard which made visibility difficult but B Sqn were getting on well in the race for TUNIS which is all that mattered.

At 1400 hours Lt Williamson with his two mortar sections – Sgt Fitzpatrick and LCpl Hainsworth were despatched to 2Tp at EL BATHAN and was ordered to proceed along the main road to TUNIS, 2Tp leading. The country was very enclosed and the bridge South of DJEJIDA was blown delaying matters considerably, but by 1810 hours 2Tp reported that they had reached the railway crossing 4 miles East of DJEJIDA with 5Tp close behind in support and 4Tp only ½ mile behind them. 2Tp had halted and Sgt Hall was talking to Lt Garrard. Suddenly Sgt Fitzpatrick heard German gunners not 400 yards away in the trees to his North giving out fire orders, all three Tps had run into a nest of guns and it was discovered the next day that there were two 88's on the North and two 88's on the South not 300 yards from the road, supported by 20mm and at least 150 Infantry dug in, it was a very strong position.

Something had to be done quickly and Sgt Fitzpatrick had hardly shouted up to the **Dingo** in front of him (Lt Williamson) before the first shot came, fired at Sgt Hall's car which was leading. There was a ditch on this narrow road which made turning round out of the question. By the time the second shot came Sgt Hall and Cpl Firth had moved down the road followed by Lt Williamson and managed to get out of the 88mm fire plus a hail of SA unscratched.

However Lt Garrard's car was hit, first by having the 2pdr gun shot away and after the crew LCpl Marley, Tpr Cox and Lt Garrard had bailed out the car was hit again and went up in flames. Lt Garrard managed to get away by wriggling through the corn, Cox and Marley were not quite so lucky and were taken prisoner.

The night was very uneasy for the Sqn as one of the car commanders there reported that he had definitely seen Lt Garrard killed, he turned up next morning covered in mud from head to foot, but with a broad smile. Meanwhile the two Whites had been forced to dismount while the initial shooting was on and lie in the corn, where any movement, even a blade of corn moving, was raked with SA fire.

They were unable to go forwards or backwards or turn around. One white was hit and when Sgt Fitzpatrick and Tpr Lane during a lull in the shooting, got back into the White to try and turn round they were shot at again and the car put out of action.

The only thing now was to try to get away through the corn. LCpl Hainsworth was hit in the chest and taken prisoner and was well attended to. Both crews, in twos and threes, managed to make a getaway in the dark, and everyone fetched up at SHQ, RHQ or Div HQ the next day except for LCpl Hainsworth who was recaptured by the CLY together with LCpl Marley and Tpr Cox.

4Tp were able to get out of this tricky situation backwards and Sgt Andrews gave some very good covering fire. That night the Sqn reported Lt Garrard as killed and 10 ORs missing. Lt Williamson with the remainder of 2Tp spent the night with the CLY and explained the situation to Lt Colonel Scott who was very helpful.

B Sqn.

At first light we were ordered to send one patrol along the road to TUNIS and another was sent to the high ground NE of STCYPRIEN.

The Bde moved to the high ground NE of STCYPRIEN. 3Tp had quite a lot of difficulty in getting along the road owing to isolated A/Tk guns and his right flank was very open because the 6th Armd Div on his right was being held up by some tanks and A/Tk guns. He managed to work his way along slowly, helped by the 1st RTR who were moving along behind him. In the centre the Bde managed to get on to the high ground without opposition, but 1Tp could not get to his objective owing to 10 enemy tanks. These were moved by the 4th CLY and at 1200 hours 1Tp arrived at his objective. 4Tp arrived on the



	high ground but was held up on his way to his second objective which he eventually managed to reach at 1400 hours. When the Bde had cleared up the ST CYPRIEN area they were ordered to advance into TUNIS. 2Tp was advancing slowly along the road and at 1540 hours he was in TUNIS, the first British troop to get in. 1Tp was ordered to join 4Tp and they were directed on TUNIS and entered it about 1615 hours. SHQ entered from the West at 1645 hours. When 2Tp entered TUNIS there were still a large number of Germans in it who were very surprised to see him. He was sniped at from houses and had grenades thrown at him, also he was besieged by the local population who were so pleased to see him. He called for help and 3Tp was sent straight off to help him. Meanwhile 1Tp and 4Tp were having a battle just inside TUNIS, with a Tp of C Sqn, against chaps in houses and a 20mm A/Tk gun. They fought their way through the streets and fetched up with 2Tp at about 1700 hours. After this the Sqn was drawn out of the town and we spent the night complete just outside. During the morning a few shells landed in the area of SHQ and one wounded Sgt Bull in the leg. This was very unfortunate as Sgt Bull had been with the Sqn since the first push against the Italians in 1940.
8/5/43	RHQ. C Sqn ordered to push up on road TUNIS–BIZERTA. A Sqn on road TUNIS–MATEUR. B Sqn on road TUNIS–LA GOULETTE. RHQ moved to area 8 miles NW of TUNIS. C Sqn. From orders received the night before SHQ and 4 Troops skirted the town and advanced up the BIZERTA road and 2 tracks on either side of it. 1Tp on the right 2Tp and SHQ on the road and 3Tp on the western track with 4Tp in reserve. 1Tp caught a Bty of Italian searchlights with crews and sent them marching off to Tunis. 4Tp took a track at K0266 and picked up a German staff car with 6 German officers—the Town Major of TUNIS with all his staff. 0620 hours. 2Tp who had plain sailing along the road as far as X roads J9575 saw some lorries and men in the area of the X roads and was engaged at close range by an A/Tk gun, which fired 3 shots, but managed to miss with them all. 0730 hours. 4Tp was having good pickings along his track. First batch was 20 heavy lorries and trailers with 100 Italians on board – the Tp then divided into two parties of 1 car each. Sgt Martin in his car took 300 PoW with 160 officers and their transport and the Tp Ldr took over 500 PoW with 50 lorries and trailers. One staff car started to escape to the North but a burst of Tommy gun caused 3 Majors to bail out. These were the only rounds fired. 1030 hours. The bridge at PROTVILLE was blown up and soon after the tanks and 2Tp moved up the road as far as PROTVILLE after which further progress was impossible as the river was 40 yards wide, 3 feet deep and a soft bottom. 1200 hours. 1Tp was still pushing North towards GALAATEL ANDELESS. The going was very soft and several times cars were bogged. In the afternoon he reached the village and found an aerodrome with one Ju52 and its ground crew complete and considerable AA defences including three 4 barrel 20mm weapons on trailers which we took on our strength. Also some 70 PoW all German and several officers. The river was impassable to ACs but A Sqn were on the other side. The afternoon was spent trying to organise and get rid of PoW. A Sqn. 1Tp, 3Tp and 4Tp were ordered to go into TUNIS to contact the 22nd Armd Bde. The general idea was that TUNIS would be cleared up by an Infantry Div while the 7th Armd Div were to push out NW. By 0645 hours Capt Churton was still unable to gain touch with the 22nd Armd Bde in TUNIS so all three Tps were ordered to push out West and gain contact with the enemy. 1Tp soon gained contact with C Sqn on our right and 3Tp found the CLY dealing with the four 88's who had caused so much trouble last night. They quickly took the enemy position for the loss of 2 Shermans and recaptured LCpl Hainsworth, LCpl Marley and Tpr Cox. Capt Churton was ordered to work with the CLY and give Colonel Scott any assistance required as he was directed due North up the road to SIDI TABET. 1Tp also worked with them on their right front. 4Tp was ordered to examine the knocked out Whites. The enemy was by now showing definite signs of being routed – prisoners (all German) were coming in thick and fast and quantities of kit was being found abandoned, partly destroyed, but mostly intact except for vehicles which are burnt out. 1Tp pushed on to SIDI TABET and down to the river where they found an excellent diesel lorry which



	they spent the next few hours trying to get mobile. While doing so they collected 25 Germans, mostly from the 15th Panzers, by firing over the river at them on the far side. The enemy was persuaded to be taken prisoner easily but found the river too deep to walk across so were obliged to pay 50 francs each to natives with horses who ferried them across. Not bad for trade – 50 francs to be made PoW. One very fat Oberlieutenant, was too heavy for his horse and turned turtle in midstream. At 1000 hours the Sqn was given the Troad at SIDI ATHMAN as its objective for the day. 3Tp was then at the railway bridge over the river East of DJEDEIDA where the bridge was intact but needed planks to enable vehicles other than trains to cross. Capt Churton collected 6 Germans on the far side of the bridge by walking across on foot. At 1030 hours SHQ found a ford at DJEDEIDA, 3Tp was directed on to the high ground 1 mile NW of CHAOUAT and captured 60 Germans hiding in the farms and olive groves on the way out of the village. A gunner OP was with 3Tp. SHQ were soon up and took over observation from the excellent position from which we found many targets for the gunners to shoot at, and enable 3Tp to advance into the low ground to the North where they took a further 160 Germans PoW. They were lying in the corn or trying to get away and were armed with MGs. This was done under the nose of a 50mm A/Tk gun which somehow or other failed to fire on 3Tp, but later on shot up SHQ in its own time. LCpl Soar took charge of this herd of Jerries and drove them back under shellfire in fine style. Meanwhile 4Tp had come up and was operating on the East of the road. Lt Moore captured 2 officers and 60 ORs who were sent back on their own, but they were very willing sheep on the whole. At 1700 hours 3Tp was ordered to patrol West and endeavour to gain contact with the Americans who were supposed to be pushing East from MATEUR. Capt Churton found a light reconnaissance patrol consisting of 2 Honeys, 2 White half tracks and 2 Jeeps at 1800 hours, 5 miles West of CHAOUAT but hardly had time to say “pleased to meet you” before they saw some tanks (completely imaginary) over the ridge and careered off “back to HQ for support” and could not be seen for dust. On their way in 2Tp and 3Tp collected 10 more prisoners between them making 330 odd Germans during the day, many of them from the JAEGER Regt of the crack HERMAN GOERING Div. The Sqn spent the night at CHAOUAT where the SSM and B1 with 1Tp and 5Tp had moved during the afternoon with a certain amount of jockeying for position with Churchill tanks at the ford crossing in DJEDEIDA. B Sqn. We came under command of the Regt and at first light we sent 1Tp to COURELAT, 2Tp to MARSA and 3Tp to ANDELASS. 2Tp and 1Tp collected so many prisoners in their area that 4Tp and two sections of 5Tp were sent down to help. Both these between them collected about 10,000 Germans and Italians. 3Tp on his way North collected about 200 Germans. We were then told to leave 3Tp out all night and bring the others in.
9/5/43	RHQ. C Sqn held up by Wadi MEJERDA at PROTVILLE. A Sqn crossed Wadi MEJERDA in area DJEDEIDA. B Sqn called into reserve. C Sqn. Sqn was ordered to try and cross the MEDJERDA to the North of PROTVILLE. 4Tp and 5Tp went to 39787 to try and do this. They found a ford but it was impassable owing to a steep way out. There were a number of Jerries on the North bank who were apparently desirous of surrendering. One German half track got over and 6 lorries got stuck in the river. The Germans said they had officially surrendered at 0500 hours that morning and were annoyed when they and 4Tp and 5Tp were shelled by the Americans from the North. The Sqn Ldr and the half track White newly “taken on strength” went to organise recovery of the vehicles in the river. First it was necessary to cross the river which was done by the Sqn Ldr in the back of a mule cart which was a wet business as it was necessary to throw the owner driver overboard for refusing to obey orders and driving badly anyway. A visit to a farm in a Jerry staff car ½ mile North resulted in another 200 PoW together with the ex head of Ordnance in TRIPOLI, a rather drunk but definitely pro British Austrian owner of the chateau. He also owned several staff cars and some good lorries which were taken on strength. All these had to be towed over the river by the half track which took all day. PoW had to walk a long way. As it was impossible to get lorries across the river with men on board they had to organise their own crossing. This was done on mules owned by locals who charged 50 francs a trip. Two PoW who tried to economise by sharing an aged mule were deposited in the deepest part when the mule fell down. A Sqn.



At dawn 1Tp Sgt Green was sent out to try and contact the Americans and then work up to the Troad at SIDIATHMAN while 2Tp were to work up to the East of it. No Americans appeared to be coming from TEBOURBA and Sgt Green immediately pushed on with only his own car and his Dingo, Sgt Gullick's car had broken down, and reached the Troad at 0730 hours having captured two 88's with crews (10 PoW) and 2 half tracks on his way. These guns having shelled us the night before had been shelled by our 25 pdrs and all the enemy moral appeared to be shattered. Some tanks were seen advancing down the road from MATEUR which turned out to belong to the American Arm'd Div who were directed on PORTO FARINA. Lt Williamson with 1 White had been sent to liaise with the American HQ (US 2nd Corps) and had had to go to MATEUR. Lt Garrard was sent in a flash Mercedes staff car to liaise with 1st British Div near DJEDEIDA.

The Troad was the Sqn objective which we had gained. A Sqn were the only British troops in the whole 1st Army operating across the MEDJERDA river and as PORTO FARINA was considered as the "dough Boys" baby it was touch and go whether the Sqn having done its job would be recalled but Major Wainman without hesitation gave me permission to push on with the Americans, excellent.

3Tp had by now come direct up the main road from CHAOUAT and was sent East to get in touch with the leading American tanks which were 2 miles on, to advance parallel to the PROTVILLE road on the North side with 2Tp on the South, in actual fact they got on so quickly that both Tps went down the main road with 3Tp in the lead. Having reached the Tjunction North of the river near PROTVILLE 3Tp and 2Tp turned North up the main road to BIZERTA and after 2 miles Capt Churton was up with the leading American tanks who were advancing fast unopposed. By the time they reached the turning to PORTO FARINA prisoners were beginning to come in large numbers. I was told that the German wireless had announced that resistance in North Africa had officially ceased the night before so that any opposition from now on could be treated with severely (even more so than usual).

Capt Churton and Sgt Hall were 3 miles from PORTO FARINA at 0945 hours and were pushing along nicely with the Americans when the Americans suddenly halted. There were the most enormous explosions going on in and around the town and it was imperative that we should get there as soon as possible to avoid further destruction of MT, guns and valuable equipment of all sorts. When Capt Churton asked the Americans why they had halted he was told that "an attack on a pre-arranged plan would have to be put in by an artillery barrage followed by an Infantry attack with two Bns. As the American Infantry were miles away these plans would cause a long delay and Capt Churton having appreciated the necessity for speed asked them if they would follow him into town if he went on well ahead. This suggestion they unwillingly agreed to and by 1000 hours 3Tp followed by 2Tp were in PORTO FARINA at which moment the Americans, by way of demonstrating their joy, put down a few rounds of gunfire into the town to the fury of 2Tp and 3Tp. SHQ was up with the leading troops within minutes to find Lt Col Lawson had arrived just before with the American Arm'd Divs.

There was much bucking on all sides and the traffic jam was amazing – A Sqn ACs with the American Shermans jockeying for position to go one way while thousands of Germans were endeavouring to come the other way in their transport, all through very narrow streets over which the civilian population was surging, cheering themselves hoarse. There was German equipment galore, a few tanks, much MT and many guns – most of it burning furiously. (An Intelligence summary a week before the attack had said that the Germans had only 24 88's left in the whole of North Africa though I myself counted 40 by the road between CHAOUAT and PORTO FARINA).

Why they did not resist is unbelievable, they could have lasted many days more, it was amazing to see the haughty Germans being taken prisoner by the thousand and motoring down the road into captivity of their own accord. It seemed that they were completely disorganised due to:-

- 1) The terrifying artillery barrage which Germans who had fought on the Russian front say is worse than anything there.
- 2) The incessant bombing attacks by the RAF.
- 3) The speed and might of our Armoured thrust on Tunis which split the enemy in two and cut his L of C.
- 4) Their own mistakes:-
 - a) Failure to decide until too late to hold a shorter line making them thin on the ground.
 - b) Failure to appreciate where our thrust was coming.
 - c) Their fear of the 8th Army which meant that on the ENFIDAVILLE Line they wasted many excellent troops (e.g. 90th Light Div) defending ground which would have been easy to hold with two men and a boy, and only thinly defended the MEDJES Gap which was the obvious way into Tunis for the tanks.

To continue with the operation Capt Churton at 1100 hours went on to the North of PORTO FARINA to endeavour to prevent any more destruction of enemy equipment. He was unable to get his car on to the beach so, accompanied by a German Hauptman from 15th Panzer as an interpreter, he dismounted and walked along the beach armed with a revolver, the place was teeming with Germans, some of whom were making rafts (the height of optimism), one of which turned over on



	launching. Happily they were quite amenable and in 3 hours Capt Churton had collected single handed about 9000 prisoners which he handed over to the Americans. Some of the prisoners said they had spent the whole of the night before sending messages to their families in Germany that they were "all well and would be safely in captivity the following day". 1Tp had come up and were making the most of a large German food dump and loaded up four ten tonners for the Regt. 4Tp and 2 scout car had also arrived to help with the prisoners. The whole area was littered with kit of every description and violent explosions were still going off. At 1500 hours I received orders to withdraw and spent the night by the railway East of DJEDBA, having picked up the B1 with SSM Moore at CHAOUAT the Sqn concentrated at the railway crossing. Lt Garrard and Lt Williamson had been recalled from their liaison jobs and everyone felt healthily weary after having completed a good job of work, there was a feeling of achievement – the Sqn was all together again and we could go to sleep without the thought that we must get up in the dark and "have observation on to the enemy at first light". We could for once look back at what had happened with no feeling of apprehension at what might happen tomorrow or the next day. One felt that the goal that everyone on the Western Desert had been fighting for since that landmark in history, when Italy on June 10th was "brave" enough to stab France in the back, had been partially attained – the Dago had been evicted from all his possessions in Africa, so it now remained for him to be put out of the war altogether by Italy being obliged to sue for peace. Except for the capture of England, the worst thing that could have happened for us during the course of the war, would have been the capture of the Suez Canal, one may safely say that this is out of the question. After Tunis the "press" of the 11th Hussars was terrific and the wireless for several days devoted much of its commentaries to broadcasting to the world the high traditions of the 11th Hussars and even the conservative Times of London described the Regt as "those incomparable paladins, the 11th Hussars". From now on the Sqn was with the Regt and so apart from the following facts the War Diary closes until the next campaign wherever that will be. During the advance from MEDJEZ EL BAB to TUNIS the Sqn bag was:- Killed 20 Prisoners 9 officers, 340 ORs At least 10 88's and some field guns, also about 50 MET. Over and above this masses of equipment including lorries, guns (and several Generals) fell into our hands, most of it was more than the Sqn could handle on its own and it was handed to the tender care of the Americans. B Sqn. Joined up with the Regt and remained with them ever since.
10/5/43	RHQ. All Sqns called into reserve at RHQ.
11/5/43	RHQ. Remained in same area.
12/5/43	RHQ. Regt moved to BOUARADA.
13/5/43	RHQ. 13th – 19th. Regt remained at BOUARADA.
20/5/43	RHQ. Commenced move to HOMS Night spent 12 miles South of KAIROUAN.
21/5/43	RHQ. Night spent at OUDREF.
22/5/43	RHQ.



	Night spent at BEN GORDANE
23/5/43	RHQ. Night spent at GASR GHIAR.
24/5/43	RHQ. Arrived HOMS

Regimental War Diary for the Period 24th May 1943 to 19 August 1943.

1. GENERAL

The Regt arrived at HOMS on the 24th of May and went into camp area half a mile East of HOMS village on the sea front. The ruins of Leptis Magna were situated half a mile East of the Regt. The remainder of the 7th Arm'd Div were concentrated East and West of HOMS. There was a great shortage of tents and Sqn's were forced to improvise shelters, cookhouses, messrooms etc. The weather on the whole was good although there were two periods of very hot weather accompanied by sandstorms.

2. TRAINING

Individual training commenced about 10 days after arrival. This included wireless, MT, Gunnery, mine clearing, first aid and map reading. A considerable number of Regimental trade tests were carried out in order to muster personnel for the new trades of Gunner Mechanic, Gunner Operator, Driver Mechanic AFV. Squadron fitter staff came under control of the Technical Officer and all vehicles were completely overhauled. Training commenced on the 8th of August although a certain amount of individual training continued. A number of WOs and NCOs were sent on courses to the Delta.

3. ESTABLISHMENT

The Regt was brought on to a new War Establishment which allowed for additional NCOs and men to cover the White Scout Tp per Sqn and the Regimental Troop of 75mm guns. It was impossible however to obtain these guns. This WE also allowed for an increase in fitters and motor mechanics.

4. OFFICERS

The state of officers by Sqn's and RHQ on 19th August is shown below. Major Stuart French and Major Lloyd had returned to the Regt on the 28th of July and 16th of June respectively. Major Turnbull left the Regt to go to the USA on the 28th July 1943.

C Squadron		A Squadron	
Major	WV Burdon MC	Major	RFHP Stuart French
Capt	JAN Crankshaw MC	Capt	A Reid Scott MC
Lt	OM Wentworth Stanley	Lt	JW Garrard
Lt	JDA Woodhouse	Lt	RH Moore
Lt	JS Champion	Lt	DAF Williamson
Lt	DA Creaton	Lt	WN Donald
Lt	RAK MacAllen	Lt	WGG Hunt
Lt	GJ Lovett		
Capt	H Petch MC DCM		
B Squadron		RHQ	
Major	DPJ Lloyd MC	Lt Col	AT Smail DSO
Capt	TO'B Horsford MC	Major	W Wainman MC
Lt	RE Wingfield Digby MC	Major	HC Roberts
Lt	WN Wells Cole	Capt	CV Churton MC
Lt	GH Newton	Capt	RR Lockett MC
Lt	D Thomson	Lt	JR Ballingal MC
Lt	JD Burridge	Lt	EK Brown



Lt EAI Young	Lt KL Osborne
	Lt RH Evans
	Capt(QM) Chadwick MBE

Attached.

Capt JM Balmer RAMC	
Capt EAD Jones REME	

5. VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Major General Erskine DSO GOC 7th Armoured Division.

On 4th June Major General Erskine inspected the Regt on parade (dismounted) and made an address. He afterwards inspected the camp area.

His Majesty The King.

On June 20th the Regt moved to OLIVETI (approx 20 miles West of TRIPOLI) to take part in a revue of 7th Armd Div by HM the King.

The Regt was drawn up on either side of the road and the King walked down the line. The King had expressed a special wish to have tea with the officers and after the parade, all officers were presented to HM and he had tea in a marquee which had been erected.

Colonel Kavanagh who accompanied the King as Equerry dined with the Colonel and Sqn Ldrs that night.

Lt General Horrocks (Commander 10th Corps)

On August 7th Lt General Horrocks paid a quick visit and met the Colonel and Sqn Ldrs.

Miscellaneous

Visits were also made by Lt Col K Alexander 11th Hussars in his capacity as Commander Police Training Depot Almaza, Lt Col Lawson 11th Hussars who was attached to the American Forces and Major Grant Thorold 11th Hussars who was Bde Major 2nd Armd Bde.

6. LEAVE

A percentage of officers, WOs and Sgts were sent on a few days leave to Cairo. Leave was possible for ORs in Tripoli but this was not popular as it was a long journey (75 miles) and Tripoli did not provide a great number of amenities.

7. SPORT

The Leptis Magna aerodrome was situated about half mile from the camp. This was turned into a Sports Ground comprising football and hockey and a running track.

The Regt was knocked out in the third round of the Div football cup. In the Div hockey competition for which 31 teams were entered the Regt reached the final where they were beaten by the 3rd RTR 2 goals to one.

An inter Sqn football league was held and later a Troop knockout competition.

Sqns and RHQ each held a sports meeting and this was followed by a Regimental Sports meeting, which resulted in C Sqn winning the Championship.

8. AWARDS

A total list of awards gained by the Regt in North Africa is attached as Appendix A.

9. CASUALTIES

A list of casualties sustained by the Regt in North Africa is attached as Appendix B.

10. ENTERTAINMENT

Lt Osborne formed a Regt Concert Party which gave several shows. The Div organised nightly shows in Leptis Magna theatre and there was also a cinema in the village of Homs. The hotel in Leptis Magna was turned into a Soldiers Club (the Jerboa Club) and was much appreciated by the men. The nearness of the sea gave all ranks great opportunity for bathing.

Appendix A HONOURS AND AWARDS

DSO & Bar

Lt Col AT Smail

Lt Col JFB Combe

Major P Payne Gallwey



DSO

Lt Col WI Leetham
Major AG Miller

MC & Bar

Lt CA Halliday
Lt GEC Dier

MC

Lt	WVH Gape	Major	DPF Lloyd	Lt	WHG Cunningham	Capt	A Reid Scott
Capt	JAN Crankshaw	Capt	RR Lockett	Lt	HMC Clarke	Lt	JB Turner
Lt	Wingfield Digby	Major	F Turnbull	Major	WV Burdon	Capt	H Petch
Capt	GV Churton	Major	W Wainman	Lt	AW Paton	Lt	JR Ballingal
Capt	TO'B Horsford	Lt	JW Poston				

Mentioned in Despatches

Lt Col WI Leetham Capt A Reid Scott Capt E Chadwick Major RHM Grant Thorold
Major W Wainman Capt JA Friend Capt TO'B Horsford Capt JJ Justice (RAMC)

MBE

Lt AK Ames (RAOC) RSM W Woodward RSM E Chadwick

DCM & Bar

Sgt H Hutchinson

DCM

Sgt Parker C Sgt Peacock J Sgt McHardy W Sgt Prince W
Sgt Lamb C

MM & Bar

Sgt Lyon H

MM

Sgt	Bowyer T	Sgt	Taber A	Cpl	Chambers W	SSM	Chapple E
TSM	Clarke E	Sgt	Lamb C	Tpr	Murphy H	Sgt	Peacock J
TSM	Scrivener	Tpr	Blake W	Sgt	Cameron J	SSM	McCarthy E
LCpl	Lyon H	Sgt	Christmas A	SSM	Trumper L	Sgt	Bull L
Sgt	Green	Cpl	Luke	Tpr	Evans W	Tpr	Lawrence E



BEM

QMS Hardinge E Sgt Parker C Cpl Deprose RAOC S/Sgt Jones RAOC
Sgt Moore RCS TSM Pearce RCS Cpl Standen RCS Cpl Blackburn RCS
LCpl Draper RCS

Card and Mentioned in Despatches

Sgt Mines G Sgt Peacock J

Mentioned in Despatches

Cpl	Savigar W	Cpl	Aslin	Sgt	Salt W	LCpl	Stanford
Sgt	Christian C	Cpl	Lister	Sgt	Parry W	Cpl	Markham J
LCpl	Ramsell T	Sgt	Knight P	Sgt	Gender N	Tpr	Lenton R
SQMS	Whipp L	Cpl	Wood E	SSM	McCarthy E	LCpl	Stump C
LCpl	Naylon M	LCpl	Cosgrove J	TSM	Dyson C	SSM	Kitchen W
Sgm	Walker RCS	Sgt	Reynolds RCS (twice Mentioned)	Sgm	Smith RCS		

Appendix B

Casualties

OFFICERS

Killed in Action

Lt WVH Gape 2Lt AL Jacobson Lt JW Peacock Lt P Palin Evans
2Lt Viscount DAN Stuart

Died of Wounds

2Lt Al Smithers Capt R Kellock RAMC

Wounded

Capt DJP Lloyd 2Lt A Reid Scott Capt HSCayzer 2Lt PF Stewart
Major JCAD Lawson Lt J French Lt RH Moore

Missing

Lt JB Turner (believed dead)

Prisoner of War

Brigadier JFB Combe 2Lt TB Brewin (wounded)

OTHER RANKS

Killed in Action

Tpr	Baker M	TSM	Bowyer T	Tpr	Buckler K	Tpr	Bambury C
Tpr	Blakey C	Tpr	Clarke C	Tpr	Coles F	RQMS	Chapple E



Tpr Charman S	Tpr Dunthorne D	Tpr Frogatt L	Tpr Howells '99
LCpl Hitchins	Tpr Howells '29	Sgt Lucy A	Tpr Manning P
LCpl Panchem W	Tpr Potter T	Tpr Ralstein C	Tpr Sutton T
LCpl Sawyer A	Tpr Simpson R	Tpr Shaw T	Tpr Sadd G
Sgt Taber A	Tpr Vivier G	Tpr Wash R	Tpr Worthington J
Tpr Winslade A	Sgt Wood E	Tpr Watham M	Tpr Walburn G
Sgt Whitehouse A	Pte Lillywhite RAOC	Tpr Underwood RE	

Died of Wounds

Cpl Grimsey J	Tpr Hunt A	Tpr McVay W	Tpr McGuire J
Tpr Pearson G	Sgt Mines (PoW)	Tpr Hamilton	Tpr Smith '81

Wounded

Tpr Allen L	Tpr Addis	Tpr Archer C	Tpr Attwood B
Cpl Adams A	Tpr Beverley D	Cpl Bailey T	Tpr Blake W
Tpr Brown R	Tpr Brown T	Tpr Buckett C	Sgt Bull L
Tpr Carroll W	Tpr Crowther W	Sgt Cameron J	Tpr Christie J
Cpl Cornish A	L/Sgt Chambers W	Tpr Clifton F	Tpr Cunningham M
Tpr Cairns L	Tpr Cahill P	SSM Clark F	Sgt Chambers W
Tpr Dumper E	Tpr Eacock A	Cpl Carley W	Tpr Evans T
Tpr Evans W	Cpl Emery A	Tpr Fry	Tpr Ferguson
Tpr Fidler C	Tpr Friend A	LCpl Firth J	Tpr Firth J
Tpr Cairns L	Cpl Gingell V	Tpr Chisholm N	Cpl Grayston F
Tpr Cahill P	Sgt Galpin C	Tpr Crowe	LCpl Greensides L
Cpl Green A	Tpr Hill	Tpr Horton V	Tpr Hastings J
Sgt Hoyland T	LCpl Hale W	LCpl Horwood J	Tpr Hawkins E
Sgt Hutchinson	LCpl Howard C	Tpr Hillman A	Tpr Hulme
Tpr Hainsworth	Tpr Jee D	LCpl Jones '01	Tpr Keen A
Sgt Kay	LCpl Laxley H	Sgt Lamb G	Cpl Longmate J
Sgt Lovett A	Tpr Lenton R	Tpr Leech C	LCpl Luke
LCpl Lamb G	Tpr Lamport P	L/Sgt Mitchell G	Tpr Muscatelli
SSM McMahon F	Tpr Murphy H	Tpr Murphy P	Tpr Myers B
Sgt Merrick J	Tpr Murphy H	SSM McMahon F	LCpl Martin
LCpl Marsh	Cpl Nash F	Tpr Nottingham J	Tpr Northey T
Tpr Oliver S	Tpr Oakes A	Tpr Oliver M	Tpr Osborne W
Cpl Petrie G	Tpr Powell A	Sgt Parker C	Tpr Pollard C
Sgt Pegg W	Tpr Pinfold W	LCpl Palmer W	LCpl Peckett A
Tpr Paske J	LCpl Parker G	Tpr Pettit P	LCpl Riani A
Tpr Robinson W	LCpl Ramshaw R	Tpr Rose F	Tpr Robinson W
Tpr Strong R	Tpr Shrobury R	Tpr Shoals J	Tpr Shaw C
Cpl Stewart J	LCpl Shuttleworth G	Tpr Smith F	Tpr Stewart
L/Sgt Sater C	Sgt Smith	Tpr Smith	Cpl Tappern J
Tpr Waittard A	Tpr Wright W	LCpl Webster A	Sgt Whittaker



Tpr West V	Tpr Whittington C	Tpr Williams S	LCpl Woodmead
LCpl Ward F	LCpl Winterbottom J	Tpr Woodward A	Tpr Webb H
Pte Burfitt RAOC	Pte Chamberlain	Spr McLaren	Cfm Sayer RAOC
Sgm Wylie RCS			

Prisoners of War.

Tpr Burns H	Tpr Brown B	Tpr Briggs R	Tpr Baxter D
Cpl Buckledee	Tpr Crack R	Tpr Crowther F	Tpr Crampton H
Tpr Day W	LCpl Evans J	Tpr Edwards F	Tpr Edwards G
Tpr Freeman D	Tpr Fenn C	Cpl Grayston A	Tpr Gainer R
Tpr Gay D	Tpr Gainer F	Tpr Gibbon L	Tpr Garman J
TSM Howath H	Tpr House R	Cpl Horton F	LCpl Holdsworth E
Tpr Hamilton J	LCpl Hoppe F	Sgt Howells G	Tpr Howley A
Tpr Jones J	Tpr Jones '070	Sgt Kynes H	Tpr Kenny J
Tpr Kimpton F	Tpr Moston C	Tpr Maddox E	LCpl Loise L
Tpr Nightingale C	Tpr Neil J	Tpr Preist E	Tpr Parrott C
Tpr Rogers E	Sgt Rich G	LCpl Ramsell T	Cpl Robinson C
Tpr Robinson W	Tpr Randall W	Tpr Robinson A	Tpr Stone J
Tpr Smith A	Cpl Sater G	Tpr Stevens W	Tpr Smons F
Tpr Smith E	Tpr Timmons W	Tpr Vivian E	Cpl Winterbottom
Tpr Walburn G	Tpr Wesley D	Tpr Wright T	Tpr Wills J
Tpr Young E	Spr Jee RE	Spr Rogers RE	

September 1943

CO: Lt Col AT Smail

Sep 43

11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)

4/9/43

C Sqn. 4th – 15th.
Waterproofed all vehicles and awaited embarkation orders.

8/9/43

B Sqn.
The whole Sqn left HOMS at 0900 hours and took up a position in the assembly area just outside TRIPOLI. The order was given to waterproof all vehicles, this was cancelled the next day. Whilst in the assembly area the Sqn was given a section of two 75mm guns on White half tracks and as a result the Sqn had a busy time learning about this new weapon. We were given invaluable assistance by Major Armitage of 3rd RHA.
The Sqn had received two new drafts while at HOMS which resulted in the following mountings:-
SHQ.

HAC	HAC	HAC	DSC
Major Lloyd	Capt Horsford	SSM Beard	Capt Holloway
Sgt Orchard	LCpl Byard	Tpr Gear	Tpr Cartwright
LCpl Oakes	LCpl Allen	Tpr Elsmore	

DAC

DAC	DAC	DSC



	1Tp			
	Lt Wingfield Digby	Sgt Street	Cpl Hitchcock	Lt D Thomson
	Tpr Thacker	LCpl Russell	Tpr Kellsall	Tpr Perry
	Tpr Dunsdon	Tpr Jones '23	Tpr Midcalf	
	2Tp			
	Lt Burridge	Sgt McGuire	Cpl Evans	Cpl Ruder
	LCpl Jones '44	Tpr Gormally	Tpr Fyfield	Tpr Myers
	Tpr Umpleby	Tpr Chambers	Tpr Hardman	
	3Tp			
	Lt Newton	Sgt Richmond	Cpl Wilkins	LCpl Cunningham
	LCpl Scott	Tpr Nichols	Tpr Goodwin '38	Tpr Breakell
	Tpr Mercer	Tpr Burton	Tpr Stevenson	
	4Tp			
	Sgt Mathison	Sgt Bull	LCpl Sambrooke	Cpl Stewart
	LCpl Blades	Tpr Goodwin '42	Tpr Holmes	Tpr Roberts
	Tpr Waister	Tpr Jones '91	Tpr Higgins	
	5Tp			
	Sgt Lyon	Sgt Peckett	LCpl Grey	Cpl Freeman
	LCpl Lyon	Tpr Lloyd	Tpr Worthington	Tpr Hempsey
	Tpr Stonier	Tpr Oakley	Tpr Grundy	
	Scout Tp			
	DSC – Lt Wells-Cole, LCpl Proctor			
	DSC – Sgt Gardiner, Tpr Bennett			
	White	White	White	White
	Cpl Markham	Tpr Halstead	Cpl Short	LCpl Grayston
	Tpr Morriss '91	Tpr Wills	Tpr Phillips	LCpl Clarke
	Tpr Humphrey	Cpl Hardy	Tpr Pearson	Tpr Hawkin
	Tpr Skidmore	Tpr Garrod	Tpr Malkinson	Tpr McAvoy
	Tpr Stringer	Tpr Hasted	Tpr North	
	75mm Gen Section			
	DSC – Lt Young, Tpr Jenner '84			
	No. 1 Gun No. 2 Gun AA Gun Sgt Cobley LCpl Edwards Cpl Hornsby Tpr			
	Jenner '04 Tpr Bailey Tpr Grinnell Tpr White Tpr Higson LCpl Baguley Tpr Morris			
	'14 Tpr James Tpr Sanders Tpr French Tpr Harknett Tpr Stevens			
	B1 Echelon B2 Echelon B3 Echelon Tpr Raynes SQMS Pegg Tpr Hamilton Tpr			
	Pratt Sgt Greensides Sgt Purkiss Tpr Mills Tpr Whittington Tpr Jones '79 Tpr			
	Evans '73 LCpl Willetts LCpl Hughes Cpl Langmead LCpl Ricketts Tpr Stokes			
	Tpr Kay '11 LCpl Swincoe Tpr Moore Tpr Lines Sg Nobes Tpr Dykes Tpr Otway			
	Tpr Callaghan Tpr Philps Tpr Hickford Sg Davidson Tpr Oliver '44 Tpr Merrity			
	Tpr Dean Tpr Jordan Tpr Tassell Tpr Heywood Tpr Oliver '52 Tpr Keeling Tpr			
	Webster Tpr Hudson Tpr Ogden Tpr Gabbittas Tpr Evans '40 Tpr Pipes Tpr			
	Blackmore			
16/9/43	C Sqn. 16th – 19th. Embarked on LST 368 and sailed. A very pleasant and uneventful journey to ITALY landing South of SALERNO.			



19/9/43	A Sqn. After ten fly ridden days spent in a filthy assembly area at TRIPOLI to complete 3 months rest and re-fit at HOMS; we set sail at last for EUROPE to bring Hitler's war to Hitler himself. The Regt had never set out on an operation better equipped and a Sqn now consists of SHQ, five Troops of 2 DACs and dingo and a spare car for each Troop, a White Scout car Troop and a Troop of two 75mm guns mounted on half track Whites. So we not only have our old AC role but also light but highly mobile gunners and the Whites do Infantry and RE's work. Major Stuart French has taken over the Sqn with Capt Reid Scott as 2i/c, and SSM McHardy DCM as the SSM. The Tp Ldrs are: 1Tp Sgt Green 2Tp Sgt Hall 3Tp Lt Williamson 4Tp Lt Moore 5Tp Lt Garrard 7Tp Lt Donald (Scout Tp) 10Tp Lt Hunt (75mm) After delaying the whole day in Assembly Marshalling yards we eventually started driving on to out LST (77) at 1800 hours and what with all the reversing and half of the Sqn going up the lift on to the top deck we were not finished until 0100 hours the next morning.
20/9/43	C Sqn. Assembly area completing de-waterproofing and received orders to take over recce patrol at MONTECORVINO from 46th Recce Regt on the front of 131 Bde. A Sqn. 20th – 21st. It was a great day for the PAO to sail away from North Africa where we had had great sport but everyone was about due for a change. The CO and Major Wainman were on our ship with some of RHQ. Each Sqn had a ship to itself and there were 8 LST in the convoy with a small escort of a few motor launches. The Officers Mess in the Wardroom and the troops lived on Army rations cooked centrally in the galley. Everyone was pleased to be able to have a laze in the sun on the deck and except for the inevitable lifeboat drill there was nothing to do except to admire the blue of the Med. Two thirds of the Sqn slept in bunks, the remainder on deck which was infinitely preferable. Major Wainman and the Sqn Ldr slept on top of their cars to obtain full benefit of the sea air at night. The three day voyage was spent in much "dossing" and reading and a little card playing and there were no incidents with torpedoes and such menace. B Sqn. Sqn embarked on LST No. 362 at 1900 hours.
21/9/43	C Sqn. 21st – 26th. Sqn in forming up area BATTI PAGLIA awaiting take over role of protective recce on the right flank 131 Bde on axis NOCERA – SCAFATI – POGG TOMARINO. Sqn had under command one Bty 24 Fd Regt (8 x 105mm Priests).
22/9/43	A Sqn. We were due to beach at 2000 hours but there was much jostling amongst the ships and we hit a sandbar 100 yards from the shore twice before we managed to find the channel and eventually we started driving off at midnight. Although there was no moon and we were not allowed any lights the whole Sqn drove to the 11th Hussars concentration area, which was about 3 miles from the beach, without accident which speaks highly for the standard of driving.
23/9/43	A Sqn. 23rd – 27th. These five days were spent in sorting things out and beating off the mosquitoes at night. The normal precautions which seemed so irksome when practised at Tripoli were willingly carried out and the yellow anti malaria tablets were rigorously taken. On the whole everyone was delighted to be on European soil. To feel that one was in a civilised country with greenery to look at instead of the eternal sand and to make one screw up one's eyes.



	Conditions will on the whole be much better, but as regards operations the country looks most unsuitable for ACs; the hills are unscaleable mountains and the plains are flat and very thick with trees and cultivation affording no positions of observation. It is as yet too early to say but I fear it is unlikely that the PAO will be able to play such a prominent part in the war as they have previously. B Sqn. Landed at 0700 hours without opposition. Proceeded to 7th Armd Div concentration area at 779718 and joined the rest of the Regt less C Sqn.
27/9/43	C Sqn. At 2200 hours Sqn had orders to move as per march table through SALERNO towards NOCERA. Spent short night at SALERNO. Sqn role was protective recce of right flank of Div. B Sqn. Capt Holloway left at 2200 hours in SHQ Dingo to act as liaison officer at Main 7th Armd Div.
28/9/43	C Sqn. At first light moved slowly through SALERNO towards NOCERA. 1Tp ahead of Sqn with leading tank Sqn to take over right flank. 1200 hours 1Tp reported approaching SARNO. Many demolitions on route. 1900 hours remainder of Sqn and Bty concentrated S. MAURO. A Sqn. 46th Div have the job of forcing the NOGERA pass on the SALERNO – NAPLES road. After several days of stiff fighting the enemy were driven back and the 7th Armd Div were allowed to advance, the order of march being 131 Bde with C Sqn under command, 22nd Armd Bde and 11th Hussars; everyone was confined to one road so the Div covered 25 miles in a long line and progress was deadly slow. We moved out at 1030 hours in the order RHQ, A Sqn, B Sqn and by 2100 hours we were in SALERNO, having been only 17 miles and to improve matters there was a thunderstorm and it rained all night. A few of the Sqn had their first experience of billets and managed to get under a roof. B Sqn. At 1200 hours moved with RHQ and A Sqn to SALERNO arriving at 2200 hours in a very severe thunderstorm and we stayed there for the remainder of the night.
29/9/43	C Sqn. 2Tp went to S. VALENTINO with OP of 28th Fd Regt. 3Tp went to SARNO and FRAINA encountering considerable demolitions of houses across the road. 4Tp tried to find a way but all routes were demolished beyond our repair. By noon 3Tp were in SARNO and trying to get beyond but meeting with heavy artillery and MG opposition. 4Tp had gone round and joined up and 56th Div were coming up to take over our axis. Enemy resistance was shelled by 24th Fd. Both main branches of SARNO river had all crossings blown except SCAFATI which was captured intact. A Sqn. The Regt was called for up in front so we started at 0400 hours in the dark in order to overtake 22nd Armd Bde who were parked nose to croup up the road; but as it turned out we were not needed and we spent the night on the side of the road 1 mile West of PAGANI. 131 Bde were in front and were badly held up by mines and demolitions along the only road. B Sqn. At 0430 continued on and spent the night at ANGRI.
30/9/43	C Sqn. 3Tp and 4Tp endeavoured to move along SARNO – PALMA road which was 56th Div axis and the only way through to the NW. Bad congestion of traffic doing single track. Enemy were shelling SARNO area. 5Tp was also sent up to be in a position to relieve 3Tp and 4Tp and by 1000 hours 5Tp had turned left off 56th Div axis and was in STRIANO. Demolitions had to be cleared and 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp spent the night in area 5048. Shortly after midday SHQ and Bty of 24th Fd Regt moved North to FRAINA. Here SHQ and reserve White crew were accurately shelled by a heavy gun, killing Tpr Le Masney and badly wounding Tpr Adams, Tpr Hampson and Tpr Leack, Adams and Hampson subsequently died. It also caused considerable



	damage to vehicles including 12 tyres. SHQ returned to FRAINA to reorganise. OP with 2Tp had a good shoot at enemy guns and MT in area 4847. A Sqn. This day was spent in waiting by the side of the road and we moved on for 2 miles and spent the night 1 mile East of SCAFATI. B Sqn. At 0600 hours moved 2 miles West along the road to SCAFATI where we spent the night.																								
January 1944	CO: Lt Col AT Smail DSO																								
Jan 44	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)																								
4 – 22	On the 4th January we docked at Glasgow but did not disembark until late the following night when the Regt entrained for BERKHAMSTEAD, arriving at midday on 6th Jan. Here we were met by Major W Wainman and Major Burdon who had come home a month earlier as an advance party. The camp we were given was in Ashridge Park, a pleasant enough place but bitterly cold. It consisted of Nissan huts joined by cinder tracks and almost entirely lacking comforts. It was 4 miles from Berkhamstead station (1 hour to Euston) but there was little for the men to do when off duty. Disembarkation leave began at once on the following scale:- Those abroad for less than 2 years -2 weeks Those abroad for less than 4 years -3 weeks Those abroad for more than 4 years -4 weeks It was mostly finished by mid February when Privilege Leave began. Lt Col and Major Wainman set an example to the Regt by getting married shortly after returning home and their lead was widely followed.																								
23 – 31	On 23rd Jan Lt Col Smail relinquished command of the Regt after holding it for 18 months – from before Alamein till after the return from Italy. His departure was not unexpected but was none the less regretted for that. Major Wainman now took comd with Major Stuart French as 2i/c. Major Turnbull returned from USA to comd A Sqn. Since arriving home great changes had taken place in the Regt. Armcd Car regiments were henceforth only to be Corps Troops and so we reluctantly left 7th Armcd Div and came directly under command 30 Corps. More important, the establishment was greatly increased and a new Sqn (D Sqn) was formed under Major Crankshaw. This increase involved much promotion among NCOs and large new drafts of men, so training occupied the Regt throughout February and March except that on the 14th February the Regt travelled to St Alban to be inspected by General Montgomery and on 24th February General Eisenhower. Attached are lists of :- Officers who returned from Italy with the Regt. Officers serving with the Regt on 23rd February																								
Roll of Officers who Returned from Italy with the Regt. C Sqn <table><tr><td>Major</td><td>WV Burdon MC</td><td>Capt</td><td>JAN Crankshaw MC</td></tr><tr><td>Capt</td><td>GJ Lovett</td><td>Lt</td><td>OM Wentworth Stanley</td></tr><tr><td>Lt</td><td>JDA Woodhouse</td><td>Lt</td><td>JS Champion</td></tr><tr><td>Lt</td><td>DA Creaton</td><td>Lt</td><td>RAK MacAllan</td></tr><tr><td>Lt</td><td>ME Wild</td><td>Lt</td><td>RN Brett Smith</td></tr><tr><td>Lt</td><td>J Gale</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		Major	WV Burdon MC	Capt	JAN Crankshaw MC	Capt	GJ Lovett	Lt	OM Wentworth Stanley	Lt	JDA Woodhouse	Lt	JS Champion	Lt	DA Creaton	Lt	RAK MacAllan	Lt	ME Wild	Lt	RN Brett Smith	Lt	J Gale		
Major	WV Burdon MC	Capt	JAN Crankshaw MC																						
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Lt	DA Creaton	Lt	RAK MacAllan																						
Lt	ME Wild	Lt	RN Brett Smith																						
Lt	J Gale																								



A Sqn

Major	RFHP Stuart French	Capt	Wingfield Digby MC
Lt	JW Garrard	Lt	RH Moore
Lt	DAF Williamson	Lt	WM Donald
Lt	WGG Hunt	Lt	KL Osborne
Lt	RD Sutton	Lt	GR Micklem

B Sqn

Major	A Reid Scott MC	Capt	TO 'B Horsford MC
Lt	GH Newton	Lt	D Thomson
Lt	JD Burridge	Lt	EAI Young
Lt	ATR Nicholson	Lt	RCT Svwright

RHQ

Lt Col	AT Smail DSO	Major	W Wainman MC
Major	H Petch MC DCM	Capt	GV Churton MBE MC
Capt	RR Lockett MC	Lt	JR Ballingal MC
Lt	EK Brown	Lt	RH Evans
Lt	RE Barnett MBE	Capt	E Chadwick MBE

Attached

Capt	JH Balmer (RAMC)	Lt	EDA Jones BEM (REME)

Roll of Officers Serving with the Regiment on 23rd February 1944

C Sqn

Major	WV Burdon MC	Capt	JA Friend MC
Lt	J Gale	Lt	OM Wentworth Stanley
Lt	JDA Woodhouse	Lt	DA Creaton
Lt	RN Brett Smith	2Lt	EV Esch

A Sqn

Major	H Petch MC DCM	Capt	Wingfield Digby MC
Lt	KL Osborne	Lt	DAF Williamson
Lt	WM Donald	Lt	WGG Hunt
Lt	RD Sutton	Lt	GR Micklem

B Sqn

Major	A Reid Scott MC	Capt	TO 'B Horsford MC
Lt	WM Wells Cole	Lt	RCT Svwright
Lt	JD Burridge	Lt	EAI Young
Lt	ATR Nicholson	2Lt	IG Troup



2Lt	RA Flood		
D Sqn			
Major	JAN Crankshaw MC	Capt	GJ Lovett
Lt	RAK MacAllan	Lt	RH Moore
Lt	GH Newton	Lt	ME Wild
2Lt	WG Llewellyn Palmer	2Lt	M Hickman
2Lt	RD Horsfall		
RHQ			
Lt Col	W Wainman MC	Major	Stuart French
Capt	GV Churton MBE MC	Capt	RR Lockett MC
Lt	JR Ballingal MC	Lt	RGG Copeland
Lt	EK Brown	Lt	JS Champion
Lt	RE Barnett MBE	Capt	E Chadwick MBE
Attached			
Capt	JH Balmer (RAMC)	Lt	EDA Jones BEM (REME)
WOs			
RSM	W Woodward MBE	RQMS	J Moore
SSM	M Beard MM (B Sqn)	SSM	L Trumper MM (C Sqn)
SSM	W Pegg (A Sqn)	SSM	C Wadsworth (RHQ)
SSM	W McHardy DCM (D Sqn)		
Roll of Officers – Prisoners of War			
Colonel	JB Combe DSO		
Capt	TP Pitman		
Capt	CA Halliday		
Capt	Bousfield		
Roll of Officers – Killed in Action			
Capt	PN StC Palin Evans		
Lt	WV Gape MC		
Lt	L Jacobson		
Lt	AJL Smithers		
Lt	JW Peacock DCM MM		
Lt	JB Turner MC		
Lt	H de Ward Fenton		
2Lt	The Viscount Stuart		



11th Hussars	(Prince Albert's Own)
April	During April individual training was carried out and during the last week in April the Regt spent 4 days field firing in NORFOLK.
May	In May Tp training commenced and on May 4th RHQ Tac, C & D Sqns proceeded to West HAM greyhound stadium and carried out loading practice at the ALBERT DOCKS. On 19th May waterproofing began and all vehicles were waterproofed up to 4 ft. The following visits were paid to the Regt during May:- 15th May – Lt General Bucknell GOC 30 Corps visited and walked the camp talking to individuals. 19th May – HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited and inspected the men at their waterproofing. 24th May – The Regt was inspected for the first time, since his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment, by Brigadier Sir AF Home KCVO CB CMG DSO. The Regt was drawn up by Sqns on ASHRIDGE GOLF course and after his inspection the Regt formed a hollow square and Brig Home addressed them. He had lunch in the Officers Mess and after lunch was photographed with the officers and Sgts.
June 1944	CO: Lt Col W Wainman MC
Jun 44 11th Hussar	(Prince Albert's Own)

ORGANISATION AS ON OPENING OF OPERATIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE

Lt Col W Wainman MC
Major RFHP Stuart French
Capt RR Lockett MC – Adjt
C Squadron
Major WV Burdon MC
A Squadron
Major J Turnbull MC
B Squadron
A Reid Scott MC
D Squadron
Major JAN Crankshaw MC
RHQ
Major HC Roberts

Technical Officer	Capt RE Barnett MBE
Signals Officer	Lt JS Champion
Intelligence Officer	Lt RAK MacAllan

The Regt was formed in four parties for the operations in France as follows:-

A (D+2)

Lt DAF Williamson A Sqn, Lt JD Burridge B Sqn, Lt DA Creaton C Sqn, Lt GH Newton D Sqn.

This party left ASHRIDGE camp on 20th May and proceeded to a marshalling area at BRENTWOOD.

B (D+3)

Tac RHQ, C & D Sqns.

This party left ASHRIDGE camp at 0330 hrs on 3rd June and proceeded to WANSTEAD FLATS.

C (D+8)

Major RFHP Stuart French, B Sqn and RHQ, B1 & B2.

D (+17)

A Sqn and the remainder of RHQ.



C Sqn.

Few changes had taken place in the Sqn since leaving Italy. Capt JAN Crankshaw MC had left to form and command D Sqn taking Capt GJ Lovett as his 2i/c. Lts RAK MacAllan and ME Wild also left for D Sqn and Lt JS Champion went to RHQ. Sgt McHardy DCM became SSM of D Sqn and Sgts Keen and Harmer and several others also left. Capt JA Friend rejoined as 2i/c as did Lt JR Ballingal MC. SSM Trumper MM and SQMSEmery remained in office.

Sqn establishment remained much as before and the line-up was:-

- 1Tp Lt JDA Woodhouse,
- 2Tp Lt OM Wentworth Stanley,
- 3Tp Lt JR Ballingal MC
- 4Tp Lt JAS Barkworth (recently joined from Sherwood Foresters.)
- 5Tp Lt DA Creaton
- 6Tp Lt J Gale (Scout Tp)
- 7Tp Lt RN Brett Smith (Gun Tp)

A Sqn.

Sqn left ASHRIDGE composed as under:-

- Major J Turnbull MC
- Capt H Petch MC DCM
- SSM SDrew
- 1Tp Sgt Green
- 2Tp Lt RD Sutton, Sgt Hall
- 3Tp Lt DAF Williamson, Sgt Gibson
- 4Tp Lt GH Hodgkinson, Sgt Murray
- 5Tp Lt KL Osborne, Sgt Gullick
- 6Tp Lt WM Donald, Lt GR Mickletham, Sgt Fitzpatrick
- 7Tp Lt WGG Hunt, Sgt Turner.

Lt DAF Williamson went on the advance party and rejoined the Sqn at STANDRE

D Sqn.

Sqn Organisation:-

- Major JAN Crankshaw
- Capt GJ Lovett
- SSM McHardy DCMS
- QMS Barnes
- 1Tp Lt RGG Copeland (with 2Lt M Hickman under instruction), Sgt Cooper.
- 2Tp Sgt Lyon MM and Sgt Fulcher.
- 3Tp Lt GH Newton (with 2Lt Llewellyn-Palmer under instruction) and Sgt Addis.
- 4Tp Sgt Keen and Sgt Peckett.
- 5Tp Lt PWR Sexty (attached from Sherwoods) and Sgt Luke
- 6Tp (Whites) Lt RH Moore (with 2Lt Horsfall under inst) and Sgt Stewart.
- 7Tp (75mm) Lt ME Wild, Sgt Andrews and Sgt Skarrett.

B1 Sgt Harmer

B2 Sgt Greensides.

Vehicles

3 Staghound ACs, 11 Daimler ACs, 10 Daimler Scout cars, 3 Humber Scout cars, 4 White Scout cars, 2 White half-track with 75mm guns and a normal complement of B vehicles.

3/6/44	B Party left ASHRIDGE at 0330 hrs and proceeded in convoy to WANSTEAD FLATS where the vehicles were marshalled and final waterproofing carried out prior to embarkation. This was a 'sealed area' and fortunately some attempt was made by the camp authorities to entertain the men within the camp.
4/6/44	Loading of vehicles cancelled for the day and Sqn carried out a certain amount of training in the morning and the afternoon was taken up by sleeping and checking over the final waterproofing. Mail was brought up daily from ASHRIDGE by DR.
5/6/44	Loading began at J Dock MILLWALL DOCKS. This proved to be a slow and trying task and tactical loading was impossible.



6/6/44	Loading continued and was complete by 2200 hrs. The first drivers and Sgts i/c parties worked hard and cheerfully and the dock authorities were full of praise for their efforts. MT Bradford City left her berth at 2245 hrs. C Sqn. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 Tps HQ Tp and a small B Echelon embarked at London Docks for the Second Front, 5 Tp having left shortly before due to land a day before, while Gun Tp and remainder were due to follow later. B Sqn. D Day at last, and the long awaited invasion of Hitler's fortress begins. Apart from the news the only indication of the war was the incredible number of aircraft, most of them Dakotas carrying parachutists or towing gliders, that were doing a shuttle service overhead. However B Sqn continued modifications with every morning somebody producing a new idea; every idea of course required yards of unobtainable sheet metal so the LAD were flogged to a standstill. If the modification craze had gone on for much longer, our team of drivers, working as fitters, would have demanded pay as such. Violent football matches were also played.																																																
7/6/44	Anchored in the mouth of the Thames. Capt E Chadwick MBE and the SQMS organised meals as no cooking facilities were available on the ship. The CO Briefed all ranks.																																																
8/6/44	Sailed for France at 0600 hrs. The Captain and crew of the Bradford City proved most kind and helpful and in many cases offered their cabins for the officers to sleep in. B Sqn. The Sqn left ASHRIDGE at 0230 hrs to drive to our marshalling area prior to embarking. An Armcd Car Sqn is now a much larger formation than before with 48 vehicles and 3 M/Cs and 143 all ranks including 9 officers. The Sqn consisted of: -1 Scout Tp of 2 Daimler scout cars and 5 White scout cars. '75 Tp of one Humber scout car and two half-track Whites mounting 75mm guns. Sqn HQ of 3 Staghound ACs, 2 HSCs, 1 DSC, 1 spare Daimler AC, 1 Humber AA car, 1 Jeep and 1 staff car. B1 Echelon of fitters, petrol and charging lorries and an office truck. B2 Echelon of SQMS truck, cooks, petrol and ammunition lorries and water truck. B3 Echelon of 1 lorry for spare personnel. The Sqn was mounted as follows:- <table><tr><td>1Tp</td><td>2Tp</td><td>3Tp</td></tr><tr><td>Lt NCD Campbell</td><td>Lt JD Burridge</td><td>Lt PF Chapman</td></tr><tr><td>Sgt Richmond</td><td>Sgt Ruder</td><td>Sgt McGuire</td></tr><tr><td>Cpl Hitchcock</td><td>Cpl James '44</td><td>Cpl Wilkins</td></tr><tr><td>LCpl Midcalf</td><td>LCpl Mayes</td><td>LCpl Scott</td></tr><tr><td>LCpl Thacker</td><td>LCpl Gormally</td><td>Tpr Mercer</td></tr><tr><td>Tpr Dutton</td><td>Tpr Fowler</td><td>Tpr Hardman</td></tr><tr><td>Tpr Jones '23</td><td>Tpr Grinnell</td><td>Tpr Michalls</td></tr><tr><td>Tpr Dawson</td><td>Tpr Umpleby</td><td>Tpr James</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td>4Tp</td><td>5Tp</td><td>75mm Tp2</td></tr><tr><td>Lt RA Flood</td><td>Lt RCT Siewright</td><td>Lt EAI Young</td></tr><tr><td>Sgt Bull MM</td><td>Sgt Orchard</td><td>Sgt Matheson</td></tr><tr><td>Cpl Trusswell</td><td>Cpl Riani</td><td>Cpl Edwards</td></tr><tr><td>Tpr Goodwin</td><td>LCpl Lloyd</td><td>LCpl Jenner</td></tr><tr><td>Tpr Waister</td><td>Tpr Robinson</td><td>LCpl Hodgson</td></tr><tr><td>Tpr Peters</td><td>Tpr Stanier</td><td>Tpr Bailey</td></tr></table>	1Tp	2Tp	3Tp	Lt NCD Campbell	Lt JD Burridge	Lt PF Chapman	Sgt Richmond	Sgt Ruder	Sgt McGuire	Cpl Hitchcock	Cpl James '44	Cpl Wilkins	LCpl Midcalf	LCpl Mayes	LCpl Scott	LCpl Thacker	LCpl Gormally	Tpr Mercer	Tpr Dutton	Tpr Fowler	Tpr Hardman	Tpr Jones '23	Tpr Grinnell	Tpr Michalls	Tpr Dawson	Tpr Umpleby	Tpr James	4Tp	5Tp	75mm Tp2	Lt RA Flood	Lt RCT Siewright	Lt EAI Young	Sgt Bull MM	Sgt Orchard	Sgt Matheson	Cpl Trusswell	Cpl Riani	Cpl Edwards	Tpr Goodwin	LCpl Lloyd	LCpl Jenner	Tpr Waister	Tpr Robinson	LCpl Hodgson	Tpr Peters	Tpr Stanier	Tpr Bailey
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The Dingo Register, Daimler Fighting Vehicles Project – Part D3e
Cavalry Of The Line - 11th Hussars War Diary

Tpr Jones '91	Tpr Limb	Tpr Hop???
Tpr Roberts '79	Tpr Davies	Tpr Robinson '49
		Tpr Gear
		Tpr Norris '14

Scout Tp

Lt ATR Nicholson	Tpr White	Tpr Skidmore
Sgt Gardiner	Tpr Humphrey	Tpr Hughes '99
Cpl Short	Tpr Moore	Tpr Norton
Cpl Grey	Tpr Symons	Tpr Sanders
Cpl Baguloy	Tpr Pearson	LCpl Malkinson
LCpl Hawkin	Tpr Philps	Tpr Marshall
LCpl Clarke	Tpr Stringer	Tpr Keeling
Tpr Procter	Tpr Morris	Tpr Pipes
Tpr Phillips	Tpr Roberts '20	

Sqn HQ

Major A Reid Scott	LCpl Oakes	Tpr Lewis
Capt TO'B Horsford	LCpl Lan-Yin	Tpr Goodwin '38
SSM Board MM	LCpl Mills	Tpr Wilton
Sgt Cobley	Tpr Maynard	Tpr Flint
Cpl Allen	Cpl Hornsby	Tpr Leach '92
LCpl May	LCpl Dunsden (Tech)	Tpr North
LCpl Haines	Tpr Hayward	Tpr McDougall
LCpl Byard (RSgs)	Tpr Worthington	Tpr Roberts '62

B1 Echelon

Office Truck	Petrol Lorry	Fitters Lorry	Charging Lorry
LCpl Robinson	Cpl Evans	LCpl Oliver (fitter)	Sg Martin (dvr)
Tpr Raynes	Tpr Keen	LCpl Swinse (elec)	Sg Nebes
	Tpr Homesey	LCpl Willetts (Tech)	Sg Davidson

B2 Echelon

SQMSTruck	Cooks Lorry	Petrol Lorry	Amn Lorry	Water Truck
SQMSSmith	Cpl McTavish	Tpr Mekes	Tpr Stokes	Sgt Freeman
LCpl Whittington	Tpr Hickford	Tpr Jordan	LCpl King	Tpr Gabbitass
Tpr Pinkney	Tpr McMaster	Tpr Hodges	Tpr Holmes	
	Tpr Harknott			

B3 Echelon

			Spare Dingo
Sgt Street	Cpl Purkiss	Tpr Leach '38	Cpl Spencer
Tpr Tassell (boot repr)	Tpr Goddard	Tpr Merrity	Cpl Hughes
Tpr Gilmour			LCpl Cowell



	Tpr Stevens DRs Tpr Blackmare Tpr Coughlan Tpr Harker Lt Burridge with LCpl Gormally had left ASHRIDGE on about 20th May to go on a small Regt advance party due to land on D+2. After a tiresome drive through the suburbs of London, mostly in second gear, we arrived at our marshalling area – No 7 – at PURFLEET. Certain members of the Sqn including the Sqn Ldrs operator were able to say their final goodbyes to sweethearts despite the fact that we were so confined that the place was called STALAG IX. It was now brought back to us with a jerk that we were really about to leave ENGLAND. We had two days in the marshalling area; the final stage of waterproofing was completed.
9/6/44	Anchored off the French coast at CONSEUILLES 0700 hrs. Unloading was done by the Regt in co-operation with the ship's crew and proved to be far quicker and more organised than the loading had been. First vehicles were ashore by 1600 hrs and a leaguer area was formed near RYES (850840). Our waterproofing proved most effective and no vehicles were drowned. During the night a bomb was dropped by the leaguer area and 2Lt RD Horsfall (D Sqn) was wounded with shrapnel but remained on duty. The CO and Int. Officer visited Corps and were informed by the BGS that we were to carry on de-waterproofing and straightening out for the next two days. Advance party joined us. C Sqn. Arrived off French coast opposite small village of CONSEUILLES, Normandy, by first light. Unloading of ships was behind hand due to bad weather on previous day. Two loads of LCTs were landed before dark and a further two left for shore just after dark but were delayed in the 1000 yard journey by an air raid and the artificial fog laid down by the Navy on these occasions. The AA was most impressive and there was a large fire a short way inland. Our LCT got us within 15 yards of dry land and put us into 3' 6" of water which was successfully waded by all except for one lorry which went into a shell hole and over 6 ft of water. A Dingo had the same misfortune the next day and went out of sight but was fished out by the Beach Grp who did great work. Both vehicles rejoined the following day, 3Tp also joined up.
10/6/44	RHQ set up in VILLA LE GRANDE and the remainder of B party arrived. C Sqn. Remainder of Sqn landed and concentrated area RYES (8584).
11/6/44	During the evening orders were received that 7th Armd Div were to advance and capture VILLERS BOCAGE through TILLY. The American 5th Corps on the right was directed on CAUMONT (7059) and the 11th Hussars ordered to cover the gap between 7th Armd Div and 5th US Corps. Regt therefore moved to the area of JERUSALEM (8172) to commence operations early next morning. C Sqn. In the evening Sqn moved forward through BAYEUX to 808778 to take part in the advance the following day. B Sqn. At 0630 hrs the Sqn accompanied by part of RHQ and the C & D Sqn 75's left the marshalling area for the West INDIA DOCKS where we started loading at 0830 hrs into T29 a Liberty Ship. There were no quarters for officers and men and everyone was very crowded; there were practically no messing arrangements and we had to make do with what we could get from the tiny galley. By 1800 hrs everything was safely on board and we pushed off down the river and anchored off SOUTHEND where we remained for 2 days. The only thing to do was sleep in the sun and the soldiers enjoyed having nothing to do for a change. SSM Board was appointed Ship's Sgt Major.. a good novelty was a new type of soup in 'self heating' tins; a cigarette could light cylindrical wick which heated the soup in two minutes; supposed to be used by guerrilla troops when unable to 'brew up', they worked just as well on a ship. Suspected mines in the estuary and delay in off loading on the French side prevented our sailing.



12/6/44	Orders came through during the night that 7th Armd Div had made little progress and fighting was going on the lateral through TILLY and also there were some conflicting reports as to whether LA SENAUDIÈRE road (7868) were open or not. C Sqn were therefore ordered to move out and recce on the right flank of 7th Armd Div. During the morning 5th US Corps made good progress on the right with very little opposition and 30 Corps Comdr decided to switch the axis of 7th Armd Div more to the West through LE BASMOUGARD – ST PAUL DU VERMAY – HONORINE DE DUCY - LIVRY and approach VILLERS BOCAGE from the West. 11th Hussars came under 7th Armd Div and were ordered to do advance guard until relieved by 8th Hussars and also do right flank guard. RHQ moved forward in the afternoon and leaguered in area HONORINE DE DUCY (7265) with D Sqn still in reserve. As 22nd Armd Bde were to continue on the following morning it was decided to put the Regt under their command. C Sqn. The plan was for the 7th Armd Div to advance down two tracks on the left through TILLY-SUR-SEULLES and SENAUDIÈRE towards VILLERS BOCAGE; for the Americans on the right to advance on CAUMONT from BALLEROY. C Sqn was to advance down the two tracks between LA BELLE EPINE and LA BUTTE. 50th Div could not quite make their objective of main road BALLEROY – TILLY SUR SEULLES having been counter attacked by tanks. 7th Armd Div tried to force the way down to the main road but were held up by unexpected opposition. 1Tp & 5Tp who were carrying out the Sqn role also advanced with 5Tp leading down through BERNIERES BOCAGE towards LA SENAUDIÈRE. They encountered some of our own troops held up by some unknown opposition which 5Tp decided to test. The dingo led and advanced some way but was then fired on by A/Tk and MG fire at close range. 2Lt Esch in command of the Dingo made use of smoke and fired his twin K guns at the enemy with results that were unobserved but were sufficient to enable the Tp to withdraw unscathed. The A/Tk gun was on the road at the corner of the wood at 786693 and thereby prevented one reaching the start points of our tracks. 5Tp was therefore left to watch the road and 1Tp and 4Tp went back and round through FOLLJOT 8161 and across the river AURE. Meanwhile 7th Armd Div had been held up by strong opposition on both axes while the Americans had met with little or no resistance. 7th Armd Div was therefore moved on to our front through LA BUTTE 7969. I was trying to pass through LA BELLE EPINE and was held up in that area by Infantry across the road just South and was heavily shelled without result. Following reports of snipers in the area of SHQ a scout car patrolled the neighbourhood and searched the houses. They arrested a deserter from the German Army wearing civilian clothes. Later they found his uniform, paybook and rifle. He was handed over to Div HQ and dealt with. During the afternoon 7th Armd Div advanced South through ST HONORINE DE DUCY to LA PAUMSENE and our role was changed to left flank guard. 3Tp went down the American axis to 3 miles then later 2 miles North of CAUMONT. 2Tp branched right to MITRECAEN and 4Tp went to LA CHAPELLE area. 3Tp reported enemy troops, A/Tk guns in CAUMONT. Other Tps made no contact. Sqn HQ moved down to FOULOGNES, 1Tp and 5Tp were called into reserve, 2Tp and 3Tp remained in position for the night. The Americans put in an Infantry attack on CAUMONT shortly before dark which was not entirely successful though the capture was completed the following day. D Sqn. Moved at 1500 hrs to 840713. The Regt is now under 7th Armd Div once again. Moved on by devious route at 1900 hrs to LE MESNIL 820646. The CO returned at 2300 hrs and Sqn received orders to move at 0845 hrs 13th June. Plan was to capture VILLERS BOCAGE, 4th CLY to advance from LA PAUMERIE to LIVRY to BRICQUESARD and down main road to VILLERS BOCAGE. This road was the 7th Armd Div axis. The Sqn was ordered to carry out flank protection and observation. 4Tp Sgt Keen was broken down at the previous halt and was not repaired in time to reach us on the 12th.
13/6/44	Regt ordered to protect both flanks of 22nd Armd Bde on their advance from LIVRY (7361) to VILLERS BOCAGE. D Sqn were given this entire task at first until such time as C Sqn could concentrate and take over left flank, which they did about 0900 hrs. 22nd Armd Bde advanced and meeting with very little resistance entered VILLERS BOCAGE about 1100 hrs. D Sqn was relieved of right hand patrols in order to recce roads leading into VILLERS BOCAGE from North, East and South. At about 1200 hrs, 4th CLY leading 22nd Armd Bde were heavily ambushed in VILLERS BOCAGE by Tiger tanks and it was therefore not possible to get D Sqn into the town. Instead they were ordered to recce North and South on the left bank on river SEULE. RHQ had moved to LA MASURE (7558), 22nd Armd Bde were unable to clear up VILLERS BOCAGE and were therefore ordered to BRICQUESARD and AMAYE. C Sqn. Following a brief conference at RHQ at 0500 hrs 5 and 4Tp left to left flank guard to the Div directed on



ANCTOVILLE 7760 and ST GERMAIN D'ECTOT 7762 respectively; to take over from D Sqn patrol in that area. They both met up in the outskirts and both reported enemy and road blocks in the villages. The enemy did not appear to be in strength or to be expecting our arrival. 4Tp reported 2 SP guns in D'ECTOT and 5Tp reported Infantry in ANCTOVILLE. Lt Creaton had been to expect the road block on foot and flushed 3 Germans from a ditch only 4 yards away, but they made the cover of a house before they could be engaged. A scout section tried to confirm a certain report of 2 tanks in the middle of the village but they were fired on by MG from some houses and had to withdraw. The Tp was also sniped from the extremely dense hedges on either side of the road but without effect. 2Tp had meanwhile advanced to the North to LE PONT MULO 7463 area. He observed and reported a Mark IV special tank only 400 yards away to his NE. It did not take action against the Tp but shortly afterward KO'd two 8th Hussar tanks and was then compelled to withdraw itself by Arty fire. The two SPs at ECTOT engaged 4Tp who had to withdraw a short way. SHQ meanwhile had advanced to LIVRY 7361. At midday a fourth patrol was called for in CAHAGNES 7656 area. 3Tp left to do this, and shortly after joined a D Sqn patrol which had just had a successful action destroying two half-track troop carriers. Both Troops were fired on by an 8-wheel AC probably with 75mm which had one ineffective shot and withdrew. 3Tp remained in the area which was extremely dense with visibility often limited to the hedge on the side of the road only two yards away. Snipers, MGs and mortars continually stalked the Tp through the corn and long grass. The scout section was dismounted to try and locate a sniper about 100 yards away. Two men, L/Sgt Davies and Tpr Brady crawled through a cornfield to the hedge about 100 yards from the Tp. Unfortunately they had passed through a Coy of German Infantry without seeing them or being seen and shortly afterwards were surrounded and captured. They were disarmed and sent to the rear escorted by a soldier with a rifle. As soon as they were clear of the enemy troops they attacked and overpowered this man and brought him back to our lines. His Regt was identified as 304th Panzer Grenadiers which confirmed the presence of 2nd Panzer Div on this front; it only having gained contact with us this morning. L/Sgt Davies gained a mention in the Div Int Summary the following day for this exploit. 3Tp were continually attacked for more than 3 hours by Infantry crawling through the crops and had to be sent a refill of ammunition. 4Tp meanwhile had returned to D'ECTOT to investigate moves in that area and found that the village had been reinforced and the road block mined. Suddenly the leading car was knocked out by the first shot from an A/Tk gun right through the engine; the crew got out but the commander, Sgt Graham, was severely wounded in the leg by a second shot. The driver, Tpr Dixon, and gunner, Tpr Myers, assisted him into a house nearby. Tpr Dixon remained with him and Tpr Myers having applied a tourniquet, returned to the Tp with a bullet hole through the front of his trouser leg and a shrapnel hole through the back. 3, 4 & 5Tp were continuously in action against snipers and MGs from the sides of the roads. Large quantities were fired in return, but it was difficult to spot a target and impossible to observe results. By 1900 hrs the enemy were approaching the Bde axis and shortly after cut it. 1Tp moved down the axis towards AMA YE SUR SEULLES where it was cut. They quickly gained contact to the South of the road but were forced gradually to withdraw to avoid a threat of the road being cut to their North as well. 1Tp and 3Tp at last light were in BRICQUESARD 7459 and they and 5Tp joined SHQ about 1 mile to the North for the night. 4Tp remained on the track with the Norfolk Yeomanry who were holding it to the West of his duty position. The night was comparatively quiet and our role for the following day was the same – left flank guard to the 1st RTR who were to reopen the axis to the remainder of 22nd Armd Bde. B Sqn. At 2200 hrs we at last set sail in a great convoy of ships and landing craft of many sorts, each flying a large balloon, which sometimes fouled each other. We expected to have a few shells whistling over from the coastal guns in the Straits of Dover, but were disappointed and had a quiet night. D Sqn. Troops were ordered to proceed as follows: 3Tp Lt Newton with 4th CLY as far as BRICQUESARD 740594 then branch right to CAMAGNES. 2Tp Sgt Lyon to go with 3Tp and try and get down track from BRICQUESARD to the CAUMONT rd North of CAMAGNES. As the advance proceeded 2Tp and 3Tp were to proceed down the main CAUMONT – VILLERS BOCAGE road by bounds, picketing the junctions to observe movement from the SW endangering the axis. The 8th Hussars were moving to BRICQUESARD then SE along the secondary road running parallel to the axis, in between the axis and the main road. 5Tp Lt Sexty to proceed to LIVRY with 4th CLY and move left to ST GERMAIN D'ECTOT as left flank protection. 1Tp Lt Copeland to proceed to BRICQUESARD and then left to ANCTOVILLE 779608.



	Lt Moore in his DSC and Lt Horsfall in the SHQ DSC proceeded down the main road to the Y junc at 754635. SHQ moved to 735614. The time of start from LA PAUMERIE was 0535 hrs. The advance initially was slow. Lt Moore, 1Tp and 5Tp were to be relieved by C Sqn as soon as they could get up. 5Tp was machine gunned by our fighters at 0720 hrs. 1Tp reported a road block consisting of a derelict Mark IV just outside ANCTOVILLE. Cpl Sambrooke was blown up by a booby-trap whilst inspecting it but was unhurt. A little later 5Tp reported a road block outside ST GERMAIN D'ECTOT consisting of farm implements and some Germans which they proceeded to deal with. Lt Moore reported MG fire to his front and odd shells. Meanwhile 2Tp reported the tracks to the main road impassable so was ordered to go along with 8th Hussars and work down to the main road SE of 3Tp. C Sqn took over our left hand patrols by 0845 hrs. 1Tp ordered to follow on with 2Tp and 8th Hussars. 3Tp reported an AC in CAMAGNES by the church. Lt Newton had walked across the fields to try and see the road where he heard considerable movement when he found this car 20 yards away. He withdrew his Tp to cover this car should it move into view and knocked out an Armd half-track personnel carrier coming in behind him. LCpl Bullen killed 3 Germans at 20 yards with a Sten gun. At 1000 hrs it was reported that 4th CLY were in VILLERSBOCAGE and 1Tp, 2Tp and 5Tp were ordered to get back on the main axis and get there as quickly as possible. 8th Hussars were held up by an A/Tk gun on their axis. On arrival at the VILLERSBOCAGE area 1Tp was sent LA POSTE but only reached TRACYBOCAGE, coming under fire from an 88mm in the LA POSTE area. 2Tp were sent to the Y junc just West of VILLERSBOCAGE and turned NW to try and get up to LE HAUT DE ST LOUET. Meanwhile 3Tp had withdrawn to his NE to cover the next track to his rear when another half-track towing a 75mm A/Tk gun appeared. This was knocked out by Sgt Addis. C Sqn relieved 3Tp at 1210 hrs and they returned to SHQ at approx 1500 hrs. 2Tp was held up just SE of ST LOUET by 75mm from an 8 wheeled AC and MG fire. 1Tp reported a Mark VI advance from the SE to TRACYBOCAGE and that 8th Hussars were withdrawing NW. 1Tp pulled back to Pt 174 to observe. Considerable MG fire from South of the road as far back as AMAYE-SUR-SEULLES. B vehicles returned to C Sqn under SSM McHardy at about 1700 hrs. Enemy attacked SE and South with Infantry infiltrating supported by tanks. By nightfall we were in a Box with the road cut between BRICQUESARD and AMAYE SUR SEULLES. 4th CLY and Rifle Brigade PULLED OUT OF VILLERSBOCAGE. Snipers about in the evening. 2Tp pulled back to the Y road West of VILLERSBOCAGE. 4Tp went to AMAYE to observe the East. 1Tp came in. Considerable casualties inflicted on the enemy during the attack. 2Tp and 4Tp came in at last light. During the night the medium shelled VILLERSBOCAGE consistently.
14/6/44	A quiet night and in the morning 1st RTR came down the road from BRICQUESARD and joined up with D Sqn patrols in the AMAYE area. The general position of 22nd Armd Bde was not good as both flanks were very exposed and 50th Div, who were trying to join up on our left from the TILLY area could make no headway. During the morning a number of enemy shells landed around RHQ area but there was no damage or casualties. There was also a certain amount of sniping from a nearby farmhouse. Capt RR Lockett MC and Capt GV Churton MBE MC, went forward but found that the sniper had already made off. During the afternoon 7th Armd Div Comdr ordered 22nd Armd Bde to withdraw after dark. At 2200 hrs Germans put in a very strong Infantry attack from the South with tank support directed on AMAYE. This attack lasted until 2310 hrs when it was eventually beaten off with estimated losses to the enemy of 600 Infantry dead and 7 tanks and 18 wheel AC destroyed. During this period RHQ and D Sqn were drawn up on the North side of the main road prepared to give battle with 8th Hussars on the left and 5th RHA on the right. 5th RHA did splendid work firing air-bursts at 400 yards and 5th US Corps brought down fire from 72 guns just in front of our FDLs. At midnight RHQ and D Sqn moved to GEURON area (7876) where C Sqn were already waiting. C Sqn. 4Tp advanced at first light and took up his former position. 1Tp did the southern patrol and both Tps advanced once more to the outskirts of the villages ECTOT and ANCTOVILLE respectively. These villages were both held – 4Tp being fired on by MG and saw some men run into a house – 1Tp saw two AFVs and a few men. Civilian reports suggested ANCTOVILLE had been heavily reinforced and a scout section tried to get into the village. They got well into the outskirts and nearly to the centre when they came under short range MG fire. LCpl Walker, the commander, was missing after that – no one quite knowing what had happened to him – the remainder got back. 2Tp relieved 4Tp in the northern patrol. 1Tp was withdrawn 1 mile to allow the gunners to engage targets in ANCTOVILLE.



	In the evening the scout section with 2Tp under Cpl Howard searched some houses in the area and captured a German officer, a Lt of 304th Panzer Grenadiers who was hiding in one of them. At 2200 hrs these patrols were withdrawn and the Sqn went into reserve in area GEURON where they were later joined by RHQ and D Sqn. The 3 day's patrolling and fighting had been most interesting and different from anything we had undertaken previously. Though the country in Italy had been very close and the roads narrower – there had not been so much leaf on the trees and the visibility was not nearly so restricted. An Armcd Car Tp by itself was almost powerless to obtain information of our enemy, numbers or even presence without coming under fire from very close range and there were numbers of near misses recorded. We were extraordinarily lucky in having only one car knocked out. The scout Tp which had been formed at TRIPOLI really came into their own in the role of dismounted recce. B Sqn. A lovely sunny day and then cold and wet. Soon after tea we saw the coast of France; some were sorry to see the last of England, but we should be used to it by now. As we drew nearer the shore we could see nothing but ships – it was just like Henley Regatta – with fighters, mainly Thunderbolts going to and fro overhead. There was no shooting – we could not even hear the guns. It was too late to start off-loading so everyone went to bed. D Sqn. At first light 5Tp went to Pt. 174 and worked East to the Y road and 3Tp went up AMAYE to observe the western end of the Box. By 0830 hrs the road was opened by 1st RTR and 1/6th Queens. 3Tp remained and 4Tp was sent to ST GERMAIN and thence NE to the X roads outside ST LOUET at 794590. During the day little occurred, intermittent shelling by the enemy of the road and gun positions. A small amount of enemy infiltration was reported by 5Tp and stopped by MGs. SHQ and RHQ were sniped at in the morning but the sniper was hounded out by 1Tp and Capt Churton MC, but not captured. It was decided at noon that 7th Armcd Div would withdraw at dark to BRICQUESARD area thus drawing in the vulnerable point. At 2000 hrs a heavy Infantry attack was put in, supported by tanks, on our southern flank. 1Tp were sent to K Battery 3rd RHA as local protection, 2Tp to 5th RHA and 3Tp brought in to help 2Tp. SHQ and RHQ formed up facing South in the leaguer area just North of the road and prepared to do battle. Terrific noise as all guns fired at nearly point blank range. The enemy had had enough by 2215 hrs and must have suffered heavy casualties – reports say 10 tanks brewed-up at least. We moved at 2330 hrs to proceed to GUERON just South of BAYEUX in Corps reserve. On the way Lt Newton's DAC ran over a Military Policeman and M/C wrecking the steering of the car which had to be left. We arrived at 0245 hrs in our leaguer area where the B1 Echelon already were. Notes 1. Troops found that owing to trees and close country enemy was rarely seen except at close range. 2. A considerable amount of SAA was necessary to advance. 3. The days are a minimum of 19 hours and organised reliefs of operators are essential. 4. The 2nd Panzer Div of which we had no information was engaged and smartened up. Heavy casualties must have been inflicted and considerable information of their organisation was acquired. 5. That road jamming was likely to be a menace and the possibilities of side roads are enormous and should be exploited. 6. Lack of mines. 7. Presence of snipers and the necessity of immediate action by scout sections. 8. That Stag hounds are far too broad but excellent for removing gateposts!
15/6/44	GEURON area. Regt in Corps reserve. Make and mend. B Sqn. The RE stevedores did not appear on board until 1100 hrs – they had been working till midnight on the last 5 nights. A battle of words immediately started between the RE's and the First Officer who accused them of being both late and useless; the bickering continued which slowed up the work; the First Officer was a scoundrel. The Scout Tp and 75mm Tp were the first off and went ashore in an LCT. When it was obvious that what with the feeling on board and the casual attitude of the American crew on the landing crafts, we managed to procure a Rhino, or large barge, which could take about 50 vehicles. Loading was difficult in the rough sea and only three Troops of ACs were loaded by dark, when we knocked off. The rations on the ship were running low.



16/6/44	Sqns carried out training in the morning and ran liberty truck to BAYEUX in the afternoon. 75 mm Gun Tp joined us after an uneventful crossing. B Sqn. Loading started again at 0400 hrs. The Sqn Ldr and some Dingos went ashore in an LCT at about midday and joined Lt Young and the Scout Tp at the Corps concentration area at RYES. The remainder of the Sqn vehicles were loaded by 1530 hrs and only Capt Horsford, Lt Siewright and Lt Campbell and a few men were left on the large ship. There was a big sea running and Tpr Worthington had a narrow escape from death dangling at the end of a rope ladder with the barge surging up and down beside the ship. Suddenly the barge began drifting away – the First Officer had cast her off and she was adrift without even an outboard; one can scarcely believe a man could do such a thing, and Capt Horsford's temper must have been taxed to a degree. The barge had an interesting trip, bumping an LST amidships and doing a '40 yarder' across the bows of a Liberty Ship which was going full speed ahead but was fortunately on a sand bar and making no progress. However a plucky pilot boat eventually came to the rescue and towed the barge to the shore, where we drove off and joined the remainder at the assembly area. The Sqn was complete in France except for a rear party of 12 men under Sgt Cobley still in England and coming with A Sqn, and the 3-ton lorries which had landed the previous day from another ship.
17 – 18	Training by Sqns. B Sqn. Sqn moved up to join C & D Sqns and RHQ at GEURON and spent the time de-waterproofing and listening to the many stories that they had to tell us.
19/6/44	Regt concentrated in Echelon area at STANDRE 7772. General Montgomery visited the Regt.
20 - 25	Regt moved to the Chateau at STANDRE where we settled down for training and games. Much attention was paid to camouflage and we went as far as to put rabbit wire netting round the cars to hold on gamish. First aid was practised and B Sqn invented a system of rebroadcast whereby a Scout section commander can observe for the 75mm's and speak direct to the 75's through two other sets. Of the three new officers in B Sqn Lts Campbell and Chapman had both come from the Sherwood Foresters and Lt Flood from 59th Training Regt at BARNARD CASTLE.
26/6/44	Orders were received during the night from 30 Corps that one Sqn was to come under command 7th Armd Div wef 1000 hrs 27th June. The Sqn were to relieve one Coy of the 1st Rifle Bde in a static role at TORTEVAL (758637). B Sqn (Major A Reid Scott MC) were detailed to do this.
27/6/44	B Sqn received further orders from 7th Armd Div during the morning. White scout car Tp were to move down to 1st Rifle Bde area and prepare to take over the left hand Coy's area at 0430 hrs the following morning, in order to allow the Rifle Brigade to get some rest during the day. At 1800 hrs however orders were received cancelling this operation and 56 Infantry Bde were brought out of Corps reserve and took over this area. B Sqn returned to the Regt at 1900 hrs. B Sqn. Sqn placed under 22 Armd Bde to take over a section of the line held by the Rifle Brigade near TORTEVAL 7563. Only the Scout Tp would be used and the Sqn Ldr with Lt Nicholson and Scout Section commanders reccecd the area but by the evening it was called off as it had been decided to put a Bde into that sector instead.
29/6/44	Regt was informed that a move was unlikely for the next week and arrangements were made for training and recreation. A regimental football was made and Sqn deck tennis courts.
July 1944	CO: Lt Col W Wainman MC
Ju1 44	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)



1-7	B Sqn. Still little improvement in the weather and we are beginning to wonder seriously if the chap who said gunfire brings on rain is not right. We heard that the Guards Div had arrived and hope that they do not write themselves off in their battle. Capt Horsford went out on a recce with the Sqn Ldr and was unlucky enough to have an air burst just above the Jeep. He got a small piece of shrapnel in the neck and although we tried to convince the doctors it was a Blighty one they would not hear of it and he was returned to duty. Unfortunately LCpl Dunsdon received a nasty wound in the head and was evacuated.
15/7/44	Orders were received that 7th Armd Div were to come under command 8th Corps for further operations. 11th Hussars were to come under command 7th Armd Div.
16/7/44	11th Hussars came under command 7th Armd Div and were held in readiness to move to concentration area South of ST GABRIEL. B Sqn under command 22nd Armd Bde.
17/7/44	Regt moved at 0530 hrs and concentrated in ST GABRIEL area by 0700 hrs. 8th Corps now consisted of 7th Armd Div with 11 Hussars under command, guards Armd Div with household Cavalry Regt under command and 11th Armd Div with Inns of Court Regt under command. Canadian corps were to clear up CAEN and FAUBERGE DE VAUCELLES and 1st British Corps were to maintain a firm base capturing a line from TOUFFREVELLE 1368 to EMIEVILLE 1465 thus providing left flank protection for 8th corps who were to cross river ORNE and then strike South with 11th Armd Div leading. Guards Armd Div were to pass through to the left of 11th Armd Div and to capture CAGNY and establish themselves in the area VIMONT with patrols to ARGENCES and MOULT. 7th Armd Div were to follow Guards Armd Div and secure the area CRAMESNIL – SECQUEVILLE LA CAMPAGNE and maintain contact on right with 11th Armd Div and on the left with the Guards Armd Div. On completion of this 11th Hussars were to establish a patrol line in touch with 11th Armd Div and Guards Armd Div. Lt GH Newton, D Sqn and L/Sgt Davies, C Sqn, were invested with the MC and MM respectively by the CinC 21st Army Group. B Sqn. At 0630 hrs we moved to concentration area SE of BAYEUX and came under command of 22nd Armd Bde. Capt Horsford was transferred to D Sqn, much to the Sqn's regret. He had been a brilliant Tp Ldr and as 2i/c his name was a byword in getting the maximum "buckasees". Capt Lovett from D Sqn took his place. It was believed that most of the enemy armour had been drawn West of the ORNE and with luck 8 Corps might have a breakthrough in the East. A terrific bombing programme had been laid on and for the first time tanks were going to advance under a timed barrage. The Guards Armd Div were directed on VIMONT, the 11th Armd Div on BRETTEVILLE SUR LAIZE and 7th Armd Div were to then to breakthrough and take FALAISE; all very grand but a bit too optimistic.
18/7/44	Regt moved off at approx 0700 hrs to cross the ORNE. By 1700 hrs B Sqn under command 22 Armd Bde, had crossed the river and by 1900 hrs RHQ and A Sqn had followed and leaguered in the area ST HONORINE LA CHARDONNERET 098714. During the night the enemy made air attacks on the bridgehead and A Sqn was bombed. Four ORs were killed and Lt Donald and Lt Micklem and 15 ORs wounded, five of whom died later of wounds. Lt Troup was wounded during the night whilst acting as LO to 11 Armd Div. C & D Sqn crossed the ORNE shortly before last light. A Sqn. At 0800 hrs the Sqn moved out behind 4th CLY. The intention was to cross the river ORNE and move down behind CLY through OUVERVILLE to DEMOUILLE and TOUR and then move on to the left of B Sqn who were covering the advance of 22nd Armd Bde. This plan did not materialise owing to the slowness of the advance and by 1800 hrs the Sqn had only just crossed the ORNE and so we moved down and spent the night at 105715. At 2300 hrs the enemy began bombing the general area. One aircraft dropped three bombs in the middle of the Sqn leaguer area. These bombs inflicted 17 casualties on the Sqn. Killed:-



	LCpl Daw LCpl Bannocks Tpr Fermandel Tpr Robinson Wounded :- Lt Donald Lt Micklem Sgt Green L/ Sgt Jellis Cpl Williamson Tpr Hannah Tpr Smith '41 Tpr Kimpton Tpr Farrar Tpr Wilkinson Tpr Griffiths Tpr Drummond LCpl Lea Cpl Williamson, Tpr Smith, Tpr Kimpton, Tpr Wilkinson and Tpr Drummond died the next day in 32 CCS. Also 1Tp DAC brewed up and a White Scout car, a White Half-track 75mm and a Humber scout car were badly damaged and had to be evacuated. B Sqn. We started off at daybreak immediately behind Bde HQ up the centre line called the Calf Route. The only excitement West of the ORNE was when a shell landed 3 yards away from the Jeep, not touching LCpl Cowell but killing a DR to whom he was talking. SSM Beard's AC caught fire but a brew up was averted. At 0820 hrs SHQ crossed the ORNE by "London Bridge" and moved up to Bde HQ. There was much confusion and crossing of centre lines as there were 3 Armd Divs trying to fan out on a 3 mile front. The bombing had been impressive to watch from behind but the results when we got up were devastating. We found two Germans still in bed in a dug-out apparently untouched but stone dead and presumably killed by blast. At 1200 hrs things were going well and the enemy must have been shattered by the initial bombing and barrage closely followed by tanks. When we got to ECOVILLE, 1Tp went out as right flank protection as there were Infantry in the woods. Sgt Richmond's car was unfortunately blown up on a British mine. LCpl Medcalf was the driver and the crew were unhurt. Here Lt Campbell found some Canadians so went along with them and eventually found their HQ in BAUCHELLES, the SE part of CAEN. This link between 8 Corps and the Canadian Corps was very useful. In the afternoon Lt Burridge went by himself in his Dingo to try and find the Guards Armd Div. He fluctuated for the rest of the day between their various HQs and provided some useful information. At 1600 hrs Bde HQ and B Sqn moved forward to just East of COVERVILLE and it was here that an unlucky shell hit LCpl Stokes in the chest and he had to be evacuated. Lt Burridge came in before dark we leaguered in front of Bde HQ as a sort of screen between COVERVILLE and GIBERVILLE. During the night there was much bombing by the Germans round our bridges and A Sqn took a heavy toll.
18/7/44	B Sqn. For the last two days Lt Nicholson had been attached as LO to the Inns of Court who were working under 11th Armd Bde on our right.
19/7/44	C & D Sqns joined RHQ. There seemed no chance of an immediate role for the Regt and at 0900 hrs the Regt moved to area of COLOMBELLES 088698. During the evening our armour was withdrawn for regrouping and motor Bdes were left in the line until relieved by 1st Corps and Canadians. 7th Armd Div came under command 2nd Canadian Corps, B Sqn rejoined the Regt. B Sqn maintained LOs with Canadian Corps. A Sqn. The Sqn moved 500 yards away from last night's area and dispersed. Sgt Hall took over 1Tp in place of Sgt Green and Lt Horsfall came from D Sqn to take over 6Tp in place of Lt Donald. This Tp was reduced to two sections. Owing to last night bombing the Sqn found itself very short of personnel. B Sqn. Lt Campbell remained all day with the 2nd Canadian Div. At 1630 hrs Lt Chapman was specially asked to go as a link with Brigadier Harvey who was going to attack BRAS while 7th Armd attacked BOURGEBUS with 5th Tanks. He stayed the night down there and the attack was successful. In the evening Lt Campbell was withdrawn 5Tp Lt Siewright sent out to the Canadians. Both Tps met at MONDEVILLE where 5Tp spent the night. The remainder of the Sqn moved forward over the railway South of DEMOUVILLE. There was a certain amount of shelling during the day and Sgt Bull who had spent all the morning inside his AC was badly wounded by a stray shell immediately after getting out. Tpr Roberts' 79 was slightly wounded by the same shell. The advance had slowed up and a ridge held by the enemy overlooked our line of advance. Brigadier



	Hind was unable to use us in front where there were a lot of Panthers about – the 5th Tanks got 5 Panthers in BOURGEBUS alone – but I think we were of considerable use to him in providing links with the neighbouring formations. In the evening Lt Young who had his guns and the B1 ½ a mile back was attacked by Me 109's and rocket firing planes. Luckily they were all bad shots and missed all the cars. The B2 was up at the time replenishing and Tpr Mokes was hit in the side by a bullet, not seriously. We spent the night where we were as a screen to Bde HQ.
20/7/41	A Sqn. At 1000 hrs the Sqn moved with the Regt to area 088705. In the afternoon it rained heavily and within 3 hours the Sqn was immobile, owing to the Sqn being on ploughed fields. A miserable afternoon was spent by all. No sooner were trenches dug than they filled with water and we experienced a new danger of being drowned whilst we slept. B Sqn. Lt Nicholson was still with the Inns of Court. Lt Sivewright moved with the Canadian Bde to I.F.S. South of CAEN where he got shelled and mortared and Lt Chapman moved to BRAS where the Monmouthshire Regt were dug in. The latter were later relieved by the Canadians who gradually took over the whole front from 8th Corps. There was much reporting from all three officers and everyone had much practice in the use of Sidex which is an awful business for Tp Ldrs, except when static. At 1500 hrs it began to pour with rain and in a few minutes the field was a morass. The advance was called off and everyone was pulled back. Lt Burridge took the Sqn, less SHQ, 3Tp and 5Tp back to join RHQ between COVERVILLE and VAUCELLES at 1800 hrs. The Sqn reverted to command of the Regt and at 2000 hrs SHQ, 3Tp and 5Tp pulled back. SHQ only just made the 4 mile trip and the Staghounds were almost impossible to keep on the roads. They would be quite impossible in the winter. Brigadier Hind thanked the Sqn Ldr for the valuable information that the Tp Ldrs had reported whilst with their various formations.
21/7/44	B Sqn. 3Tp remained with the Canadian Div HQ in CAEN. This Div had not only fought magnificently in France but also ran a most efficient HQ. The remainder of the Sqn cleaned guns and made up for lost sleep.
22/7/44	Orders were received to place one Sqn (A Sqn) under 22nd Armd Bde and 7th Armd Div was to be prepared to exploit to the South after Canadians had captured the line FONTENAY LE MARMION – ROQUANCOURT and 22nd Armd Bde had established themselves on high ground in area of LORGUICHON woods. Leaguer area bombed during the night and D Sqn had Lt Hickman wounded in the back, Tpr Eccles in the leg and Sgm Thomson in the shoulder and collar bone. All were evacuated.
24/7/44	Regt moved at 0630 hrs and by 1000 hrs RHQ were in the outskirts of FAUBERG DE VAUCELLES. By 1500 hrs it was clear that the advance was going too slowly for there to be any immediate role for the Regt and accordingly B & C Sqns were sent back to area of our last leaguer. D Sqn remained forward with RHQ Tac. A certain amount of air activity during the night. A Sqn. Came under command 22nd Armd Bde. At 1900 hrs the Sqn less SHQ moved to area 090562 where they stayed the night. At 2100 hrs SHQ moved with Tac HQ to 045650. A very lively night was spent owing to enemy bombing and shelling.
25 – 28	Regt, less A Sqn, pulled back to area of ANISY to rest.
25/7/44	A Sqn. At 0530 hrs the Sqn started to move to SHQ area behind 1/? Queens. Our role was to follow behind the 22nd Armd Bde until the Canadians had forced a gap for the Bde between FONTENAY LE MARMION and ROQUANCOURT and then to push out and form a screen in front of 22nd Armd Bde. This plan did not materialise owing to the strength of the enemy opposition.



	At 1000 hrs 3Tp Lt Williamson was pushed out to area 035626 and 2Tp Lt Sutton to area 045615, in position ready to get on the right and left flanks of 22nd Armd Bde as they pushed forward. Both troops were forced back by enemy shelling and Lt Sutton received a small piece of shrapnel in his finger. At 1100 hrs the battle seemed to be becoming static and 2Tp was withdrawn to SHQ which was then at 051635. At 1200 hrs 4Tp Lt Hodgkinson was sent out to BOURGEBUS to contact the Canadians on 22nd Armd Bde's left to discover the situation around TILLE LE CAMPAGNE. At 1300 hrs 3Tp was sent across the area 019640 to contact the Canadians on the right to discover the situation around MAY SUR ORNE. This he did and was ordered to go through to MAY SUR ORNE to see the situation himself. On his way down he ran into heavy shell fire and had to turn back. The rest of the day 3Tp remained with Canadian Bde HQ at 019640 and 4Tp remained in the BOURGEBUS area thus keeping the Div General and the Brigadier in touch with the situation on each flank. Both troops remained out for the night and SHQ in the same area. A very enlightening night was spent owing to the bombing. B Sqn. By now the country had dried up and although the 11th and the guards Armd Div had been taken out of it, the plan now was to push behind the Canadians down the CAEN – FALAISE road and then 7th Armd on the right and Guards Armd on the left were to debauch through the gap. We started out down the centre line following 22nd Armd Bde until there was a general halt. Actually we had not been told to halt and very nearly bumped on down the road into the enemy. Luckily the Sqn Ldr saw Major Turnbull who was out in front of 22nd Armd Bde so we pulled into a field for the rest of the day. Resistance was much tougher than was expected and the Canadians were unable to make a gap. As there was quite a lot of shelling in our area and we were doing nothing other than providing targets for their guns and bombers at night, the Sqn was pulled out to the old area near CUEVILLE for the night.
26/7/44	A Sqn. 3Tp and 4Tp remained in position performing the same role. At 1700 hrs the Sqn was ordered to send out LOs to the Canadians at STANDRE SUR ORNE, VERRIERS and BOURGEBUS. Lt Hunt went to ANDRE SUR ORNE in his scout car and 3Tp returned to SHQ. Lt Sutton went to VERRIERS, Lt Osborne to BOURGEBUS. 4Tp returned to SHQ. The Canadians at BOURGEBUS did not like any vehicles in their area due to being under direct observation so Lt Osborne went to Bde HQ. All three spent a very disturbed night being shelled and mortared the whole time.
27/7/44	A Sqn. Three LOs still out reporting on the whole front. Remainder of the Sqn less SHQ were sent back to RHQ at 017747. During the afternoon, Tpr Somers, Lt Hunt's driver, was slightly wounded by shrapnel while making his call. He was brought back to SHQ by the Canadians leaving Lt Hunt out by himself. At 1900 hrs Lt Sutton was recalled, Lts Hunt and Osborne remained out at night in their position.
28/7/44	A Sqn. At 0545 hrs, Lt Williamson relieved Lt Hunt. At 1630 hrs Lt Hodgkinson relieved Lt Osborne. Very quiet all day.
29/7/44	Regt left ANISY and moved to STANDRE CHATEAU at 1800 hrs. A Sqn rejoined Regt. A Sqn. Moved to area CHATEAU STANDRE with Sqn complete. On arrival special attention was paid to camouflage to prevent enemy observing our new position. This was universal throughout 7th Armd Div. B Sqn. The American push on the right was going well and we had succeeded in drawing to the East of the ORNE all the German armour. The new idea was to take advantage of our internal communications and air superiority and swing all the armour, except the Canadian, over to the West to come in on the American left, in the CAUMONT area. The 11th Hussars and 7th Armd Div reverted to 30 Corps. We moved back to our old position at the Chateau South of BAYEUX. Particular attention was paid to camouflage.



30/7/44	7th Armd Div in immediate reserve to 30 Corps. 43rd Div and 50th Div to put in initial attack with air support. 7th Armd Div were to move through once 43rd Div has secured Pt. 361 and Pt. 183. 11th Hussars to recce towards RORNE, North and South of the PINCON feature. B Sqn. Apart from Sgt Maguire having a new car the vehicle situation was 100% but there was a lot of preparation for the forthcoming push on the American's left or on the inside of their big right-hook.
31/7/44	B Sqn. The Regt was at one hour's notice to move and the Royals, who had just arrived from England, came in force to see us. The Regt was to recce over the Corps front and the general objective was the high ground round MTPINCON. B Sqn's area took us straight over the MTPINCON feature. At midnight the Regt moved out on the approach march to CAUMONT. 7th Armd Div were to break through when 50th and 43rd Divs. Had taken a few limited objectives. It was a ghastly ride at little better than walking speed and at 0400 hrs the next day we laid down in the road having done 12 miles in four hours. Lt Nicholson had gone ahead to recce a place to spend the night but we never caught up with him.
August 1944	CO: Lt Col W Wainman MC
Aug 44	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/8/44	Regt moved off from chateau STANDRE at 2330 hrs on night of the 30th. Arrived CAUMONT area 700580 at approx 0600 hrs. Div centre line CAUMONT– CAHAGNES– JURQUES thence to PLESSIS GRIMOULT, South of MTPINCON. C Sqn operating on the right, B Sqn in centre, D Sqn on the left. D Sqn reced roads running East from CAUMONT– ROBIN road towards the main road from VILLERS BOCHUR to AUNAY SURODON. They were held up by mortaring and Infantry especially at Xroads 740551. At bridge 755649 four dummy tanks were found. B Sqn were ordered at 1600 hrs to send a patrol to JURQUES before dark. Held up short of JURQUES by tanks. 0800 hrs 22nd Armd Bde were ordered to advance down the main road and capture AUNAY SURODON. B Sqn ordered to protect right flank by keeping South towards M PINCON. Troops leaguered with 1st RTR ready to take on this role at first light. C Sqn. Since 15th June the Sqn undertook no proper patrols until 5th August. Twice we moved up waiting for the breakthrough, there was a certain amount of bombing and shelling but we had no casualties. Capt Wingfield Digby MC took over 2i/c, Lt Barkworth was evacuated to UK and Sgt Berry took over 4Tp. Lt Woodhouse was transferred to A Sqn and Sgt Mitchell took over 1Tp. We were reserve until 5th August. A Sqn. At 0700 hours moved up to CAUMONT area in reserve. Trying day following in the rear of 22nd Armd Bde. Eventually arrived at 0200 hours having completed 9 miles. Wake up next morning to discover we were in a partially cleared minefield, but no damage was sustained. B Sqn. The Sqn was in the centre with D Sqn on the left and C Sqn on the right. The Infantry had got on fairly well and at 0800 hours I attended OC 131 Bde conference. The centre line for 7th Armd Bde was CAUMONT– CAHAGNES and we tried to get round quicker by going South of it with the 1/6th Queens. It was a lovely day and though resistance was as tough as ever, we hoped that we might at least be able to widen the bridgehead. 1Tp and 2Tp went on ahead with the 1/6th Queens who were fighting through very dense country. At about 1600 hours the Sqn was ordered to get a patrol into JURQUES before dark. 1Tp tried and got very near but the place was held and there were enemy tanks on our side. Tpr Webster in the Scout Tp was wounded in the head by a mortar shell. At about 1800 hours 22nd Armd Bde was directed straight along the road to AUNAY SURODON and B Sqn was ordered to protect their right flank by tapping South towards the PINCON feature. As 1st RTR progressed along the road, 2Tp, 3Tp and 5Tp all went out and leaguered with 1st RTR preparatory to



	going on in the morning. SHQ and 4Tp spent the night just East of CAHAGNES and got bombed; Tpr Leach had a bomb within 4 yards of his head, but was untouched. D Sqn. The Sqn had orders to recce the roads running East towards the main road running from VILLERS BOCAGE to AUNAY SURODON. CAHAGNES had been captured and 3Tp was ordered to go East from there along the TRACY BOCAGE road. 2Tp was ordered to work towards ROBIN so that when it was clear he could turn off East along the main road. They moved at 0600 hours in a thick mist which did not clear until 1400 hours. 3Tp worked slowly but there were Infantry and MGs in the area. During the day they reached the 76 grid line where there was a strong point in a house which was unsuccessfully attacked by some 43 Div people. 2Tp were mortared at X roads 740551 and Tpr Belbin, Tpr Kingsmill and Tpr Rivers (White Sect), were wounded. Sgt Lyons's DAC had 3 tyres punctured and 5Tp were sent to take over, 2Tp returning to SHQ. During the afternoon 5Tp worked along East and found 4 dummy tanks (2 Mark V and 2 Mark VI) at the bridge 755549 but were held up by MG fire and Infantry 500 yards beyond. During the night there was considerable bombing, chiefly AP's, which fell in hundreds out of canisters, and resembled hand grenades. 3Tp were in the middle of the shower, two hits being scored on each car without effect. Three however fell in the ditch where some of the Tp were sleeping, wounding Lt Newton MC in both legs, 2Lt Llewellyn Palmer in the neck, Tprs Harrison and Sinden slightly. Lt Palmer was very serious and was evacuated through 131 Bde.
2/8/44	D Sqn ordered to recce roads running NE from X roads 780526 and to 812548 and from Y roads 795519 through COURCELLES to main road 818633. They were however held up by a Panther tank at the Y roads and by heavy shelling in the ROBIN area. Mines were encountered and a certain number were cleared in area of X roads 760549. Lt RGC Copeland was wounded when his Tp met the Panther at the Y roads. With the capture of JURQUES by 43rd Div, B Sqn were ordered to help 5th Dorsets, who were working along the JURQUES–ONDEFONTAINE road and trying to push up onto the plateau on top of the PINCON feature. The Sherwood Rangers were supporting another Bde of 43rd Div which was going South from JURQUES and B Sqn had a Tp operating with them. In both cases mortaring and shellfire held up progress. A Sqn. Remained in same area until 5th, carried out maintenance. B Sqn. 1st RTR made no progress along the AUNAY road and that responsibility was taken over by D Sqn. By this time JURQUES was in our hands and 2Tp was sent out to help the 5th Dorsets who were going along the JURQUES–ONDEFONTAINE road. Little progress was made against tough opposition and the road was very overlooked and was shelled and mortared all day; 2Tp had some close escapes. It was an impossible job and a waste of time for ACs, but someone had said that there was a plateau in top of the PINCON feature, so of course ACs must be to the fore. 1Tp Lt Campbell had a very sticky time operating with the Sherwood Rangers who were supporting another Bde of 43 Div going South from JURQUES. The road up the hill was dead straight and a Tiger tank was shooting straight down it at anyone who dared show himself. However, 1Tp who were heavily mortared all day, as well as shelled, did some good reporting on the situation. SHQ was on a bit of high ground at the ROBIN X roads from which Lt Chapman had a good shot with the 75mm Tp at an enemy tank sitting on the road which hurriedly moved off. 2Tp remained out all night with their Infantry friends and 3Tp relieved 1Tp. The Sqn leaguered quite close under the hill but it was impossible to get away from the guns, and a few shells landed in the area, probably intended for our guns which were making a frightful noise. Lt Sivewright took out a White Scout car to replenish 2Tp. D Sqn. We had orders to recce the roads running NE from X roads 780526 and to X roads 812548 and from X roads 795519 through COURCELLES to main road 818533. 4Tp ordered to go to the former and 1Tp to the latter, both leaving at 0515 hours. At 0600 hours Sgt Keen reported he had Sgt Cooper and that 1Tp had run into a Panther at the X roads. It transpired that in the half-light Lt Copeland had seen a tank and walked up to it to get the situation. Getting to within 50 yards from it he saw it was a Panther and shouted for the Tp to pull out. His own car was KO'd through the visor and Sgt Cooper's was put in the ditch by Cpl Trendale's WSC which turned around and knocked a telegraph pole onto it. Lt Copeland was last seen OK and Tpr Sanderson was known to be wounded. Of Tpr Humphries and LCpl Kennedy there was no information. Lt Copeland was picked up by the Queens at about 1030 hours, he had been wounded by a sniper in



	the stomach, his condition was very serious. Sgt Keen 4Tp remained in the area of ROBIN where there was heavy shelling all day. 2Tp took over from 3Tp and found considerable Infantry, mortar and MG opposition. The White Sect Cpl Bruerton captured an 88mm A/Tk gun and crew of 3 Poles, 1 Czech and 1 German at bridge 747565, also a dummy minefield. A Sqn of 5th DG were operating in the area. 50th Div also came down from the North to ST GERMAIN area and 2Tp returned to SHQ. 5Tp got on slowly with a lot of snipers and MG opposition. Several houses were cleared and heavy shelling reported in area 760549 where houses just East were held. Cpl Williams was wounded by a grenade whilst recceing the position. By evening they had reached the Y roads 775549 which was held by A/Tk and Infantry. 4Tp stayed with SHQ in the area of ROBIN for the night, 5Tp remained with 5th DG for the night.
3/8/44	B Sqn carried on their role. The Infantry were able to make little progress owing to mortar and shell fire. 4th Dorset tried to work round to the left with B Sqn Tp but made no progress. The Infantry working South from JURQUES failed to reach the PINCON plateau. D Sqn remained with 1st Rifle Brigade and 5 DG all day in area of Y roads and were also held up by stonking at X roads 766548. B Sqn. 5Tp went out to 2Tp on the JORQUES– ONDEFONTAINE road. Lt Burridge and Lt Sivewright soon discovered that the best way to work with the Infantry before a gap is made is to leave one's Tp a mile or ½ mile behind out of the immediate shelling area if possible, and to go forward to liaise etc. in one's Dingo which is also much more suitable for negotiating traffic in. These two Tps remained out all day under regular mortaring and shelling with the Infantry who were able to make no progress at all. In the evening Lt Burridge tried to find a way round to the left with 4th Dorset but was unable to make any progress. 3Tp had an uncomfortable day and were shifted around a bit by shelling; Lt Chapman in his Dingo went right forward to the leading Coy of the DCU who were trying to scale the hill. 2Tp and 5Tp spent the night together, and 3Tp with the Infantry. The rest of the Sqn slept in a sunken lane which was almost shell and bomb proof. Poor Tpr Humphrey in the Scout Tp was killed by a mortar that day, one could not want a better man. D Sqn. 4Tp left at first light and took over from 5Tp. The Y roads held all day in spite of the efforts of 5th DG and some Rifle Brigade's. Heavy stonking in 4Tp area, Y roads and X roads 766548 during the day. 2Tp came into SHQ as 50th Div arrived in his area. Lt Horsfall returned from A Sqn and Lt Campbell joined us from B Sqn. The petrol tank of the fitters lorry was punctured during the night by shelling around the SHQ area.
4/8/44	D Sqn pushed on towards VILLERSBOCAGE X roads 792560 which were heavily mined but eventually cleared after light opposition. D Sqn were ordered to recce 22nd Armd Bde centre line East from LA POSTE. MAISONCELLES-PELVEY was found to be heavily mined and also the main road from LA POSTE to MAISONCELLES-PELVEY. No progress could be made and it was found necessary to send up a flail tank during the night. Another Tp pushed through LA POSTE towards VILLERSBOCAGE and by last light had reached the outskirts of VILLERS. In the morning B Sqn were still held up but a Tp did succeed in working half way up the hill to the PINCON feature. At 1200 hrs it appeared as though the enemy had pulled back. 43rd Div Recce pushed forward up the feature with a Tp of B Sqn in the lead. B Sqn now had three roads to cover:- a) the road East to ONDERFONTAINE b) CATHEOLLES– MONTCHARIVEL road c) LE MESNIL AUZOUT– LA TROTAINIERE road. All these roads were also covered by 43rd Recce. One patrol nearly reached ONDERFONTAINE by last light, another reached LA TROTAINIERE where they were held up by an enemy AC which they endeavoured to stalk. B Sqn. 4Tp relieved 2Tp. 5Tp and 4Tp were still stuck up the same cul-de-sac all the morning and were unable



	to make any progress. 3Tp were able to move forward half-way up the hill on to the PINCON feature. Suddenly at about midday it appeared that the enemy had gone. The 43rd Recce Regt appeared but 3Tp were the first up the hill onto the PINCON feature. Once up the hill B Sqn had three roads to cover – 4Tp on the road going East to ONDEFONTAINE, 3Tp in the centre on the road MESNIL AUZOUF – LA TAUTAINIERE and 5Tp the road CATHEOLLES – MONTCHARIVAL on the right. This covered the whole of the 43rd Div front and consequently their Recce Regt was to be found along all our routes. 4Tp got nearly to ONDEFONTAINE and had to pull back for the night; 3Tp got to LA TAUTAINIERE where they were shot at by a cleverly concealed AC; Lt Chapman and Sgt MacGuire dismounted and tried to stalk the enemy AC with hand grenades but were seen and shot at by enemy Infantry protecting the AC, when they were within 50 yards of it. This was very bad luck, and they also spent the night with 43rd Recce. 5Tp were soon found they were overlapping with the neighbouring Corps on their road and having had great difficulty in getting through the traffic spent the night in the area of the 15th Scottish Div. SHQ relied on a false sense of security and were quite heavily shelled, but spent a quiet night with the rest of the Sqn in an orchard at LEMESNIL AUZOUF. Lt Campbell, owing to D Sqn casualties in Tp Ldrs, was transferred to that Sqn, much to B Sqn's sorrow. D Sqn. The Y junction was cleared and 4Tp pushed on towards VILLERS BOCAGE. X roads 792560 heavily mined, after night opposition cleared. 5Tp took over from 4Tp and had orders to turn East at LA POSTE with 5th DG. MAISONCELLES – PELVEY heavily mined with AP mines and main road from LA POSTE to MAISONCELLES – PELVEY. 3Tp Lt Campbell went out in the afternoon to go straight on from LA POSTE to VILLERS BOCAGE. Mines found at 805570 and at last light 3Tp had reached the outskirts of VILLERS BOCAGE. A Rail tank was sent out to 5Tp to clear the road for 22nd Armd Bde centre line (Westminster Dragoons). Rained during the night.
5/8/44	B Sqn continued their advance in front of 43rd Div Recce and 2 miles east of LA TAUTAINIERE they came against a strongly held river line. On their left they passed through ONDEFONTAINE and reported the village of GUAYE strongly held. They were prevented from clearing up GUAYE by our own shelling and withdrew. D Sqn were ordered to advance and recce bridges on the ODon between AUNAY SUR ODon and a line SE of VILLERS BOCAGE. VILLERS BOCAGE was found to be badly blocked with rubble and it was necessary to work across country to the South. One Tp moved ahead down the centre line through LONVILLERS and was held up by mines on the bridge at 837543 and suffered 2 casualties. Another Tp went to the bridge North of AUNAY SUR ODon and reported the bridge intact. Here again a car was lost on a mine and the remainder of the Tp pushed into AUNAY and found it badly blocked by rubble. Here they came up with C Sqn patrol coming down the main road. D Sqn then tried to push down to the bridge over the river ORNE at THURY HARCOURT. By last light a patrol had crossed the ODon at 840570 and reached 880500 in conjunction with 5th DG. C Sqn were ordered to contact the REs at ROBIN and to open up the main road to AUNAY SUR ODon which was the proposed Div axis. A number of mines were met on the way and progress was slow. The bridge at 824512 was found to be alright but the town itself was hopelessly blocked by rubble. An SP gun was encountered but it gave itself up. A diversion was eventually found through AUNAY and freed as far South as LA GENDRIERIE where a number of Infantry were observed. C Sqn. 4Tp left early to liaise with and protect the 64th Medium Regt RA at 755535. At 0930 hours 3Tp Lt Ballingal MC was ordered to contact some REs at ROBIN and to open up the road into AUNAY SUR ODon. 1130 hours – 3Tp had reached 802513 where there were many mines to be cleared. 1200 hours – 3Tp took a PoW from 326 Infantry Div. 1420 hours – 3Tp had reached the bridge at 824512 – it was OK; at the entrance to the town, which was completely flattened by bombing, was hopelessly blocked by rubble of fallen down houses. A diversion to the North was finally found and by 1700 hours 3Tp was in the town centre. A German SP gun destroyed itself just in front of him and the crew surrendered. They gave their unit as 10th Pz Regt (Freundsburg). Further work was required to get out of the town to the South. 1850 hours – 3Tp was out of the town to the South and could see one man, believed German by his helmet, at 837501. As the approach was completely open down the rd he despatched a scout section



	down the side of the road which got nearly in the village of LA GENDRERIE along a ditch. There they saw some legs walking about, but could not see the complete body, but decided they were German – they withdrew and the position was shelled by 7Tp. 4Tp had meantime finished his job with the guns and joined 3Tp. They both withdrew about 1 mile for the night. A Sqn. Moved to area BREUIL where we spent the night. B Sqn. 3Tp pushed along their road in the centre in front of the 43rd Div Recce, and when the 13th Hussars Sqn just behind said they thought a thickly wooded bit of the road was too dangerous for them, Lt Chapman volunteered to push on forward. Only 2 miles East of LA TAUTINIERE they came up against a strongly held river line. The Wiltshires later came up and 3Tp spent the rest of the day with them reporting very accurately on the situation. On several occasions when the Wiltshires Bn HQ was being sniped. Lt Chapman insisted on going out in his Dingo to draw the fire and locate the sniper. On the left 4Tp passed through ONDEFONTAINE and reported the village of GUAYE as held. They did a lot of shooting which included the rescue of an Air OP which had forced landed. Unfortunately just as they were about to clean up this village and take about 50 PoW our own guns began shelling the place so the Tp was withdrawn a bit. They continued to report on the enemy for the rest of the day. On the right 5Tp made several gallant attempts to encircle from the South ST JEAN LE BLANC (whose codename was obviously "The White Bint"!) but the enemy was not budging and any movement was instantly shelled. Lt Sivewright did some excellent reporting throughout the day. 1Tp now commanded by Lt Young relieved 3Tp in the evening, and 2Tp went out to relieve 5Tp, they spent the night together. SHQ moved to 3 miles behind 3Tp for the day and went back to LE MESNIL AUZOUF for the night. Great difficulty was experienced with the wireless in this thickly wooded and undulating country. D Sqn. Orders to advance to recce the bridge over the RODON, between AUNAY SUR ODON and a line SE of VILLERS BOCAGE. 2Tp went with detailed orders to LA POSTE at 0530 hours where 3Tp and 5Tp were for the night. 3Tp found VILLERS BOCAGE badly blocked by masonry and had to go cross country to the South. 5Tp worked on slowly, held up by mines at all X roads. 2Tp followed up 5Tp as far as the X roads 812547 when 2Tp went ahead to the bridge at 837543. Here Sgt Fulcher's car hit 2 teller mines, Tpr Chalmers was slightly wounded in the head and Sgt Fulcher cracked 2 ribs on the gun. The car was badly smashed at the front. 5Tp went right to the bridge North of AUNAY, which was OK. Lt Sexty's car went up on a teller mine. Sgt Luke pushed on to AUNAY which was badly blocked having been 'liberated', where he met a patrol of C Sqn coming down the main road. Sgt Lyon was slightly wounded by an 'S' mine which went off 10 feet away from him. 4Tp joined 2Tp to try and get through to the bridge at THURY HARCOURT on the river ORNE. 3Tp meanwhile managed to get over the ODON at 840570 and proceeded SE to 880500. 4Tp joined 3Tp also a Sqn of 5th DG and they pushed on about 2000 yards meeting SA fire. 3Tp were smartened up by 5th DG (or thought to be). 5Tp got through AUNAY and proceeded East to 865495. 3Tp came in.
6/8/44	D Sqn had standing patrols at 888493 and 897498. 177 Bde, 59 Div from 12 Corps who were on our left, were also in this area. D Sqn reported strong enemy line running West from THURY HARCOURT at 1100 hrs. B Sqn were ordered to concentrate at ONDEFONTAINE, A Sqn who up to now had been in reserve, were warned to be ready to recce the next main bridges over the ORNE at 920432, 915405 and 985345 and a possible crossing at LE MESNIL ROGER 916439. Unfortunately a number of enemy overshoots landed in their Sqn area and Major J Turnbull MC was wounded in the leg and 4 ORs also wounded. Capt H Petch MC DCM took command of the Sqn. C Sqn were given the role of recceing the 3 roads running SW, South and SE from AUNAY. They were hindered by the thick ground mist. They succeeded in getting observation onto LA GENDRERIE area again but little progress could be made owing to MG fire. C Sqn. Sqn role was to recce the three roads running SW, South and SE from AUNAY SUR ODON. 2Tp, 4Tp and 3Tp were allocated the 3 roads, each with a scout car. On the way through the town 3Tp took 3 PoW of 968 Regt – there was thick ground mist which limited visibility to 100 yards. The shelling by 7Tp on the previous day had been well on target. 3Tp in following up his scout section ran over a mine damaging the car, but the crew was OK.



	4Tp had meanwhile had made good progress through the thick woods at 7948 and by 0825 hours had reached the road junction 828482. He was ordered to halt there and await improvement of visibility as it was known the MTPINCON feature was held. At 0850 hours a German cyclist rode into the patrol from the West. He was from 5th Btn 786 Regt and did not know we were near the road junction. 2Tp had meanwhile advanced to road junc at 897487 where they met a patrol of B Sqn. 2Tp was then withdrawn and relieved 3Tp who had been busy picking up mines- Teller Mk IV, several of them booby-trapped. A Coy of Hants Regt came into 4Tp area which was heavily shelled. The Tp evacuated. There were 5 casualties on the ACs which the stretcher bearers could not reach on account of MG fire. Little advance was made during the rest of the day. 2Tp advanced SW as far as 852482 but was then ordered back. There was a certain amount of shelling in this area without result. Both Tps returned to Sqn after dark. A Sqn. Moved to CANTELOUP. The Sqn Ldr Major J Turnbull received orders to have the Sqn ready to move out, to recce the bridges over the ORNE. Before the order to move was given, a few overthrows from the enemy guns fell in the area. The Sqn Ldr was wounded in the leg, L/Cpl Cox and L/Cpl Crosby, Tpr Paske and Tpr Cutbush were also injured. This meant that 5Tp Lt Osborne was not operational. Capt H Petch MC DCM, took command of the Sqn, Lt Williamson took over 2i/c and Lt Woodhouse who had joined us from C Sqn took over 3Tp. B Sqn. 3Tp after a brilliant patrol were impossible to call in the morning! The only incident was that on the day before an unlucky mortar shell had landed in the sunken lane where 3Tp were with the Btn HQ of the Wiltshires – Tpr Pearson was killed and Tprs Symons and Philips were wounded. At 1100 hours the Sqn was told to concentrate at ONDEFONTAINE and the patrols were withdrawn. Lt Nicholson had spent the last 2 ½ days with HQ 43rd Div Recce Regt who were charming and grateful for our help, but he had heard an unfortunate remark by their Div Commander, which ran, "If the 11th Hussars insist on swanning around our area they must expect to be shot up!" Are we fighting the Germans or ourselves? B Sqn I think had acquitted themselves well though they were very lucky not to have had any more casualties. D Sqn. 1Tp Lt Horsfall and 3Tp refuelled and went out, 4Tp and 5Tp came in. 1Tp to 888493, 5Tp to 897498. Lt Moore to 59th Div Recce to liaise. Considerable shelling and mortaring during the day and at last light. The area South of the river running West from THURY HARCOURT held strongly. Excellent shoot with 25pdrs and mediums by 1Tp & 3Tp in conjunction, on enemy Infantry and suspected dug-in Panther.
7/8/44	A Sqn moved patrols out to position of readiness at LA VALLE 880470. They were shelled and pulled back to 895503. C Sqn had one patrol which made contact with 8th Armd Bde who were working along the side of the PINCON feature in very close contact with the enemy. Another Tp followed the main advance to POSTY and then turned South up the BOIS DU ROI where it was ambushed by a 75mm and one car knocked out. The 75mm was engaged and destroyed by our gunners. C Sqn. 1Tp & 5Tp left before first light to patrol the roads running SW & SE from road junc 828482. 5Tp's job consisted of following up Infantry and tanks until road junc at 836474 and 1Tp was to open up the road running down to the West of Mt PINCON. The western side of PINCON had been reported as being taken during the night, but a lot of enemy were known to be still in the area. By 0855 hours 1Tp had reached 821470 and they took 2 PoWs from 986 Regt and they said their whole Btn was in the area. 1Tp pushed on to the crossing of the river at 820467. Here they met many mines in the road which had to be removed. They were Teller mines some of which were booby trapped. One of these was exploded by attaching signal cable and pulling. The explosion immediately drew heavy shellfire which postponed lifting operations. By 1400 hours 1Tp had met some tanks of 8th Armd Bde (13/18th Hussars) at X roads 821443. They were then ordered to go West along the South side of the PINCON feature. After making 1000 yards they came into close contact with the enemy. They engaged those observed and withdrew amongst A/Tk and MG fire which however did no harm. 1Tp remained in observation X roads area – they also found and evacuated 2 wounded soldiers of the Hampshire Regt. 5Tp had made a slow advance to POSTY which was reached at 1630 hours. The main column turned



	left and 5Tp was ordered to move straight on to contact friends on the hill some 2000 yards ahead. They almost immediately took 2 PoWs of the 276th Pz A/Tk unit who stated that they had abandoned their SP gun. Another PoW (986 Gn) was taken soon after. The advance continued slowly in by now thickly wooded country. At 1744 hours the leading car was fired on, hit and immediately set on fire. The driver Tpr Johnson and the G/Op Tpr Berger were killed and the commander Sgt Thomson severely burned but managed to get out. Lt Creaton ran forward to help; Sgt Thomson had been burned on the face and hands and his clothing was on fire but this was soon extinguished and they got back to Lt Creaton's car in spite of MG fire. Sgt Thomson was evacuated in the White scout car while Lt Creaton got in touch with the OP and gave him the pinpoint ref of the A/Tk gun. An accurate concentration was brought down upon the area and soon after the Infantry were able to advance to find the gun had received a direct hit killing 3 of the crew, the fourth was captured. 3Tp had meanwhile gone to recce the road from 836974 to 810458. He got about halfway up and met 1st RTR who were doing the same thing from the other way. All Tps returned at night. A Sqn. At 0900 hours 1Tp Sgt Hall, 2Tp Lt Sutton, 3Tp Lt Woodhouse and 4Tp Lt Hodgkinson were sent out to be in a handy position in the area of VALLEE. They were shelled and ordered to move back under cover to area 895503 where they remained all day. At 2115 hours Tp Ldrs were called in to SHQ for orders and 2Tp complete because of the damage to their cars through shelling. B Sqn. 7th to the 10th the Sqn remained at ONDEFONTAINE resting and reorganising. It is surprising how tired everyone gets these long days and it takes more than a day to catch up on the sleep one has missed. It seems that this Corps Recce did not work really. Either we must work on our own front, in front of 7th Armd Div as usual, or if the Corps Commander must have continual accurate information on the whole front, we should merely act as LOS with Officers and Sergeants in Dingos on the Infantry Div fronts where they have their own Recce Regts. Much letter writing was done and more of the soldiers were able to recount the stories of their first patrols against the Germans. D Sqn. 1Tp and 5Tp move out to 888493 and 897498. Lt Horsfall to liaise with 1/6th South Staffs and 5Tp on left 177th Bde. Very heavy mortaring in the morning, Lt Horsfall was wounded in the shoulder while with Bn HQ of 1/6th South Staffs. 4Tp relieved 1Tp. Whole situation as follows:- roughly the river running West from the ORNE at 930480 to VALLEE dividing line enemy to the South, us to the North. From the 51 Grid running SE to RORNE Enemy in the valley with mortars and with guns South of Pt. 152. All Tps called in at 1200 hours.
8/8/44	7th Armd Div were trying to push down South to COMDE with two mixed columns, Mustard and Pepper and D Sqn had a Tp at Pt. 245 with another two in the VALLEE area and another attempting to go East to THURY HARCOURT bridge and on to 870459 and trying to work SE. Heavy shelling and mortaring experienced and Tps eventually withdrew to Pt. 245. D Sqn sent patrol to 888423 and 897498. Lt RD Horsfall was wounded in the left shoulder by mortar fire whilst liaising with Bn HQ 1/6 South Staffs. Enemy line reported as running along the line of the river running West from the ORNE to South of VALLEE. Enemy in the valley with mortars and guns South of Pt. 152. A Sqn moved out to recce river bridges as already detailed. All Tps were heavily shelled and had to be withdrawn leaving one Tp as LO with the 8th Hussars who were doing advance guard along the Div centre line. C Sqn were given the task of doing right flank guard to a column consisting of one Sqn 8th Hussars, 5th RTR and 1/6 Queens which was pushing through PLESSIS GRIVCOURT all day and C Sqn therefore never assumed their role. C Sqn. A column of one Sqn of 8th Hussars, 5th RTR and 1/6th Queens was formed to advance South through PLESSIS GRIMOULT. Sqn role was to do right flank guard. 2Tp and 3Tp left early and went to the top of Mt PINCON near the head of the column. The leading Tps were held up in PLESSIS GRIMOULT and just to the South all day, so our role was never required. All Tps returned in the evening. A Sqn. At 0500 hours Tps moved out and on arrival in area of start point, 1Tp who were leading, was shelled



	and suffered 2 casualties. Cpl Sear of the Scout section was wounded in the back and Cpl Lewis was wounded slightly in the head. Cpl Sear was evacuated and Tpr Ogden was put in command of the Scouts. All 3 Tps were ordered back to cover and later two Tps were called in, 4Tp remained out to act as LO between SHQ and 8th Hussars who were advance guard along the centre line. D Sqn. 2Tp, 3Tp and 4Tp move out. 3Tp remain in area Pt 245 2 & 3 to valley area to get 2Tp West to THURY HARCOURT bridge and 4Tp to 876459 and then SE Column of 7th Armd Div are pushing South to CONDE. Heavy fire and Infantry opposition met. No progress made and 4Tp returned to Pt. 245 at about 1100 hours. 2Tp were heavily mortared in the afternoon and joined 3Tp and 4Tp at Pt. 245 at about 1530 hours as no information or useful action was being attained. All Tps in at last light.												
9/8/44	No further advance could be made by 7th Armd Div against strong enemy opposition and A Sqn were accordingly withdrawn. D Sqn had one patrol as LO with 177 Bde all day. No change in the front. C Sqn. Sqn came into reserve. Summary. The Sqn only reced from LA LANDE to Mt PINCON a total distance of about 5 miles, but nearly all of this was in contact with the enemy and in very close country. During the 4 days we lost one car with 2 killed and 1 wounded and had a second car damaged by a mine but recovered. We took 12 PoWs and possibly inflicted other casualties with a 75mm and MGs. We also removed 40 – 50 Teller mines. A Sqn. 2Tp was ordered out at 0500 hours to take up position at start point before first light and act as LO between 8th Hussars and SHQ. No advance had been made. The enemy in strong position at 898467. At 0930 hours the Sqn was ordered to pull out until a more favourable opportunity presented itself for pushing on up to the bridge. We returned independently to CANTALOUPE where we spent the night. 5Tp Lt Osborne had by this time been made up in crews and was again operational. Lt Woodhouse reported to the Sqn Ldr with an attack of Malaria (3rd attack in 6 weeks). He was evacuated to hospital and Lt Hunt took over 3Tp and Sgt Turner the Gun Tp. D Sqn. 5Tp liaising with 177 Bde all day. Front unchanged, less mortaring than usual.												
10/8/44	A Sqn were sent out to try and recce bridges again. Enemy Infantry positions were found North, NE and NW of ST LAMBERT also mines at 882441 and Sqn was held up for the day. A Sqn. At 1800 hours 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp were ordered out to the bridges again. 3Tp to the bridge at 914405, 5Tp to 920432 and 4Tp to the crossing at LE MESNIL ROGER. 3Tp reached 884423 and reported Infantry positions North, NE & NW of ST LAMBERT. He took up observation until ordered to return at last light. 5Tp reached 882441 where the road was found to be mined. The Scout section dismounted and started clearing the mines, picking up 10 Teller mines before last light. 4Tp following behind 5Tp were unable to get onto the route to the crossing. SHQ had moved to 862448 with the Gun Tp and 1Tp and 2Tp. The B1 Echelon was moved to 860 467. At last light all Tps were called in and B1 replenished after dark. D Sqn. Moved to RHQ area 820495 at 1045 hours, 1Tp Lt Wild coming in from liaison with 177 Bde. 10th – 15th August. Reorganisation, cleaning up and maintenance. Strep as follows:- <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1Tp</td><td>Lt Wild, Sgt Cooper, Cpl Wheeler</td></tr> <tr> <td>2Tp</td><td>Sgt Lyon MM, Sgt Stewart, Cpl Rogers</td></tr> <tr> <td>3Tp</td><td>Lt Campbell, Sgt Addis, Cpl Grainger</td></tr> <tr> <td>4Tp</td><td>Sgt Keen, Sgt Peckitt, Cpl Gooch</td></tr> <tr> <td>5Tp</td><td>Sgt Luke MM, Cpl Walker, LCpl Chapman</td></tr> <tr> <td>Guns</td><td>Lt Sexty, Sgt Andrews, Sgt Skarratt</td></tr> </table> L/Sgt Cooper and L/Sgt Stewart to Sgt.	1Tp	Lt Wild, Sgt Cooper, Cpl Wheeler	2Tp	Sgt Lyon MM, Sgt Stewart, Cpl Rogers	3Tp	Lt Campbell, Sgt Addis, Cpl Grainger	4Tp	Sgt Keen, Sgt Peckitt, Cpl Gooch	5Tp	Sgt Luke MM, Cpl Walker, LCpl Chapman	Guns	Lt Sexty, Sgt Andrews, Sgt Skarratt
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	LCpl Gooch and LCpl Cairns to Cpl. U/LCpl Chapman and U/LCpl Rose to P/LCpl. Tprs Hempstead, Cartwright 08, Williams Wynn to U/LCpl(Tprs Rivers, Higman to U/LCpl before arrival RHQ area). At this time also:- <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lt Newton MC</td><td>at Baguley Hospital, Altringham, Cheshire</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lt Hickman</td><td>at Baguley Hospital</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lt Horsfall</td><td>121 General Hospital, to UK 10 Aug 44</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lt Copeland</td><td>10 CCS 10 Aug 44 to Hospital 12 Aug 44 and progressing favourably</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lt Llewellyn Palmer</td><td>died of wounds 3 Aug 44</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tpr Humphries</td><td>found KIA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tpr Sanderson</td><td>found KIA</td></tr> <tr> <td>LCpl Kennedy</td><td>no trace whatever, Missing (car door was open, hoped he is PoW)</td></tr> </table> [A Peter Joseph Kennedy 11th Hussars was killed on 2 Aug 44 and is buried in BANNEVILLE LA CAMPAGNE Cemetery – source Commonwealth War Graves] All other wounded and evacuated are reported in UK – none were very serious and are progressing.	Lt Newton MC	at Baguley Hospital, Altringham, Cheshire	Lt Hickman	at Baguley Hospital	Lt Horsfall	121 General Hospital, to UK 10 Aug 44	Lt Copeland	10 CCS 10 Aug 44 to Hospital 12 Aug 44 and progressing favourably	Lt Llewellyn Palmer	died of wounds 3 Aug 44	Tpr Humphries	found KIA	Tpr Sanderson	found KIA	LCpl Kennedy	no trace whatever, Missing (car door was open, hoped he is PoW)
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11/8/44	A Sqn were unable to make further progress owing to mines and enemy Infantry and guns. A Sqn. The intention remained the same. Four troops were in use. 4Tp to the crossing. 5Tp to the bridge 920432. 3Tp to the bridge 915405. 2Tp lying up in area CAUVILLE. To all intents and purposes the situation remained unchanged. No advance was made by us towards the bridges, and enemy guns and Infantry were in positions in strength all along the front. 3Tp used the 75mm gun Tp at Infantry position at 888418 but with little or no success. The road that 5Tp was using was eventually cleared of mine by the Scout section who had been assisted by the RE's. Unfortunately one Daimler AC was blown up, none of the crew injured. Enemy shelling was encountered the whole day on all sectors and a few prisoners were taken, some of them Yugoslavs. Tps returned to SHQ at last light and replenishment was carried out. B Sqn. 11th to 12th the Sqn moved to where the Regt was, in a lovely place just South of Mt PINCON near AUNAY SURODON which was generally agreed to be the most battered place or town we had ever seen; it was such a shambles that the RE's were unable to find where the roads went and had to bulldoze a way through. All the Sqn benefited from well run shower baths, where they could also exchange their clothing. Lt General Horrocks whom we knew well from before and who had just taken over 30th Corps from Lt General Bucknall, gave the Regt a very fine address in the course of the war; he said how much he preferred the "metering" kind of war, like the Tunisian finale, than the stubborn fighting against fatalistic SS Troops which we were now experiencing; he said that he was a good General when the enemy were on the run.																
12/8/44	Thick fog delayed A Sqn in the early morning and enemy were still in ST LAMBERT. One Tp was ordered to move down the centre line to X roads 875390 and then to move East and endeavour to reach Pt. 110 and report on the road running from 918400 SE as a possible axis and also on the condition of the bridge at 938390. However at 890390 they were heavily shelled and forced to withdraw. CULEY LE PATREY was strongly held by the enemy but eventually was cleared by our Infantry late at night. A Sqn. 1Tp, 2Tp and 3Tp went out at 0530 hours but were held up owing to fog. 1Tp advanced no further than 884423. They reported Infantry and mortars in ST LAMBERT and square 8841 was a prepared Infantry Bn position. 3Tp had a slight alteration in the orders given to them this was to move from their position at 1500 hours and proceed South down the centre line to X roads 875390 – then to advance East and endeavour to reach Pt. 110 915398. His intention to report whether the road running SE was useable and to report on																



	the bridge at 938390. The Tp advanced as far as 890390 where it was shelled and forced to withdraw. Lt Hunt exhibited great spirit and dash to advance so far, and seemed undeterred by small pockets of Infantry which he encountered on the way. 2Tp advanced to 885439 where it was held up all day by mortar fire. The village of CULEY LE PATREY was strongly held by enemy Infantry and it was not until late at night that our Infantry ejected them.
13/8/44	Regt concentrated at PIED DU BOIS 821455. At 1300 hrs B Sqn was placed at 1 hour's notice as there were signs of the enemy withdrawing on the Corps front. At 1300 hrs B Sqn moved out to recon crossings of the ORNE South of THURY HARCOURT and act as left flank guard to Corps advance on CONDE SUR NOIREAU. Patrols reached position of observation at CULEY LE PATREY. Their centre however found mines on the CAUVILLE – ST LAMBERT road and lost 2 cars without casualties. Right hand patrol reached position of observation at LA VARENDE and met up with our Infantry. The Corps Commander asked for a special recon to be made of the bridge at ST REMY. A Tp succeeded in working up to the area of the bridge at last light and it was necessary for the Tp Ldr to work forward on a DSC in the dark. Civilians reported the bridge blown and enemy Infantry in the town. With bad going and difficult W/T communications it was necessary for the Tp to stay where they were for the night and try to confirm this report at first light. A Sqn. Returned to RHQ at PIED DU BOIS. Maintenance was carried out and troops were rested. From the 7th until 12th the Tps who had been operating were exposed to continuous shell and mortar fire and all benefited from the short respite. B Sqn. At 1100 hours we were in the middle of a Sqn Ldr's conference discussing how to occupy the time to advantage during the few days rest when we suddenly placed at immediate notice. B Sqn moved at 1300 hours and was ordered to recon the crossings of the ORNE, South of THURY HARCOURT and at the same time act as left flank guard to the Corps who were advancing South to CONDE SUR NOIREAU. 5Tp on the left got as far East as CULEY LE PATREY and had a good view point from that area. 2Tp in the centre had a more adventuresome time. The Germans had left the area bristling with mines and Lt Burridge's car was blown up on the CAUVILLE ST LAMBERT road; he and both the driver LCpl Mayes and the operator LCpl Gormally were untouched. Later in the dark whilst trying to find another way round in his Dingo, Lt Burridge was standing only a few yards in front, guiding the driver onto a road, it was suddenly blown up but again he was untouched but for a bruised nose from a pack falling on it, Tpr Evans the driver was merely badly shaken. Perhaps Lt Burridge is going on George III's principle of "Give me lucky Generals, not good Generals". On the right centre 1Tp found a good position at LA VARENDE and spent the evening finding friends and avoiding mines. On the right we had a special request from the Corps Commander to recon the bridge at ST REMY. 3Tp went off as quickly as possible and, after leaving his Tp on high ground, Lt Chapman almost reached the bridge in his Dingo by midnight; civilians in a house just our side of the bridge were woken up by him and said that the bridge was held by Germans and that they had blown it, which was the information the Corps Commander required. The wireless through the trees was very difficult and 3Tp was out of touch for most of the night.
14/8/44	Regt now doing left flank guard to 30 Corps towards CONDE SUR NOIREAU. At first light B Sqn confirmed the bridge at 914405 was blown. B Sqn maintained patrols in LA VARENDE area with White section forward. Another Tp worked down to the ORNE East of CULEY LE PATREY and met up with 59 Div from 12 Corps. 75mm were fired during the day, mainly as practice for the Tp Ldrs acting as OP. A few Infantry and MET were seen throughout the day on the opposite bank of the river. C Sqn maintained patrols with Scout section forward at LA VARENDE and 912403. They also fired their 75mm guns during the day at likely target area on the opposite bank of the river. C Sqn. The Sqn was between the 38 and 41 North facing East. Two Tps were out, with 2Tp on the left overlooking the bridge at 915405 which had been blown, and 1Tp Sgt Mitchell at LA VARENDE, both had scout sections – the one with 1Tp being about 1 mile forward of the Tp which could get no further because of the going. The one with 2Tp patrolled the river bank to see if the bridge at 913410 was useable; but it was not. 2Tp took one PoW, a Russian from a Hosed Transport Unit.



	At 1210 hours the scout section saw some men at 891391 on the far side of the river. 7Tp (Gun Tp) were in action at SHQ area 878893. First they ranged a road likely to be used, and then fired on men reported by 1Tp scout section. 170 rounds were fired during the day. For the night both Tps prepared to hold the roads from the East. For this purpose, scout sections carried a roll of Danert wire and Hawkins A/Tk grenades. B Sqn. At daylight 3Tp went down to the bridge SW of REMY 914405 and confirmed that it was blown. A Tp from C Sqn relieved them at 0900 hours and 3Tp returned to rest with the B1 at CAPANDRE VALCONGRAIN. 1Tp on the right remained in the area of LA VARENDE, with the Scout section LCpl Hawkins, forward looking down into the river. They reported chiefly on our own shelling of the other side. In the centre 4Tp was in position on MONTGAULTIER and Lt Nicholson with Cpl Hughes was forward about 2000 yards in a good but far away position. 4Tp had a shoot with 75mm onto various fleeting targets on the other side of the river, more for practice than anything else. On the left 5Tp got right down to the river East of CULEY LE PATREY and gained contact with 59th Div in 12th Corps who were operating on our left. One RE Carrier was blown up just on the other side of the river, and later another carrier looking for a bathing pool also got blown up. In the evening 5Tp also had some good shooting at fleeting targets on the opposite hill. It was lovely weather and a comparatively quiet day except for a short panic in the evening when Lt Nicholson in the half light reported 12 Germans coming towards him. They must have disappeared as we heard nothing more of them. SHQ spent the day and leaguered for the night 700 yards behind 4Tp in the centre, in a very good position of observation. 1Tp were relieved about midday by C Sqn.
15/8/44	B & C Sqn carried out static patrols as on previous day. A quiet day. C Sqn. Our area was increased to the SE as far as 38 grid and later to the 35 grid. 4Tp left at dawn and went to junc at 918400 – the road South of there was heavily mined with Teller of which the scout section picked up more than 40 – they also took 1 PoW of the Grenadiers, but could not find out what number. 1Tp was relieved by B Sqn and later 2Tp was withdrawn; but 3Tp went down South past 4Tp to junc 917357, then East towards the bridges at 9833 which were reported clear, but were in fact not, and 3Tp ran into mortar fire and shelling. They then reced the roads and bridges over the ORNE to the North. They encountered mines which they marked, but all the bridges were U/S. 3Tp and 4Tp remained in the area for the night. B Sqn. 3Tp took over the right hand patrol from C Sqn. 4Tp were still out in the centre and 5Tp were relieved in the afternoon by 1Tp. It was a quiet day and very good training for the Scout section in the use of their own initiative. At 1800 hours the whole Sqn was withdrawn to B1 for the night.
16/8/44	Lt Cousins and Lt Pybus joined D Sqn. Lt Richards joined A Sqn. In the early morning orders were received from 7th Armd Div for the Regt to be ready to move with the Div to join 1st Corps East of the ORNE. At 1300 hrs Regt moved to SECQUEVILLE LA CAMPAGNE. Orders were received for the Regt to carry out a recce to the North between ST PIERRE SUR DIVES and the R VIE. Information about the enemy was rather vague as 1st Corp had no Armd Car Regt operating in this section. LOS were sent out to 51st Highland Div and 49th Infantry Div. D Sqn were to operate on the left, C Sqn in the centre and B Sqn on the right. A Sqn were in Regt reserve. C Sqn. Both Tps cleared up their area of mines. The enemy had now withdrawn from the far bank of the river and at 1200 hours, Tps were withdrawn and Sqn went into reserve. 1600 – Regt moved to area of ST SYLVAIN where we arrived just before dark. A Sqn. Moved from PIED DU BOIS to ST AIGNON DU CREMASNIL crossing the ORNE at AMAYE SUR ORNE. B Sqn. We expected the day off but an early morning rumour that we were going over the ORNE under the Canadian turned out to be correct. 2Tp were now reformed with a new Daimler AC and a new Dingo. At 1300 hours the whole Regt moved to cross the ORNE and come under 1st Corps who were part of



	the Canadian Army. We crossed at AMAYES SUR ORNE and after careering on much further than we expected, and ended up, after passing through untold Canadian Echelons and leaguers, at SECQUEVILLE LA CAMPAGNE which was one of the most unsightly places we have seen; the wood had been bombed by our heavies or American heavies, presumably on our own troops as there were many brewed up British vehicles. The orders for the next day were most ambitious and the information about the enemy was almost nil, and there was little more information of whom the Polish Arm'd Div was working on our front, and, naturally enough their English "was not", in most cases liaison was difficult; however Lt Nicholson somehow managed to get some useful information, and they also added that they were not going to write themselves off in some "blood and guts" show and their Div constituted the future breeding stock of Poland. Tp Ldrs were not given their orders until midnight. The Regt was to advance on a three Sqn front in a northerly direction roughly between ST PIERRE SUR DIVES and on the right the river VIE; the country was supposed to be unoccupied, which in fact proved to be entirely incorrect. It was a ghastly night. D Sqn. Lt Cousins and Lt Pybus joined the Sqn, the former under instruction of Sgt Keen and the latter under instruction of Sgt Lyon. Cpl Wheeler and Cpl Walker placed spare on B2. Moved at 1300 hours to area CLAMESNIL under 1st Canadian Army. Very dirty; arrived 2230 hours with orders to move at first light. The area had some 100 burnt out vehicles (British) caused by 50 Lancasters dropping their bombs in the wrong area.
17/8/44	Sqns moved out at 0600 hrs. D Sqn moved across R DIVES at ST PIERRE SUR DIVES and B & C Sqns at JORT. One patrol D Sqn reached 309518 where they were held up by A/Tk guns and MGs. Another patrol reached 288550 and was held up by stonking and one tank. The other two patrols pushed on to 300544 and took a few PoWs and towards MEZIDON. At 1400 hrs they were relieved by 51 Div. B Sqn tried to reach BOISSEY with 2 patrols but were held up by A/Tk guns and Infantry. A third patrol went from BERVILLE and nearly reached ECOTS but found it held and used their 75's to good effect. C Sqn sent patrols to LIEURY which had been reported as clear but found it held by MGs. They then worked one patrol due East and another towards TOTES. A third patrol was sent towards COURCY. By 1100 hrs all these patrols were in visual contact with the enemy and a number of enemy Infantry were engaged in fields. An A/Tk gun was encountered in TOTES and one DSC was lost. All patrols were withdrawn at last light. C Sqn. Dawn – Sqn moved across R DIVES at JORT, 2Tp & 5Tp went to LIEURY which was reported clear but was found to be held by MGs. 2Tp and 5Tp gradually made their way through to trees at 277459 where 2Tp turned South towards TOTES while 5Tp continued East. By 1100 hours 5Tp was at 285460, 2Tp at 282450 and 1Tp at 287437. All were in visual contact with the enemy and 5Tp and 2Tp were both shooting at enemy Infantry in the fields but the country was very close and visibility limited. 1145 hours – 2Tp caused a fire with their MGs in the village of TOTES and were shortly after engaged by A/Tk gun which caused the Dingo to overturn in a ditch while turning round. A Canadian Staghound in the area also got into trouble with its own phosphorous grenades going off – severely burning 2 of its crew. Tpr Russell, the Dingo driver, burned his hands in trying to extinguish the clothing of one of them. Our White Scout car evacuated all the casualties. The Dingo was later recovered intact. 5Tp engaged the enemy in this area with 7Tp as well as his own MGs and got well amongst them. 1Tp came under heavy MG and sniping fire and also an A/Tk gun on the flank. 1Tp and 2Tp also used 7Tp on the enemy in their area. At 1645 hours 5Tp considered the enemy on his front had withdrawn sufficiently so advanced a few hundred yards. A civilian reported that the enemy had just pulled out and had left a man wounded in the earlier firing in a nearby house. The Scout section went and got him. White Scout car evacuated the PoW and took another on the way back. About 1900 hours 2 enemy guns, probably 75mm, fired about 40 – 50 rounds landing just behind SHQ and Gun Tp area. 1Tp and 2Tp got a cross section on these guns and 7Tp replied to them with an equal number of rounds. All Tps recalled after dark. A Sqn. 17th – 18th In Regt l reserve. Moved in the wake of the advance to COURCY.



	B Sqn. We started at 0630 hours on a long approach march to JORT where we crossed the R Dives just by the Polish Div HQ. We halted for breakfast just the other side and to give out orders. 2Tp were on the right and via BERVILLE reached MITTOIS where they came up against small arms and mortars. They then went North across the main road running East from ST PIERRE SUR DIVES to endeavour to get into BOISSEY from the North. They found the country infested with Infantry and had some near escapes, and were just unable, due to bad tracks, to get into BOISSEY before the 8th Hussars. 1Tp tried to get down the main road into BOISSEY but it was covered by an A/Tk gun which brewed up an 8th Hussars tank just in front of him. 3Tp got down the road SE from BERVILLE nearly into ECOTS which was held, and had some very successful sport with the 75's onto some German on a farm hard by. 2Tp took 1 PoW during the day. The country was very close and most difficult. All patrols were called in and spent the night with SHQ in an avenue at CAREL, 1 mile SW of ST PIERRE SUR DIVES. D Sqn. Moved at 0600 hours to ST PIERRE SUR DIVES. It was believed the enemy were disorganised and it would be an easy matter to advance to LISIEUX on a three Sqn front. 2Tp moved out on the main road running NE and reached 309518 where he was held up by A/Tk guns, MGs and mortaring. 3Tp advanced up the main road NNE and reached 288550 where he was held up by shelling and mortaring and a tank at 300590 area. The HD took over the area. 5Tp went to 285531 then East to 300530 where there was MG fire and mortaring; later pushed on to 300544 where he captured 4 PoW. 4Tp went to 282524 and turning left went along the river towards MEZIDON – shelling in OUVILLE area and sundry snipers in the trees. Reached 272553. Area seemed fairly strong with enemy and the Tps were called in at 1400 hours.
18/8/44	Regt ordered to recce East towards the R VIE. B Sqn moved with the leading Sqn of the 8th Hussars. It was found that the main road to LIVAROT was blocked and B Sqn turned North to find another crossing over the R VIE and found that the bridge 2 miles North of LIVAROT was intact. Much trouble experienced from our own aircraft throughout the day. B Sqn had a Maquis attached who proved most valuable and from now onwards all Sqns carried a certain number of these men with them. C Sqn directed one patrol on ST MARBIN DE FRESNEY via ECOTS and another to recce to X roads 313404 via X roads 284437. The first patrol passed through ECOTS at 0930 hrs but the second was badly held up by mines. By 1020 hrs the first patrol was in ST MARBIN DU FRESNEY and found 2 French Somme tanks abandoned (believed to be from 21st Panzer Div). Another patrol saw and encountered a road block at VAUDELOGES and also many mines. The Tp directed on X roads 313 404 encountered an A/Tk gun just short of his objective and the DSC was knocked out and the crew killed. Another car was knocked out by a Bazooka in the area but the crew were alright. The gun was engaged by our 75mm. Another party of enemy in the area of the X roads at 303405 was also engaged by our 75mm. In the evening C Sqn had reached the bridge at 323458 which was intact but strongly held by enemy Infantry and MGs and one A/Tk gun. During the day C Sqn had one Tp with a Canadian Armd Tp and opened the road from X roads 285435 to NOTRE DAME DE FRESNEY where many mines were lifted by the White section. White sections were invaluable for:- a) lifting mines, b) foot recces, c) aiding Tps, d) evacuation of wounded. C Sqn. Dawn. 3Tp and 4Tp left for same area as 1Tp & 5Tp with 3Tp on the right. Diverted on X roads 284437 then to turn South to X roads 313403. 4Tp who were directed on ST MARTIN DE FRESNAY got on very fast in spite of very thick ground mist and passed through ECOTS by 0930 hours. 3Tp meanwhile had encountered many mines (Tellers), some of which were booby trapped and took some time to remove. 1020 hours – 4Tp was in ST MARTIN DE FRESNAY where one PoW was taken and found 2 abandoned



French SOMUA tanks. 1Tp had meanwhile had been sent out to the right, directed on X roads 303405 from the West. At VAUDELOGES he encountered road blocks and many mines.

By 1130 hours 3Tp had reached the village of REVEILLON and was pushing South. Civilians reported enemy just ahead.

By 1200 hours 3Tp was approaching his objective from the North and 1Tp was coming in from the West. The X roads were seen to be held – men moving about and 2 Polish deserters came into 3Tp. Mines could also be seen on the road. An A/Tk gun, thought to be an SP at the time, suddenly opened up on 3Tp from the left flank and with its first shot destroyed the **Dingo**, which was the third vehicle in the Tp. Cpl Finch and Tpr Davies' 18 were killed instantly. The two leading ACs were confined to the road by hedges and banks and were actually protected from the A/Tk gun which later proved to be a Mk IV tank with a 75mm long special gun. The **Dingo** was burning in the middle of the road, blocking it, but after a few minutes it rolled slowly forwards and off the road into the ditch. Lt Ballingal decided to try and drive back, passed the area covered by the A/Tk gun, using reverse steering. A very near miss which completely blinded the driver with dust and smoke put the car into the ditch (later recovered). At the same time a Bazooka from the X roads area knocked out and brewed up the leading car. The crews of both these cars got out OK and made it to the White Scout car which had kept in W/T touch with SHQ. 2Lt Esch with 1 DAC and 1 **Dingo** from 5Tp had joined the White and Lt Ballingal took a 38 (portable) set and went on foot to try and get observation on the gun which had done the damage. 7Tp shelled the area and also the area of the X roads. The following day when the enemy had withdrawn the gun was found to be a Mk IV Special tank which was abandoned. The nearest shell had been within 20 ft of the tank.

1Tp had meanwhile got as far as Pt. 128 2840 from where he got good observation, and a foot patrol forward to within 100 yards of the X roads. There he heard a rifle bolt being operated in a house nearby, also some enemy with an MG just to the South of the X roads. Sgt Davies, i/c Scout section, decided it was time to withdraw to the Tp from where he conducted a shoot with 7Tp on the enemy he had located.

3Tp took another 3 PoWs. 4Tp had got forward as far as the bridge at 323438 which was OK but surrounded by many enemy on foot with MGs – of which he took 4 PoW. Just then an A/Tk gun opened up on the leading car but missed and the Tp withdrew to 50 yards our side of the bridge from where he covered it with MG and 2pdr.

5Tp Lt Creaton and a Scout section opened up the road, together with a Canadian AC Tp from X roads 285435 to NOTRE DAME DE FRESNAY. More mines were encountered and lifted.

5Tp Ldr did a personal recce on a bicycle to a farm at 305439 where he found an abandoned 106 mm gun.

In the evening A Sqn sent four Tp Ldrs to visit our Tp Ldrs with a view to taking over the following day which they duly did.

On these two days 17/18th the recce had been in very close country with close contact with the enemy. An advance of some 3 – 4 miles had been made – all of it in the face of opposition by enemy who took full advantage of the very close country and who had a proportion of A/Tk weapons on every road. The Scout Tp came fully into their own and played a vital part in:-

- i) lifting mines,
- ii) dismounted daylight recce with No. 39 set and Bren and Sten guns which no other formation appeared to undertake,
- iii) treating and evacuating casualties,
- iv) any odd jobs which came their way.

The Gun Tp (7Tp) fired nearly 200 rounds per day. Each Tp and Scout section had been trained as OP and all opposition which could not be taken on with direct MG fire was engaged with indirect HE fire which in practically every case caused the enemy to withdraw.

The AC Troop had a difficult and dangerous task; which they carried out with great determination and gained valuable information locating and in some cases identifying the enemy. Altogether 11 PoW were taken and several others of the enemy, if not wounded, were very frightened. Nearly 100 mines were rendered harmless. Against this 2 men were killed and one DAC and one **Dingo** were lost and one man injured.

B Sqn.

4Tp and 5Tp were out; 4Tp only in readiness, 2 miles West of BOISSEY. 5Tp had some fun with 8th Hussars and would have taken 20 PoW but for bad tracks. The direction of advance was East and 5Tp moved with the leading Sqn of 8th Hussars and by 1600 hours were by-passing ST MARGUERITE DES LOGES on the North. They captured a lorry containing typewriters.

At 1800 hours it became important to get a way across the river VIE and as the main road was blocked to LIVAROT, 5Tp tried to the North and got as far as ST MICHEL DE LIVET where enemy were reported to



	have pulled out just before. The little bridge 2 miles North of LIVAROT was reported as intact. We could not understand why we were allowed to get through, but a German operation order captured later mentioned that ACs had broken through a gap between two Regt boundaries. There was much trouble throughout the day from Spitfires who kept strafing our own forward troops due apparently, to having been given an incorrect bomb line. The whole Sqn spent the night in a lovely orchard at BERVILLE but the bombing at night was uncomfortably close. D Sqn. The Sqn moved to BOISSEY in the evening, machine gunned by Typhoons, bombing in DIVES area during the night.
19/8/44	By 0800 hrs B Sqn had reported bridge 2 miles North of LIVAROT intact and clear, 22nd Armd Bde accordingly changed their centre line towards this bridge. Enemy tanks in a cemetery East of LIVAROT prevented a crossing being made. However, at 1500 hrs B Sqn pushed a patrol across and reced 4 miles across the river while 131 Bde formed a bridgehead. Later another Tp worked across and went North up the main road East of the river. A Sqn with C Sqn Gun Tp under command sent one patrol to GARNETOT and reported 60 enemy in a wood at 325394 which was shelled but no results could be observed. A second patrol advanced to Y roads 375395 South of LE BILLOT and engaged Infantry on a ridge in area 406687. A third patrol advanced to LE BILLOT and engaged an SP gun and some Infantry with the 75mm. The Gun Tp fired off 300 rounds during the day. C Sqn. Sqn moved into Regt reserve area BOIS DU ROI 4475. A Sqn. Four patrols were used and left at first light. 2Tp Lt Sutton advanced to area GARNETOT where he reported 60 Infantry in wood at 325395. The Scout section Sgt Fitzpatrick was sent in to investigate and was engaged at close range. He was forced to withdraw and in so doing reported one man, Tpr Kirkham, adrift. He went back under cover of fire of the sub-unit and brought him back. The Infantry were then shelled by Gun Tp. C Sqn Gun Tp were under command and Lt Brett Smith was GPO. A sweep of the woods was made but no results could be observed except that all shots fell in the target area. The Infantry were still in position at last light. Teller mines were picked up by the Scout section. During the day's activities the section took 7 PoW. 4Tp Lt Hodgkinson advanced to Y roads 338425, South of LE BILLOT and reported Infantry on the ridge in area 406687 which was SE of LE BILLOT, which he engaged. An SP gun reported at 402687 was not confirmed by the Tp but an ammunition lorry loaded with 75mm ammunition was found in this position, the lorry was destroyed. 3Tp Lt Hunt advanced in the direction of LE BILLOT. At X roads 333434 an SP gun was engaged by Gun Tp Lt Brett Smith. Very good fire orders were given by Lt Hunt and the area was stonked after 1 ranging shot. The SP gun was made to withdraw. The Tp then advanced to LE BILLOT where another target was found for Gun Tp, and this was a party of Infantry. All shots fell in the target area and on the following day 5Tp confirmed that 4 dead Germans attested to the accuracy of the guns. A further advance was made to X roads 406693 where the Tp was forced to withdraw owing to Nebelwerfer fire. 1Tp Sgt Hall moved out to AMMEVILLE to act as cover to 2Tp. His Scout section LCpl Ogden took 2 PoW from a farm at 325401. The gun Tp had a field day, firing off 300 rounds. This pleased the Gun Tp enormously. SHQ remained in the area of COURCY all day. Lt Woodhouse returned from hospital having recovered from his bout of malaria. He took over 4Tp and Lt Hodgkinson remained with the Tp as a car commander to gain a little more experience. All Tps were withdrawn at last light. B Sqn. 3Tp was out and by 0800 hours Lt Chapman had reported the bridge 2 miles North of LIVAROT as intact and clear. This report caused the whole of 22nd Armd Bde to put their centre line across there too. There were one or two enemy tanks East of LIVAROT by the cemetery which prevented anyone swanning across; they were heavily shelled. 3Tp went across at 1500 hours having done some good reporting in the morning from a position West of the river, and did a chukka 4 miles beyond the river into some very thick country up the hill. The Queens had formed a bridgehead and we were to recce in front of it. After actually shoving the cars through overgrown lanes, 3Tp fetched up at 1900 hours quite unexpectedly at the cemetery from the enemy side and reported it clear.



	5Tp went over and went up the road North as far as a blown bridge which was held. Lt Siewright used the 75's to good effect and took 5 PoW. It was a wet evening and we spent the night at ST MARGUERITE DES LOGES in a house. D Sqn. Standing by to go out but no appreciable advance so none out. Heavy bombing during the night in BOISSEY area, no damage to us.
20/8/44	A Sqn was directed on to the bridge spanning the R VIE between 463702 and ST FOY DU MONTGOMMERY. R VIE was crossed at 463702 and a patrol worked South to bridge at LA BREVIERE and onto the bridge at ST FOY DU MONTGOMMERY which was held by Infantry with SA and A/Tk guns. At last light enemy Infantry still in possession of the bridge. Remainder of A Sqn were held up on line of R MOUNE where bridges were blown at LA CHAPELLE and 433668 and 424662. D Sqn had one Tp on the main road to ORBEC which was held up by the road block at 480727 and had the DSC knocked out by a gun and the crew were missing. Another patrol worked South down the East bank of the river as far as the bridge at 475695 which was rushed in the evening after considerable fire had been reported to the East. Here they made contact with A Sqn. Lt Pybus (D Sqn) was wounded by mortar fire. D Sqn sent another patrol to ST MARGUERITE DES LOGES with orders to work South from there but encountered enemy Infantry and MGs at ST MARGUERITE. RHQ spent the night West of LIVAROT. A very wet night was spent, much disturbed by shooting from the Highland Div who were busy clearing the woods to the NW. B Sqn pushed along the main road from LIVAROT – FERVAQUES and LIVAROT – ORBEC. The latter road was taken over by D Sqn as shown above. By 1500 hrs B Sqn had reached the road junction 1 mile West of FERVAQUES practically unopposed. By 1900 hrs 5th RTR had followed up along the centre line and were into FERVAQUES that night. C Sqn. In reserve. A Sqn. The Sqn was directed on the bridge spanning the R LA VIE between 463702 and ST FOY LE MONTGOMMERY. Three Tps were used with 4Tp in the North, 1Tp in the South and 5Tp in the centre, all working East. Tps left at first light and shortly afterwards SHQ moved to LE VAL and later to X roads 4269. 4Tp Lt Woodhouse advanced as far as Y roads 450692 where roads were mined and bridges over R MOUNE were mined. He was ordered to detour North through TORTISAMBERT. On his way he found an abandoned Panther in good condition at 450709. He crossed the R LE VIE at 463702 and advanced South to the bridge at LA BREVIERE and on to the bridge at MONTGOMMERY, which was defended by 35 Infantry with A/Tk guns. He was assisted by a patrol of D Sqn but at last light the Infantry were still in position and the Tp was withdrawn to SHQ. 1Tp Sgt Hall and 5Tp Lt Osborne advanced as far as the line of the R MOUNE and found bridges blown at LA CHAPELLE. A great deal of hard work was put in by these Tps in recceing tracks and bridges. They took 4 PoW during the day. All Tps returned to SHQ at last light at LONGCHAMPS. B Sqn. 4Tp and 1Tp were out working along the two roads going East from LIVAROT, 4Tp on the left of the road to FERVAQUES and 1Tp on the right on the ORBEC road. The latter soon proved to be strongly held and was taken over by D Sqn, so 1Tp was redirected to catch up with 4Tp, who got on very well and by noon had reached ST MARGUERITE DES LOGES. French Maquis and FFI people were being the greatest help and we try now to one with every Tp. Civilians were also very useful and used to tell us that there was an A/Tk gun round the corner etc. Usually their reports were accurate but their idea of distances are sometimes a long way out. By 1500 hours 4Tp had reached the road junction 1 mile West of FERVAQUES unopposed except for odd Infantry and snipers and they had taken 10 PoW. 1Tp nearly got a half-track which was dodging around. The 5th RTR were very slow in coming up and 4Tp and 1Tp were miles out on their own for about six hours until 1900 hours when they did turn up and eventually get into FERVAQUES that night. 1Tp got two MCs. At 2000 hours civilians reported a Tiger tank moving West from FERVAQUES with the usual result that everyone sat down and dug in their toes. The centre line was hopelessly blocked and 1Tp and 4Tp spent the night with 5th RTR.



	SHQ and 2Tp were just NW of LIVAROT with C Sqn, and the Sqn Ldr in the Dingo with LCpl Oakes got blocked in traffic on the way back from 1Tp and 4Tp and spent the night with Lt Campbell, now of D Sqn. In the night the enemy cut the centre line 300 yards East of the Sqn Ldr. It was the wettest night for years comparing favourably with the famous downpour at SALERNO. D Sqn. Moved at 0600 hours to ST MICHEL DE LIVET. 1Tp on main road to ORBEC worked forward to cemetery area and onto a road block at 480727 working around ESE. His DSC was hit by a gun of some sort and KO'd at 480727. One DAC went in the ditch but all got back except LCpl Crispin and Tpr Philpin. 4Tp relieved 1Tp and all remained the same except for heavy stonking by Div artillery and occasional Nebelwerfer by the Germans. 2Tp went South down the river but not till evening did he reach the bridge at 475695 due to considerable fire to the East and a tank reported to the West. Met A Sqn patrol and whilst observing across the bridge was Nebelwerfered, Lt Pybus being wounded. Captured a staff car, 2 officers and 12 ORs. 3Tp proceeded along the high ground running South and patrolled to the main road but was held up by an A/Tk gun and Infantry at 478720 as well as being under observation of the enemy in front of 1Tp. Wireless was very bad. At 1500 hours 3Tp was despatched to ST MARGUERITE DES LOGES to go South to the main road. 1Tp were on the East of the forest but were held up by Infantry and MGs just South of the village. Captured a staff car, 1 officer and 5 ORs. Remained out for the night.
21/8/44	A Sqn acted as local protection to RHQ at LE MENSIL GERMAIN. RHQ had previously crossed by LIVAROT and leaguered in the CALVADOS factory West of LIVAROT but the situation at the Y roads outside LIVAROT made it necessary for RHQ to withdraw over the river until later in the day when it crossed over once more and moved to LE MENSIL GERMAIN. C Sqn took over from B Sqn between LIVAROT and FERVAQUES but found the tanks held up by bad going on the way round in area 488744. Bulldozers could not get up and the tanks were trying to turn round in a very confined space. C Sqn therefore tried to find tracks around the hold up but found most of them blocked by our own bomb craters. Eventually C Sqn pushed on towards FERVAQUES and the bridges at 535754 and 5380 over R TOUQUES. The bridge at 5380 was found to be blown but a crossing was made at FERVAQUES with one Sqn RTR and one Coy 1st Rifle Brigade. Much shelling and Nebelwerfer fire was encountered in this area. A third patrol reached the bridge at 535754 and then worked South to 520757 and engaged some enemy Infantry with the 75mm guns. D Sqn's patrol outside LIVAROT was embroiled in a "suicide charge" by some SS Infantry which was repulsed by some of 131 Bde and a Mark IV was knocked out by a Tp of 5th DG. The 75mm was active stonking woods and trees in the area. During the day D Sqn also had one Tp in observation of the bridge at 465695 where a number of enemy Infantry were successfully engaged. C Sqn. Sqn took over from B Sqn between LIVAROT and FERVAQUES. Tps left before dawn but came up behind tanks on a one-way road; the tanks themselves being held up by bad going after a very wet night in which the whole Sqn got soaked. The bulldozers required to repair the road could not get to the area and it was decided to turn a tank Regt round on a one-way road causing further confusion. The Div and Bde commanders had recently, to our great regret, been changed which in no way lessened the confusion. The Tps busied themselves exploring all the side tracks but most of these were blocked by our own bomb craters. 2Tp, 1Tp and 5Tp were directed on respectively FERVAQUES, bridge 535754 and bridge 5380 all on the river TOUQUES. 5Tp on the left reached his position passing on the way 1 MT burning and another broken down also seeing signs and hearing reports of enemy in the wood on either side of the road. The bridge at 5380 was blown and impassable to traffic except bicycles and foot patrols. 2Tp crossed the river at FERVAQUES together with one Sqn of 5th RTR and one Coy Rifle Brigade. The area was heavily shelled and mortared and Nebelwerfered one of which landed within less than 5 yards of Cpl Howard's White Scout car. Tpr Heinman was killed. Towards evening FERVAQUES was counter-attacked by enemy tanks and Infantry. Owing to the limited size of our bridgehead over the river all 2Tp less the Tp Ldr in the Dingo were withdrawn. 1Tp reached his objective passing a derelict Tiger on the way, he patrolled South to 520737 and then due South for 1000 yards where there were reported to be enemy. This was confirmed and they were



	engaged by 7Tp. Results not observed. 5Tp had many enemy around them during the evening which they engaged with MG. One bicycle patrol of 6 approached to within revolver range of Lt Creaton who fired 5 rounds at 5 yards range without claiming a hit. The men escaped into the bushes but the bicycles were captured. Possibly the MG fire was more effective but results were hard to observe. Fairly heavy shelling in SHQ area but luckily just wide. All Tps withdrawn for the night. A Sqn. Remained at LONGCHAMPS until 1500 hours when the Sqn moved up to RHQ at LE MENSIL GERMAIN. For the remainder of the day and night the Sqn acted as local protection to RHQ as we were in hostile country and in danger from snipers. During the night 2Tp blocked the road South of RHQ at 502737. It was expected that enemy tanks may come North, therefore a line of Hawkins grenades was laid across the road and a 75mm gun loaded with AP was positioned to fire down the road. The sub-unit laid their guns on a fixed line of fire. Nothing happened and the Tp returned at 0730 hours. B Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp were unavoidably on patrol again as the others were jammed up in the traffic, 2Tp were trying to force their way through. B Sqn was now switched left handed to LIEUX and 1Tp and 4Tp moved off at 0800 hours with the Sqn Ldr through LE MESNIL GERMAIN to the big X roads at 1979 where 1st RTR HQ was. 1Tp was directed down the main road running North into LIEUX and had a great day with the leading Sqn of 1st RTR. It was not an AC job but Lt Young reported all day on the enemy who were very troublesome with Bazookas at ST MARTIN DE LA LIEUE, 3 miles South of LIEUX, and also on what our tanks were doing; he was very busy with his Sten gun, taking odd German PoW. On the right 4Tp were directed down the road to ST GERMAIN DE LIVET. There were lots of German Infantry about and they made things pretty hot, but 4Tp managed to get nearly to ST GERMAIN DE LIVET by the end of the day during which they took 10 PoW, killed 8 Germans and did some damage with the 75's. The trouble as usual with the 75's is the risk of killing civilians. 2Tp came up and went down the main road behind 1Tp. SHQ came down the LIEUX road 1 mile beyond the big X roads and in the evening B1 came down to the X roads. At 2130 hours the patrols were pulled in and the Sqn leaguered together ½ mile East of the X roads with the 25pdrs making an unearthly din almost in the same field. 1Tp and 4Tp had had two hard days and had acquitted themselves well. D Sqn. At first light 4Tp were embroiled in a suicidal attack by Hitler Youth from the forest, in company with a Plt of Queens. One Mark IV appeared at close range and knocked out a 6pdr, it was later KO'd by 5th DG. Lt Cousins went to help some Queens to the South in his DSC and only got out by driving across country and through 3 hedges under heavy MG fire at 50 yards range. He arrived back with only one gear, the Queens having left him by himself. 3Tp was relieved by 5Tp who reached 515735 after heavy stonking by the 75's. 2Tp remained in observation on the bridge at 475695 and stonked enemy Infantry on the high ground to the NE with success, according to civilians.
22/8/44	D Sqn made contact with the Canadians at the bridge at 535715 which had been blown and joined RHQ at LE MENSIL GERMAIN. C Sqn took over the FERVAQUES area and had to wait while the Infantry enlarged the bridgehead. Meanwhile a patrol was sent down to the bridge at 5373. Progress was slow owing to bad going and it was necessary to make the final advance on foot and it was found that the bridge was too narrow and too weak. By midday more progress was made in the FERVAQUES area and C Sqn were able to push on through thick forest until they met up with A Sqn at 1822 hrs. From there they sent a patrol towards X roads at 593742 when the Tp Ldr Lt CM Wentworth Stanley was wounded in the shoulder whilst making a recce on foot. A Sqn was sent to recce South of LIEUX and also the bridges over the RD'ORBEC between LE ROCHRI and CHAPPELLE YVON. They crossed the TOUQUES at ST MARTIN DE LA LIEUE and pushed South to ST CYR DU RONCHERI where they found the CHAPPELLE YVON bridge blown. The bridge at ST PIERRE was reported by civilians to be prepared for demolition and held by Infantry. Another patrol found the bridge at 576830 blown just as they reached it and at the same time heard the ST MAILLOC bridge go up. It was obvious that the enemy rearguards were blowing all bridges as soon as any of our patrols approached.



B Sqn again went with the leading Sqn of 1st RTR who were trying to reach the high ground NE of LIEUX. Opposition proved very stiff all day and the Infantry (Queens) were unable to get on. Eventually a Tp managed to slip into LIEUX, shot up 2 MGs and seven snipers and then came out again.

C Sqn.

Three Tp Ldrs in **Dingo** took over FERVAQUES area. The Infantry were responsible for enlarging the bridgehead to one mile days before the Tp took over. This did not take place till after midday.

4Tp took over the right and went to bridge at 3373. The road was very narrow and close country on either side so progress was slow and for the most part was led by men on foot. It was not until 1600 hours that the bridge was finally reached on foot – it was very narrow and not up to much weight – also 3 tanks were heard on the far side and several enemy seen.

By this time progress was being made East from FERVAQUES and by 1610 hours 3Tp complete was at 559759 with 2Tp following up.

By 1735 hours they were at 365759 going through a thick forest and at 1822 hours they joined A Sqn who had come down from the North.

2Tp took over from 3Tp to try and reach X roads 393742. Country still very thick and shortly before the X roads noise of tanks was heard ahead. Tp Ldr Lt Wentworth Stanley went forward in the **Dingo** and when he was very close he dismounted and crawled along the hedge to try and see them. He was engaged by MG fire from the area X roads and was hit in the shoulder. He withdrew and was brought back to SHQ where the MO was waiting. His wound was not serious luckily missing all bones, nerves, etc. Tps were again withdrawn for the night.

A Sqn.

At 1000 hours orders were received to recce the area South of LIEUX between the rivers TOUQUES and D'ORBEC and also the bridges over the D'ORBEC between LE ROCRAI and CHAPELLE YVON.

Two Tps were used to do this, 3Tp & 4Tp, with two in immediate reserve. 4Tp crossed the TOUQUES at ST MARTIN DE LA LIEUE and advanced South to ST CYR DU RONCERAI and reported no movement seen. He reported an explosion in area 6077 which was the bridge being blown at LA CHAPELLE YVON. He was ordered to meet with a patrol of C Sqn at X roads 576746. The X roads were clear but the tracks of a Tiger were seen. He then recce'd the bridge at ST PIERRE. When close to the bridge, Lt Woodhouse contacted some of the local people who reported that the bridge was prepared for demolition and that there were 150 Germans on the East side of the river in a position of defence.

As other bridges had been blown at the sight of a patrol, he was ordered to keep under cover and send his Scout section forward on foot. They were observed and shelled from the high ground on the East side of the river and forced to withdraw. Four PoW were taken, two of them Russian soldiers who had been pressed into a labour gang. On returning to SHQ at last light the Tp Ldr reported a large explosion and that the bridge had been blown.

3Tp Lt Hunt crossed the TOUQUES behind 4Tp and advanced South on the East flank of 4Tp. He was ordered to recce the bridge at LE ROCRAI. He advanced to the bridge but it was blown on his arrival, and also a bridge to the North at 573384. There was a short exchange of shots between the patrol and dug-in enemy Infantry. An explosion in the area of the bridge at ST MAILLOC was heard and it was found that the bridge had been blown. The Tp took one PoW. On his return to SHQ he reported continuous MET movement SE on the East side of the river.

All Tps returned to SHQ at 510823 at last light.

B Sqn.

2Tp and 5Tp were on patrol at daybreak, 2Tp down the main road to LIEUX and then NE to where the 1st RTR with the Queens were trying to get across the RORBEC. 5Tp were on the road to ST GERMAIN DELIVET.

2Tp were working with the leading Sqn of 1st RTR who were trying to get on to the high ground NE of LIEUX. An attack in the morning failed and they were unable to get across all day.

2Tp were shelled and mortared all day, which included having a tank brew up 4 yards from Lt Burridge's car, and reported most accurately on 2 A/Tk guns just North of the river, and a line of about 12 88mm on the high ground about 5588.

5Tp obliged to go slow because of the mist got down to ST GERMAIN DELIVET at about midday where they found one 105mm intact and abandoned and a further five 105's on the road North of the place.

Lt Svewright had been told by civilians about these guns, had got observation on them and had then shelled them as they lined up on the road; the shells landed amongst them and the crews fled and abandoned the guns. We are finding out that the 75's are very accurate and quite invaluable in the hands of Sgt Matheson. When 5Tp had counted their bag they were recalled to SHQ.

3Tp were sent out at about 0800 hours to follow up 2Tp and get a good position from where they could see LIEUX, 1 mile West of 2Tp. We had not been told to go into LIEUX which had been reported as



	strongly held, but 1st RTR were told to, so on the principle of “first in” Lt Chapman, at 1100 hours, advanced and got into the centre of the town in front of the Infantry by going down some side streets, round a blow in the road which held up 1st RTR for a further 6 hours. 3Tp found many snipers and supported the Infantry until the tanks arrived. When they did come the Germans started shelling and mortaring the place; Lt Chapman refused to leave the Infantry until they were withdrawn in the evening. When 3Tp got into LISEUX, the 11th Hussars were immediately ordered to “splice the Mainbrace”. 2Tp and 3Tp were withdrawn at 2130 hours to a good position at BECQUAL to which the remainder of the Sqn came. It was a bit close to the Germans but one also wants to avoid the centre lines and bridges which are sometimes bombed at night, and our own guns whose noise does not aid a good night's sleep. B Sqn was told we would have no patrols out in the morning so they retired to bed very pleased with themselves after 10 days continually operating. D Sqn. 5Tp carried on to the main road and turned East, joining up with 2Tp and the Canadians, reaching bridge at 535715 which was blown. 2Tp found Tpr Philpin shot near the DSC and both cars unburnt. They were recovered during the day. There was no sign of LCpl Crispin. 3Tp had gone to the small bridge and met the Canadians and the Tps were called in at 1300 hours. Sqn concentrated at 508775 with RHQ.
23/8/44	Meanwhile 51st (H) Div had been engaged in bitter street fighting in LISEUX and as a result of the enemy blowing of the bridges the following day A Sqn were sent North to recce the position in LISEUX itself. During the morning LISEUX had been reported clear by 51st (H) Div except for snipers but A Sqn found fighting still going on in the North of the town and enemy guns to the East making things very difficult. After being held up by an A/Tk gun in the southern part of the town they worked SE of the town and took up a position behind 22nd Armd Bde and awaited the chance for a breakthrough. At last light the enemy still held the high ground East of LISEUX and accordingly A Sqn were recalled. D Sqn remained in observation South of LISEUX all day. Meantime C Sqn were sent South and across the TOUQUES to contact the Canadians at ORBEC and work NE from there. The Canadians were held up by A/Tk guns and a C Sqn Tp found a crossing at LA CHAPELLE YVON and 3 patrols were sent in a NW direction and all 3 had gone 3 miles by last light without contact with the enemy. C Sqn. Lt Gale took over 2Tp. Midday. SHQ and two Tps crossed the TOUQUES to area X roads 520723. 1Tp and 5Tp were sent to contact the Canadians at ORBEC and to try and get North and NE from there but the Canadians were held up by enemy tanks and A/Tk guns in that direction. 3Tp meanwhile found a crossing at LA CHAPELLE YVON and 1Tp and 5Tp were withdrawn from ORBEC, crossed the river at ORBEC (which was known in code as Peters). In the evening the 3 patrols went from 623806 and 617806 in a NW direction. By dark they had all gone between 2 – 3 miles without contact, but numerous ‘civvy’ reports. Weather was very bad, heavy rain made W/T very difficult. Patrols were withdrawn for the night which was very wet. A Sqn. As it was found that all bridges recd the previous day had been blown the Sqn was ordered to recce the position in LISEUX. 2Tp Lt Sutton advanced to LISEUX from the South and found it held by the enemy. He met patrols of 1st RTR and the Queens on the southern outskirts of the town and they penetrated 1000 yards but were held up by an A/Tk gun on the X roads 586980 which was later knocked out. Street fighting and sniping was taking place between enemy Infantry and the 51st Highland Div in the North part of the town and enemy Infantry versus 131 Bde (Queens) in the South part of the town. 22nd Armd Bde (1st & 5th RTR and Skins) and 1st Btn rifle Bde were punching the enemy on the high ground SE of the town. The battle surged through the streets all day and Lt Sutton and his Tp were under constant fire from guns and small arms and was unable to make any advance despite trying several alternative routes. In so doing his Daimler Scout car was overturned whilst being fired on. He was ordered to proceed SE of the town and take up a position of observation behind 22nd Armd Bde and await an opportunity for a breakthrough. This did not materialise and at last light the position was much the same and all Tps were called into SHQ at 531844.



	B Sqn. We retired from our slightly exposed position of rest, as sixteen 88's were reported on the next ridge, to ST GERMAIN DE LIVET a most attractive village. We began to collect our small army of Maquis who proved to be very useful to us later on. D Sqn. Moved at first light. 3Tp and 5Tp to try and get through LIEUX. This not possible so 3Tp and 4Tp stayed in area 425840 and 5Tp worked up to area 460845 where he was heavily stonked whenever he showed himself. 75's had a good shoot, one staff car KO'd and casualties inflicted (according to civilians). There appeared to be considerable fighting in LIEUX. Tps came in during the evening, Sgt Keen fell ill and Lt Cousins took over 4Tp.
24/8/44	'A' Sqn sent a patrol to LIEUX to find out the form and they got through to the last of the town despite reports that the enemy were still in their positions of the previous day. On reaching East of the town they discovered the enemy had gone and they started a dash Eastwards towards R. RISLE. 'A' Sqn advancing with 3 Tps up reached line of R. CALLONE (a distance of 30 miles) where they were held up by blown bridges. They then pulled South on to the main rd at BEEJOURZ (695862) and advanced to LIEURY and ST GEORGE DU VIEVRE both of which were reported strongly held. 'C' Sqn meanwhile had pushed up from the South and reached the main rd at 600862 and they then pushed East followed by 22 Armd Bde towards BRIONNE where they were halted by a rd block and an A/Tk gun. Another patrol went N.E. towards PONT-AUTHOU (8895) to recon the crossing over the RISLE at this point. The remainder of the Regt followed up behind 'A' & 'C' Sqs into torrential rain. C Sqn. 4Tp relieved 1Tp otherwise same patrol lines were taken as previous day. 5Tp on his start point encountered a large enemy half-track with 40 mm Flak gun on it. He engaged it with 2pdr and scored a hit on the front visor which was enough for the crew who surrendered with one badly wounded, (8 of them). They were from 185th Coy 3rd Pz Flak JUGEND. The half-track was otherwise undamaged and was returned to B3 Echelon. By 1000 hours 3Tp was in sight of main road at 600872 and 4Tp and 5Tp were approaching it further to the East, 4Tp taking 4 PoW on the way. 4Tp went due East down the main road with the 'Skins' following up. Weather again very wet which interfered with the W/T but progress was rapid and by evening 4Tp was about 1 mile short of BRIONNE where he encountered road blocks and felled trees across the road and covered by A/Tk guns. 5Tp went NE towards PONT-AUTHOU. Here they had another encounter with a half-track which came out of a side turning behind the 2 leading DACs and the Dingo but in front of the White Scout car. Before the DAC turrets could be traversed to the rear, the enemy had realized his error and reversed into a soap factory from which there was a side entrance from which he escaped. SHQ concentrated complete in area X roads 912905 having advanced nearly 30 miles in the day and overtaken a fair amount of abandoned enemy material including one Tiger tank. A Sqn. At first light 3Tp Lt Hunt advanced to LIEUX and was informed the enemy was still in the previous days position. He was ordered to push on past the X roads where the A/Tk gun had been, he reported no movement seen. He eventually got out on the East side of the town and found the enemy withdrawn. It was later learned that a large scale Infantry attack had been laid on to oust the enemy from his position. This was a brilliant piece of work by Lt Hunt who recced a way through a wrecked township and carried on East in the wake of a retreating enemy. In fact it was the starting pistol for a grand chase of 30 miles to the line of the RLA RISLE. It was marred by torrential rain the whole way but was very exhilarating. After advancing East from the town 3Tp ran into a minefield at 555880, these were picked up by the Scout section and the Tp carried on East as far as the R CALLONE where they were called in to SHQ. 14 PoW were taken. 1Tp Sgt Hall advanced along the main road running East and 5Tp Lt Osborne took a general line in the centre and advanced East. All three Tps were held up on the R CALLONE by blown bridges. 1Tp and 5Tp were ordered South on to the main road at BEAUJOU then NE to LIEURY and ST GEORGE DU VIEVRE. 5Tp advanced to LIEURY but was held up at LA VIGNE by an A/Tk gun and Infantry and snipers to the South of the town. He captured a 4 wheel AC and 7 PoW after a short skirmish. 1Tp advanced NE towards ST GEORGE and reached the high ground at 779955 where he was held up by a tank and Infantry. He captured 7 PoW. All Tps were called in at last light to SHQ whose position was LA VAL. A great day for the Sqn especially



	Lt Hunt and his Tp. B Sqn. At midday we moved in a thunderstorm via FERVAQUES to GLOS and then to FIRFOL. The enemy had, for the first time on our front, taken it into their heads to go, with C Sqn hot on their heels. We had a lovely farm and it was only the fact that we were ordered on that prevented a battle of words with a Canadian officer who threatened to put 1st Canadian Army HQ in there that afternoon. We went on passed THIBERVILLE to a place 4 miles South of LIEURY for the night. D Sqn. Tried again to get through LIEUX but there was some fighting going on, in and around the town. The guns were used in a harassing role but only 2Tp was in observation as on the 23rd.
25/8/44	"A" Sqn were ordered to recce crossings and approaches to R. RISLE at MONTFORT (867015), FRENEUSE SUR RISLE (880969) and LA FORGE (862992) all bridges of any size had been blown and ST PIERRE DES IFES was found to be held by tks and inf. 'C' Sqn was sent to recce bridges at PONTAUTHOU (8855) and the two little bridges immediately North of these. PONTAUTHOU was found to be held on the far side of the river and the approaches badly blocked but the bridge was intact. Another patrol tapped up FRENEUSE a good class bridge which they crossed and were followed by leading elements of 22 Armd Bde (5 DG). They then went down through PONTAUTHOU and then East with 5 D Gs where a number of A/Tk guns and a few tks were reported. 'B' Sqn had meantime been detailed for a special task. The object was to contact Head of the Maquis at PORTAUDEMER near the mouth of the RISLE. In order to do this they first had to find a gap between LIEURY and ST GEORGE DU VIEVRE which had both been reported as strongly held the previous night. For this task B Sqn were accompanied by Lt Henri Belmont of the FFI who had been lent by 8th Hussars. This task unfortunately could not be fulfilled for although LIEURY was found to be clear, ST GEORGES was held, and attempts to work round it in very thick country were halted by Tiger tanks and Infantry. 49th Div Recce also appeared in the area and the Sqn were withdrawn at 1400 hours. C Sqn. Sqn job to recce 3 bridges over R RISLE at 894924, at PONTAUTHOU and at FRENEUSE. By 0815 hours 1Tp was just short of PONTAUTHOU which proved to be held on the far side – the road was badly cratered by our bombing and it was not possible to reach the bridge by car but the scout section got forward and in spite of MG fire reported the bridge not blown. 4Tp having proved the southern bridge U/S went to FRENEUSE and found a good bridge which, though narrow, took tanks and this was made the centre line for 22nd Armd Bde. One of 4Tp's cars had almost overturned and got stuck earlier on. The Tp had to leave it awaiting LAD to tow it out. In the meantime they accepted the surrender of 4 Italian and 5 Russian deserters. They had probably been working on an uncompleted Flying Bomb base in the area. 1Tp also took 3 PoW from 182nd Arty Regt. 2Tp followed 4Tp over the bridge, 4Tp turning left and 2Tp turning right came down through PONTAUTHOU and then went East. 1Tp remained by approaches to PONTAUTHOU and was later joined by a bulldozer with some RE's who started working on the road to the bridge. 2Tp got on fairly well with the 'Skins' but advance was slow owing to thick country with many enemy Infantry with MGs and bazookas. 2Tp DAC Cpl Johnson got to within 15 yards of some Germans before seeing them. They opened up with a burst of Spandau through the visor which somehow missed the driver though he had some splinters in the neck and shoulder. At the same time a bazooka was fired from the side of the road at the car which only did slight damage but wounded Cpl Johnson in the back of the neck. The other cars of the Tp also engaged these troops but they were deeply dug in and refused to show themselves anymore. 4Tp meanwhile had been held up by road blocks consisting of fallen houses across the road, which he had gradually removed and by 2000 hours he had reached GLOSSUR RISLE. 1Tp was withdrawn for the night but 2Tp remained out as the bridge was only one way. A Sqn. Our task was to recce all tracks leading to bridges over R LA RISLE. A plan was made for 4Tp to advance NE to MONTFORT, 2Tp to advance East to bridge at FRENEUSE SUR RISLE and 3Tp to advance NE in the centre to LA FORGE. This was failed as 4Tp encountered fire as he approached ST GEORGE DU VIEVRE. A new plan was formed with 4Tp staying in position and 2Tp, 3Tp and 5Tp debauching South of the town and then East to the river. When the leading Tp reached the river, all three Tps to beat up North along the tracks through the weeds. This was put into effect. It was found that all bridges of a class to take heavy



	vehicles were blown. Lt Woodhouse found to his mortification and to his Sqn Ldr's Major Petch, that he had been fired upon by friends which consequently meant that two days hard work were required by the Div to get across the river. 4Tp advanced to ST PIERRE DES IFES where he was held up by tanks and Infantry. All Tps returned at last light to SHQ at 830948. B Sqn. B Sqn was given rather a special job. We were if possible to find a gap between LIEURY on the left and ST GEORGES DU VIE on the right and to raise the Maquis who were reported in strength at PORT AUDEMER. We had attached to us, Lt De Belmont, a French officer who went with 2Tp and 5Tp who were in the centre and hoped to find a gap between the main roads. 1Tp was on the left and 4Tp on the right. 1Tp reported LIEURY clear by 0800 hours and found an abandoned Mark IV in flames which he put out; Lt Young also found in a civilian house a trace of German defences of LE HAVRE which was given to the Canadians and I believe found very helpful. He then went up the road north for 2 miles where he was held up by an Infantry position across the road with 2 SP guns, some MGs and the road was mined; progress was impossible but Lt Young had some good sport, OPing for the 75's and put the Infantry there to flight. On the right, 4Tp bumped into opposition at ST GEORGES so he tried to get round by the NW in which they were partially successful and got onto the main road to PORT AUDEMER, but were abruptly halted by a Tiger tank 400 yards down the road which brewed up two over bold ACs of the 49th Div Recce who were taking over. In the centre where we hoped to infiltrate through unnoticed, 2Tp doing 'inside left' and 5Tp doing 'inside right' got on well at first in spite of the bad tracks but by 1100 hours 5Tp bumped opposition at ST ETIENNE LALLIER and 2Tp shortly afterwards on the same line. The country was very thick and Cpl Baguley saw Germans walking about 40 yards away. Lt Burridge and Lt Siewright OP'd for the 75's together but it was a proper line and the Germans were not going just for that. By 1300 hours the 49th Div were all over our area saying it was theirs and we must get the hell out of it; sometimes one wonders who one is fighting! At 1400 hours the Sqn was withdrawn and went East to join RHQ, 2 miles South of PORT AUTHOU where we leaguered in a nice village. Great care these days has to be taken in choosing night leaguers for the Sqn we always try to get under cover in barns and farms remembering that the enemy night bombers go first for bridges, towns and centre lines. D Sqn. Rained all day. C Sqn had got across RORBEC to the South and A Sqn through LISIEUX. 2Tp found the bridge at 450860 intact but only up to 9 tons. The main road bridge at GLOS was blown. The Sqn then came into reserve and moved during the day to ST AUBIN.
26/8/44	The previous day, bulldozers had cleared the approaches to PONT AUTHOU bridge and C Sqn sent more patrols across the river here, and pushed North up the East side of the river. Progress at first was slow owing to bomb damage in the small villages but after a bit the advance became quicker and a patrol of C Sqn had advanced through 853074 to 882062 and 22nd Armd Bde followed this way. A Sqn meantime reced bridges at MONTFORT and CONDE SUR RISLE and found them blown and gave reports on them to the RE's. At 1200 hours D Sqn sent 3 patrols to cross the Canadian's bridge at BRIONNE. These patrols moved North to PONT AUTHOU and East to BONNEVILLE which they stonked with their 75's. C Sqn. 3Tp and 5Tp crossed the river at PONT AUTHOU which had been mended during the night. 3Tp went up to relieve 2Tp and 4Tp and 5Tp pushed up North to the East bank of the river. Progress at first was slow as all the villages had been bombed and many of the houses had fallen across the road. 1345 hours – 5Tp reached 864035 and taken 1 PoW from 558 Grenadiers. 1425 hours – 4Tp reached 853074 and was engaged by 20 mm fire and also saw many enemy on the road either side of him. They engaged the Medium artillery on the X roads 8508. 5Tp had also advanced well and quickly up to 882062 where he met a civilian who reported an A/Tk gun just ahead. The Scout section went out to confirm this and 7Tp 'sweetened' the area. The Bde centre line was again switched to follow up 5Tp's route. SHQ moved up to MONTFORT SUR RISLE and was later joined by 3Tp, 4Tp & 5Tp. B Sqn took over. A Sqn. 2Tp Lt Sutton verified bridges at MONTFORT were blown and reported full details. 1Tp Sgt Hall reced bridges at APPEVILLE and CONDE SUR RISLE and found them blown. All Tps called to SHQ at 1500 hours.



	B Sqn. A morning for maintenance was rather welcome. In the afternoon we went over the river RISLE (supposed to be the best Trout stream in France) and up a hill to a little village called BONNEVILLE APPETOT where the locals were still lobbing out eggs buckshees, always a good sign. Then we were ordered to take over from C Sqn next morning and moved back to MONTFORT SUR RISLE and slept in a meadow beside the river and had a quiet night. D Sqn. At midday 1Tp, 3Tp and 5Tp were despatched to get over the Canadian bridge at BRIONNE 1Tp to the NE up the main road; he reached BOSROBERT and came under heavy fire from an 88mm. 3Tp and 5Tp to PONTAUTHOU where 3Tp remained and 5Tp moved East meeting enemy in BONNEVILLE which he stonked with 7Tp, KO'd one 3 ton lorry. Bombing at night. 1Tp captured 17 PoW at Yjunc 9797 and stonked a tank.
27/8/44	Approx 30,000 enemy Infantry were now reported to be in the pocket in the FORET DE BROTONNE area South of the SEINE. All the bridges were blown and the enemy were employing a number of ferries to evacuate their troops. 22nd Armd Bde were given a free run and ordered to turn this pocket into a "killing ground". The Americans at this time were reported to be at ELBEUF and the previous 2 days the Canadians and Americans had made contact over the RISLE South of BRIONNE. B Sqn were ordered to operate in front of 22nd Armd Bde and D Sqn on the right between 22nd Armd Bde and 51(H) Div. D Sqn reached a point 2 miles South of BOURG ACHARD which was strongly held and employed their 75mm. Another patrol set up an OP at ILLEVILLE. A third patrol operated with the 8th Hussars up the road North to BOURG ACHARD and 8th Hussars became embroiled in a battle with an A/Tk gun and Infantry. Meanwhile 51(H) Div were firm in TONVILLE and D Sqn were accordingly withdrawn. B Sqn operating in front of 22nd Armd Bde were held up in the ROUGEMONTIERS area with 1st RTR by A/Tk guns and a few tanks. To the left however one patrol going towards BOURNEVILLE with 5th DG managed to work up to the NW of the town which was strongly held. An enemy column of MET going North from the town was successfully engaged, but meanwhile 5th DG South of the town were driving a lot of enemy Infantry North. A spirited action was fought by this Tp who soon found themselves surrounded by Germans and eventually owing to the closeness of the country which had placed them at a great disadvantage they had to break off the action by driving across the fields. A bazooka held up the patrol sent to assist them but the 5th DG were called up to help and quickly diverted some tanks to this area. Many German Infantry retreating from LILLETOT were successfully engaged by the 75mm Tps. The Germans were using a lot of horse transport and great confusion was caused. In the evening the Regt were ordered to withdraw all patrols as it was now a job for the Infantry and the RAF, and to be prepared to move back West over the RISLE again to concentrate with 7th Armd Div for future operations. C Sqn. Sqn went into reserve. These last few days had again been slightly different in that we made considerable advances up to 30 miles in a day but the enemy were not really disorganised and usually had an A/Tk gun waiting for us at the end. The difficulty being to know where the 'end' was. In this respect information from civilians was of the greatest value and seldom lacking, but confirmation had always to be obtained which was difficult without being shot at. A Sqn. With RHQ in reserve at BONNEVILLE APPETOT. B Sqn. The Sqn was ordered to recce in front of 22nd Armd Bde between BOUVILLE and ROUTOT on the right. We were determined to see the SEINE before the end of the day. 1Tp was on the right directed on ROUTOT but that was very optimistic as the enemy had got sufficient A/Tk guns supported by Infantry and the odd tank between LESBAUDOUINS and ROUGEMONTIERS to hold up the 1st RTR. Lt Col Hobart commanding 1st RTR would not allow Lt Young to go forward as it was too dangerous but for the morning he did some useful reporting on the general situation. 5Tp in the centre were directed on ETREVILLE but very soon were switched to help 3Tp. 3Tp were on the left directed on BOURNEVILLE and Lt Chapman thought he had a better chance of getting there first and being more useful by going NW of it. Civilian reports of enemy in BOURNEVILLE turned out to be true and by 1100 hours when Lt Chapman was North of the road he saw an enemy column coming along the road going West behind him. It was



	a lovely target and 3Tp knocked out 1 lorry and two 20mm, killing most of the crews; anything that came along the road got smartened up. But the Skins in their drive were flushing a lot of Infantry who retreated onto Lt Chapman who was well placed in the butts; but 3Tp, sited in an orchard, were forced to have all round protection with Sgt McGuire's scar facing North, the Dingo – Cpl Purkiss East and only Lt Chapman's scar facing South; at the critical moment with about 60 fat German Infantry only 50 yards away, practically running up the barrels of 3Tp's guns, Lt Chapman's Besa jammed, could not be fixed and before they knew where they were Germans were all around the cars; Sgt MacGuire's scar had 3 bullets through the radiator, Cpl Purkiss had no field of fire for his K guns and there was nothing for it but to bale out North and then West which they did, driving across the fields. 5Tp were now told to go and support 3Tp but were held up by a bazooka which just missed Sgt Orchard's scar, exploding in the bank beside him and half-blinding Tpr Stanier, his driver. Lt Sivewright had a stick grenade thrown at him which exploded on the turret of his car; he was quite undeterred. There appeared to be no other way round and in the meantime 3Tp were cut off with one car semi-immobile (Sgt McGuire did actually check the leaking radiator with porridge). The Skins were asked to help but it took nearly 3 hours to get this opportunist bazooka man shifted; after that 5Tp were seen through and got to 3Tp by 1700 hours. However, 3Tp had not wasted their time while waiting on the eastern side of LILLETOT and Lt Chapman OP'd for the 75's with great effect on Germans who kept on coming out of LILLETOT in increasing numbers; it was rather like stinking rabbits out of a burrow. Lt Chapman had the satisfaction of seeing a horse drawn 88mm turn completely over in the panic and seeing the shells landing right among the Germans running away. By 2000 5Tp reached TACQUEVILLE and Lt Sivewright climbed the church tower and looked at the SEINE only 1 ½ miles away. 1Tp on the right had been rather neglected but Lt Young had been shooting up German Infantry positions, especially one man who kept watching them through field glasses, but he could not kill him. Then there was a chance in getting through and the Rifle Brigade's arrived in force, 1Tp was withdrawn at about 1900 hours to SHQ. The 75's had a great day firing well over 300 rounds. Total bag – 25 killed, 28 PoW, two 20mm destroyed, 2 HDT destroyed, one 88mm knocked out. D Sqn. 2Tp to Yunc 9797 and then North and reached position 2 miles South of BOURG-ACHARD which was held and which we stonked. 3Tp to TONVILLE and held up at ILLEVILLE by enemy in the forest at 9106. OP'd from church tower and was machine gunned from behind. He was given away by a local who was afterwards taken in hand by the Maquis. Tpr Campbell was shot in the foot and evacuated. 4Tp got on very quickly aided by an 8th Hussars Tp and reached the road at 850075 to find an A/Tk gun at the road junc to his East and enemy in the wood on the sides of the road. Got stonked by mortars and finally had to withdraw 3000 yards. 51st Highland Div in TONVILLE area during the day. A battle ensued in the BOURG-ACHARD area with 8th Hussars and as nothing could be achieved due to the close country the Tps were called in at 1800 hours to SHQ at EPREVILLE.
28/8/44	Regt concentrated in area LA HULEY. Lts Hunter and Gibson joined the Regt. Make and mend. B Sqn. We moved back to FORET DE MONTFORT for 2 days rest. The officers chased partridges in the afternoon but appear better shots with K guns at Germans as the partridges got away. The Sqn Ldr appears incapable of hitting either Germans or partridges. D Sqn. Moved to area ILLEVILLE and joined Regt to reorganise and do maintenance. Rained nearly all day. Lt Hunter joined the Sqn and posted to 3Tp under Lt Campbell.
29/8/44	Orders received for the Regt to move to 12th Corps concentration area near LOUVIERS. Regt moved at 1600 hours to STAUBIN D'ECROSSVILLE. B Sqn. We moved to 12th Corps to complete the circle and have now been in every British Corps in France; the 11th Hussars are now back under 7th Armd Div, more or less for good, but instead of being the best and most famous Div in the army it seems that we are put up for auction to which ever Corps Commander will have us, an unprecedented comedown. At 1500 hours we moved with the Regt to STAUBIN D'ECROSSVILLE where luckily we were in a farm as it pored with rain. D Sqn.



	Spent the day finishing off maintenance. Moved at 1545 hours to STAUBIN under 12th Corps near LOUVIERS, via BRIONNE.
30/8/44	7th Armd Div now under command 12th Corps. Allied force to drive on the Low countries on a front of six Armd Divisions, Canadian Armd Div on the left, 7th Armd Div, 11th Armd Div, Guards Armd Div and two American Armd Div on the right. Object of 2nd Army:- 1) to capture enemy fighter-bomber bases in the Low countries, 2) to free Channel ports for supplies, 3) to capture Flying-bomb bases. 12th Corps to cross the SEINE at LOUVRIERS and drive NE towards ABBEVILLE. 11th Hussars and 1st RD both given "carte blanche" and directed on the crossings of the R SOMME. A Sqn. Moved with RHQ to area LOUVIERS and crossed the SEINE at ST PIERRE. B Sqn. A soaking day spent in reorganising maps for the great pursuit which had started in earnest. D Sqn. Rained all day. Plan to move at 1800 hours cancelled.
31/8/44	Regt moved at 0345 hours at the head of 7th Armd Div and crossed the SEINE by 0630 hours. Regt's task:- 1) left flank protection of 12 Corps depending on the speed of the Canadian advance, 2) recce in front of 22nd Armd Bde. LA VEUILLE was reached at 0900 hours. D Sqn were sent to recce to the left in the ARGUEIL area then North to FORGES LES EAUX. A Sqn recced North in front of 22nd Armd Bde and by last light the Regt had reached the area of CRIQUIERS. Many PoW were taken and enemy resistance was found around AUMAË. Lt Hunt A Sqn was wounded and the 2 members of his crew were killed by a German bazooka fired at very close range. During the night and the early hours of the morning 4th Canadian Armd Div passed through our left. The month of August was a memorable month. It saw the end of the tiring days in the beach-head area and the hard fighting South of TILLY and around CAEN and the enemy bombing by night. During this month the Regt had worked under five different Corps and had fulfilled a varied selection of roles. The Regt had killed over 100 Germans and wounded a further 60. It took over 300 PoW and accounted for over 25 vehicles of various types. A Sqn. Moved with RHQ to LA FEUILLE. Orders were given to advance towards R. SOMME with the centre patrol on the Bde axis. 3Tp was axis Tp and advanced to GAILLEFONTAINE where he engaged Infantry. In doing so he was fired on by a bazooka and his car was brewed up. Lt Hunt was blown out of the car and was wounded in the shoulder, knee and hand. He suffered from a fractured knee and shoulder and lost 3 fingers of his left hand. He was taken by the Germans and left with some nuns in GAILLEFONTAINE until attended to by our RMO. The driver, Tpr Smith '70 and operator, LCpl Knight, were both killed outright and unable to be removed from the burning vehicle until the next day. Two really fine chaps were lost to us. 4Tp Lt Woodhouse took over axis and advanced to ALAN COURT where he reported 200 Infantry and 2 A/Tk guns. He was unable to advance further and at last light friends were engaging the enemy. 1Tp Sgt Hall was on the left and 2Tp Lt Sutton on the right and they covered a line running NE parallel with the axis on a 4 mile front. 1Tp entered GAILLEFONTAINE from the NW and the place reported clear, he also discovered Lt Hunt. 2Tp advanced to FORMIERE and from there towards X roads 699390. He was held up by enemy reported by 4Tp. During the day 53 PoW were taken by patrols and at last light all patrols were called in to SHQ at CRIQUIERS. B Sqn. The Regt moved at 0345 hours in the dark, it was worse than going out cub hunting. We went through LOUVIERS and across the SEINE then NW to LYONS LA FORET. 2Tp did a short patrol in front of RHQ who continually found themselves going into new country. We also escorted the Regt B1 to CRIQUIERS where we got in very late and spent the night. D Sqn. Moved at 0330 hours to LOUVIERS, crossed the SEINE at ST PIERRE and reached LA FEUILLE at 0900 hours. 1Tp to NOLLEVALLE, no movement seen, then NE to ARGUEIL, then North to FORGES LES EAUX, no



	movement seen. 5Tp NE to BEAVAISDE LYONS, no movement seen, then NE to 580260, no movement seen, then to FORGES LESEAUX. A few stragglers picked up and sundry spare Germans. 2Tp North to LA MAZIS to FEUIL. Enemy West of FORGES DESEAUX. 5Tp moved on to GAILLEFONTAINE followed by 1Tp then to AUMALE Bag 78 PoW, 4 killed, 9 wounded and 2 officers. During the night a staff car stopped by Sgt Cooper and a revolver duel ensued, wounding Sgt Cooper in the shoulder and leg. He however got one German officer in the stomach and another in the shoulder, but unfortunately they got away.
September 1944	CO: Lt Col W Wainman MC
Sep 44	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/9/44	RHQ. A and D Sqns moved forward again at first light and the Regt was given the task of seizing the crossings of the R SOMME. 4th Armd Bde with the Royals under command were operating on our right. It was a hot and tiring day made all the more difficult by dust and an acute map shortage. At approx 1100 hours C Sqn were slipped through A & B Sqns and pushed on to the SOMME and succeeded in making an opposed crossing at LONGPRE with 4th Armd Bde in support. C Sqn then came under command of 4th Armd Bde and the remainder of the Sqn crossed at AMIENS with 4th Armd Bde main body as the bridge at LONGPRE had been blocked by one of 4th Armd Bde tanks. During the day the Regt took over 500 PoW including a small party who decided to league next door to C Sqn HQ. C Sqn. Sqn in reserve with R HQ until 0900 hours when we had already advanced about 20 miles or so. Our orders were to advance as fast as possible to the two bridges over the SOMME at ETOILE and LONG. 5Tp and 1Tp were directed on these two bridges with 3Tp following up. Our line of advance was to the right of the Div centre line. This was also the centre line of the 4th Armd Bde which we did not know at the time and they were ahead of us at first. By 1140 hours 5Tp was at 892708 and reported he could see enemy Infantry marching North at 9274 on the other side of the river. 3Tp then came up to that point and 5Tp pushed on to see if he could get to the bridge. 5Tp had already been engaged by 2 guns, either 75's or 88's from the South side of the river, but as he went forward down the hill he managed to get out of their sight. 2Tp, who had the Tp Ldr's car damaged in a collision with a tank, was now under Sgt Davies and escorted the guns (7Tp) forward to 885672 to try and engage the enemy on the far side of the river. Their first target were 2 enemy MT, one towing a gun, over open sights at about 1 mile range, but these MT got into a wood. By 1220 hours 1Tp had arrived at 879739 together with some tanks of the Greys. 3Tp was receiving regular reports from civilians of 2 A/Tk guns just ahead. As the leading car, Lt Esch, rounded the corner he was fired on by an A/Tk gun from the bridge itself. A second shot hit the front wheel and went right through the spare wheel and out through the back wheel. The crew got out ok in spite of the sniping from the houses around. The car was later salvaged and repaired. 1Tp together with a Tp of Grey tanks advanced on to their bridges – of which there were 3 – and managed to get across in spite of considerable opposition. There was also a large crater in the road and the third bridge was wooden and barely able to take tanks. 1Tp started to fill in the crater which was rapidly becoming impassable when a mortar shell landed among the party wounding five of them. Tprs Horrigan, Longlands, Leeming, Coldray and Parsons, the latter 3 slightly and they returned to the unit after treatment. Tpr Horrigan was fairly bad with wounds in the arm and leg. Tpr Horrigan had been an AC driver since the first day of the war and had invariably refused a rest or a change. He was never sick or sorry throughout the entire 5 years and was a magnificent example to all. It has since been heard that he is going on alright in hospital. Tpr Longlands had also recently refused to rest, having been a Dingo driver in 1Tp all through Italy and since landing in France. They were all evacuated back to SHQ in the White and the rest of the Tp remained in position by the bridge. 5Tp's bridge at ETOILE was blown and he took 7 PoW of which 2 were Russians and 5 from 331 and 346 Div. The Sqn was placed under 4th Armd Bde but had the same role and by 1300 hours it was clear there was no further advance to be made on our front as the LONGPRE bridge got blocked by a tank stuck on it.



	In the afternoon 4th Armd Bde with the Sqn still attached was ordered to cross the SOMME at AMIENS and were to go North just short of FLESSELLES. We arrived there just before midnight after an uneventful journey though a few German planes flew over and during the night a lone flying-bomb going south. A Sqn. The advance continued with Lt Woodhouse on the centre line and 1Tp and 5Tp feeling North and West at CAMPSEN AMIENOIS, 150 Germans with HDT were put in the bag by 4Tp. He then advanced North towards AIRAINES where the enemy were again encountered. By this time 1 & 5Tp had been called in to the centre line and were following 4Tp. 4Tp and 5Tp were withdrawn 1 mile and ordered NE to bypass AIRAINES which they did. Both Tps went on to the SOMME and found the bridge at 860764 blown and the bridge at 831778 was held in strength by the enemy. 1Tp went North West and had great difficulty in finding a route North to the SOMME and was eventually withdrawn. It was found that 4Tp and 5Tp were doing very little good where they were so 5Tp took up a position on the high ground at SOREL EN VIMU and registered the Gun Tp on the road running North from AIRAINES and the X roads at SOREL EN VIMU. A column of HDT on these X roads was stonked to good effect. 4Tp held a watching brief until last light on the bridge at 882758 which had been reced by C Sqn and found to be intact. During the day 200 PoW were taken by the patrols and one staff car. All Tps returned at last light. B Sqn. Moved early in reserve behind RHQ. Took 4 PoW. The idea was to get to the crossing over the R Somme though 11th Armd Div were already beyond AMIENS. It was a great "bum-on" and by 1200 hours we arrived with RHQ 4 miles of AIRAINES. 2Tp acted as local protection and led RHQ. In the afternoon Lt Burridge guided the MO to C Sqn and Lt Young and Lt Siewright picked up 3 PoW. Total for the day 7 PoW. D Sqn. At first light we moved through AUMALE. 2Tp went North, 4Tp went East and got on to HORMOY but was hampered by PoW. 1Tp was sent to take over the PoW while 4Tp went on. 2Tp reached LIONEM but found a road block and enemy Infantry at 748475 and it was not possible to get round. It was now vital to get to the bridges on the SOMME. 5Tp was sent to HORMOY with 1Tp to try and get North to the West of AMIENS, just South of which 4Tp reported an A/Tk gun in action down the main road. 5Tp moved cross country to 843615 where he was stonked. He moved on to 831851 and got 2 lorries killing 3 Germans and wounding 7. 1Tp went across country and reached the main road at 803662 where he had a staff car and contents. The bridge at ALLERY was intact but nearly stonked. 1Tp went North and reached just South of HALLENCOURT and walked in finding only a few Germans. The roads were hopeless and soft going across country. The lime got into our eyes and few could see at all by 1600 hours. Night spent at WALLUS. Bag 287 PoW and a lot of HDT, 1 staff car and 2 lorries, 8 killed and 16 wounded.
2/9/44	RHQ. In the early morning C Sqn maintained two Tps outside BERNAVILLE. The Regt was given a day's rest from operations and our old friends the Royals carried on the good work. C Sqn reverted to command and at 0800 hours the Regt moved across the SOMME at PICQUIGNY to join C Sqn. Here we were glad to see a number of Flying Bomb bases and we knew that Second Army was well on their way to achieving object No. 2 of this great operation. The Regt concentrated at NUNC SIBIVILLE and more vigorous mopping up took place. During the night an Infantry reconnaissance party from the Monmouthshire Regt ran into a German patrol about 600 yards from B Sqn leaguer. Two Infantry officers were wounded and a small battle took place. B Sqn sent out a Tp of ACs and brought in the two wounded officers and after a certain amount of haphazard fire the enemy withdrew. C Sqn. We now reverted to command of the Regt again but were out of W/Trange though we knew that they were on their way towards us. 3Tp and 5Tp were sent out at 0700 hours directed on BERNAVILLE and X roads 1377. RHQ came up on the air again and recalled 5Tp but kept 3Tp on the outskirts of BERNAVILLE which was held at first but was taken at about 1200 hours with some 100 PoW. 3Tp remained in the area and took a considerable number of PoW and also recaptured 4 men of the 8th Hussars. In all he took 4 officers and 24 ORs. SHQ and the remainder rounded up 1 officer and 23 ORs from a cornfield nearby. In the afternoon 3Tp was recalled and the Sqn together with RHQ moved up



	to NUNC 1203. We did not arrive until late and there was heavy rain, we had also run out of maps of the area – the whole array except for a few 1/100000 and 1/250000. A Sqn. Moved with RHQ to NUNC crossing the R. SOMME at PICQUIGNY. B Sqn. Sqn was next for duty and moved with RHQ across the SOMME West of AMIENS and finished up at NUNCQ. A wet night disturbed by an odd party of Germans who shot an infantry officer looking for a leaguer area in NUNCQ and persisted in infiltrating and shooting straight down the road. Lt Burridge rescued a wounded infantry officer by going down the road to where he heard the firing – it was a fine show. He then parked his car in the middle of the road and shot 2pdr and Besa into the blackness. This deterred the enemy as he came no further. Total bag for the day – 7 PoW. D Sqn. In reserve and moved over the SOMME and on to NUNCQ. Rained latter part of the day.
3/9/44	RHQ. Regt given order to do left flank guard to the Div who were now engaged in heavy fighting at STPOL and to try and secure crossing over LA BASSEE canal. C, A & B Sqns moved out at first light. Unfortunately Lt DA Creaton (C Sqn) was killed whilst dismounting to round up the crew of an A/Tk gun in CRUISETTE who had surrendered and five members of his Tp were reported missing, believed captured. A Sqn managed to slip through at CAMBRIAN and found the bridge at QUINCHY over the canal intact but held by the enemy. They were ordered to prevent the enemy from destroying this bridge at all costs until 22nd Armd Bde could come up. Our 75mm Tp brought down fire on the enemy and harassed them until late in the afternoon. 5th Dragoon Guards made a crossing. RHQ and D Sqn leaguered for the night in the chateau at MAZINGARBE. During the day the RE officer attached to the Regt distinguished himself in his recce of the LA BASSEE Canal. C Sqn. Regt role was left flank guard to the Div and nothing was known of the enemy except that STPOL was held and that 1st RTR had by-passed it to the West. Our start points were 105127, 075151 and 052770 directed NE with 1Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp respectively. The route to the start point was not known but had to pass through the small village of LA CROISSETTE which was reached by about 0800 hours. The road from the South having been blocked by bomb craters on a flying bomb site which was completely destroyed. 1Tp passed through the village and 5Tp entered it contacting the BHQ of the Welsh Fusiliers. At the West end of the village Lt Creaton, who was leading, suddenly found himself amongst a number of enemy with an A/Tk gun. What occurred next is not fully known but according to civilians, the Germans promptly put up their hands. Lt Creaton covered them with his Sten gun. The Dingo was just behind the Tp Ldr's car but the third car, Lt Esch Daimler, had been stopped by some Fusiliers to tell him (rather late in the day) that there were some enemy there. Firing suddenly broke out ahead of Lt Esch and he went forward to investigate. As he came round the corner he saw the crew of the Dingo being marched away by Germans, also a vehicle on fire which he believed to be Lt Creaton's car, though later it was found to be a German lorry; at the same time the A/Tk gun was swung round towards his car, he reversed back around the corner. It took a long time to organise an attack on the enemy with the Infantry and by the time it went in the enemy had departed. Lt Creaton had been shot in the head and died instantly, the AC and the Dingo and the rest of the crew had gone. Lt Creaton had a magnificent record of Tp leading; which had started before the fall of TUNIS, carried on all through Italy and since landing in France. He was exceptionally brave and thorough and very accurate in all his reports. His loss was a great blow to all who knew him; he was a first class officer in every respect and most popular. It seems likely that his death was a typical act of German treachery, either it was one of those who had surrendered who shot him, or else some unseen enemy on which those who had raised their hands, promptly lowered them and attacked the remainder of the Tp. The full story will not be known until those who were made prisoners are recaptured. 1Tp who had passed through the village just before got up to X roads 139160 where 1st RTR had already passed through. 4Tp was pulled back SE to FLERS where he took 4 PoW. The remainder of 5Tp stayed at LA CROISSETTE. Rev Wingfield Digby, who was a close friend of Lt Creaton, kindly came up during the afternoon and conducted a short service over his grave.



	3Tp went to area 135110 to get observation on the main road running West from STPOL. Thus our role was changed from advancing NE to facing due West. The Div CL was switched to East of STPOL. The Tps remained in that position until evening. 1Tp was approached from the NE by a number of German Infantry and a lorry. Sgt Mitchell allowed them to approach close before he and Cpl Palmer opened up with 2pdr and Besa; a hit on the engine of the German lorry practically broke the lorry in half. Although they took 16 PoW of which 9 were wounded – 2 too badly hit to move so had to be left. Sqn was ordered to withdraw as 43 Div were now well in area, and had to rejoin the Regt who were now about 30 miles ahead. We went until dark but 1Tp and 3Tp were still far behind so we halted for the night. A Sqn. The Sqn advanced on a three Tp front towards the BASSEE canal between BETHUNE and BASSEE. 1Tp, 2Tp and 4Tp were used and 4Tp found a gap and advanced to CAMBRIAN and thence to the bridge at QUINCHY. It was held by the enemy and was in good condition, except for an abortive attempt at burning it. He shelled the enemy with Gun Tp thereby preventing them from damaging it any further. Later in the day the Skins crossed over to the North side of the canal. 1Tp and 2Tp were switched on to 4Tp route. 2Tp Lt Sutton reced the bridge 1 mile East of QUINCHY and found it blown. 1Tp Sgt Hall was unable to reach the bridge 2 miles East of QUINCHY because the enemy held BEUVRY. He was then ordered to NOEUX to cover the main road running South from BETHUNE which was in enemy hands. Another day for the Sqn in the limelight with Lt Woodhouse having found a gap which became the Div centre line and also finding a bridge intact and holding it against the enemy. All Tps returned at last light to SHQ at NOYELLES. B Sqn. 1Tp on left, 4Tp in centre and 2Tp on right were to recce NE from STPOL towards BETHUNE, but roads from STPOL, both to LILLE and BETHUNE were still held and all three Tps worked round to the East from STPOL via TERNAS and BAILLEUL where civilians reported strong enemy forces. A Sqn on our right had next to no resistance and had got right on to NOYELLES and on to the BASSEE canal. We were ordered to go up behind and come up on their right. 1Tp, 2Tp and 4Tp were withdrawn and the whole Sqn went off NE across country to VERMELES from where four patrols were sent out to recce 4 bridges. 1Tp on the left went to the bridge at LA BASSEE which was strongly held. Lt Young reported AUCHY as held. Later Lt Young found the church tower at HAINES the best place from which to observe LA BASSEE. We could get no assistance from anyone to take the bridge so all we could do was report them as intact or otherwise. 2Tp and 4Tp were directed on two smaller bridges East of LA BASSEE towards the CANALLA HAUTE DEULE. 4Tp reported their bridge NE of BILLY as blown but 2Tp which was 1 mile to the West was intact but held with some Infantry, 2 A/Tk guns and a tank at HAITAY. 4Tp was withdrawn to SHQ at 1600 hours, their job finished, but 2Tp who were still held up by enemy in DOUVAIN tried all afternoon to get actual observation on to the bridge. 5Tp on the right managed to get over the canal at WINGLES where we contacted 8th Armd Bde on our neighbouring Corps, and nearly reached DON where both the rail bridge and road bridge were intact but held. Lt Sivewright observed for the 75's which had some effect. We were trying to prevent the enemy from blowing the bridges until our Infantry could come up, but no Infantry or tanks were anywhere near. 1Tp was withdrawn at 1900 hours and 2 & 5Tp at dusk. 3Tp at 1600 hours was sent on a special patrol to report on the bridge at HAUBOURDIN (SW of LILLE). Lt Chapman met Brigadier Prior Palmer (8th Armd Bde) who advised him to keep well to the East as enemy tanks were still NW of SECLIN. He did so and went into LILLE and out again to LOOS which was strongly held. Enemy tanks were only just on his South and he was for a time out of W/T so there was some anxiety but by 2100 hours Lt Chapman turned up in SECLIN where he met the Sqn Ldr and 4Tp. 4Tp had tried to recce the bridges at WAYRIN but had been unable to get through. We hacked all the way back to YENDIN LE VIEUL where after a long day with five patrols out we spent the night in a school. D Sqn. In reserve. 3Tp sent to HESDIN but did not get far before being recalled due to roads and rain. Left NUNCQ with RHQ and worked our way through MAZINGARBE where we spent the night.
4/9/44	RHQ. At first light A & B Sqn moved out again to the line of the LA BASSEE Canal. 22nd Armd Bde's crossing at QUINCHY was being heavily opposed and there seemed little chance of a breakthrough.



	At 1530 hours 7th Armd Div was directed on GHENT (GAND). The Regt's role was protection of front and flanks of 22nd Armd Bde. A Sqn was placed under command of 22nd Armd Bde and D Sqn left as a stop gap in the LILLE area to protect the left rear of 7th Armd Div. For this task they were placed under command of 7th Armd Div. The Div centre line now TEMPLEMARS – FOREST – HEMS – TOUFLEURS and the Regt moved up the axis in peacetime fashion with one Tp of A Sqn leading the 22nd Armd Bde. It was an unforgettable experience with civilians lining the route, cheering and throwing unripe fruit. The Belgian frontier was crossed at TOUFLEURS and at AVELGHEM we pulled off the road for the night. An uneventful night except for an overzealous MP who insisted on reporting D Sqn as "An enemy column of approx Div strength approaching the centre line from the West". A Sqn spent the night watching level crossing at OUDENARDE and NE to OYCKE and CRUSHAA TEM but nothing to report. C Sqn. Moved at first light and joined RHQ. At midday 1Tp, 3Tp and 4Tp were sent out to protect the guns of the Div just to the NE and just SE of BETHUNE. This was done without incident and at 1330 hours they returned to SHQ. RHQ and Sqns moved up to RUGGE where we arrived about midnight. 1Tp & 4Tp got orders to leave first light next morning. A Sqn. At first light 1Tp, 3Tp and 5Tp left to cross the bridge at QUINCHY but found it being heavily held against the Skins and 131 Bde. Little advance was made and 1Tp and 3Tp sat back whilst 5Tp remained in observation awaiting a break through. At 1530 hours the situation was very much the same and orders were received for the Sqn to come under the 22nd Armd Bde. We were to do advance guard along the axis CARVIN – SECLIN – OUDENARDE and GHENT. The Sqn advanced on a three Tp front with 5Tp on the CL and 1Tp & 3Tp working North of the axis in a NE direction. We advanced as far as OUDENARDE crossing the BELGIAN border at TOUFLEURS at 2200 hours. Three Tps, 2Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp were ordered to hold road crossings during the night at OUDENARDE and NE to OYCKE and CRUYSHUA TEN. There was nothing to report during the night and all Tps returned at first light. SHQ spent the night North of OUDENARDE. B Sqn. Sqn returned to RHQ at MARZINGARBE. At 1300 hours 1Tp on right and 3Tp on left were ordered to recon 2 routes East of LILLE into BELGIUM. They went off together with the remainder of the Sqn behind. They were suddenly halted when they had reached TOUFLEURS. At about 1500 hours, when some of 22nd Armd Bde had already gone past, we were loosed again with 3Tp directed on COURTRAI, 1Tp on AUDENARDE up the R. ESCAUT, 5Tp as inside left and 4Tp inside right, 2Tp with SHQ. 3Tp reached COURTRAI at 1900 hours and got the biggest reception ever from the civilians. 5Tp reported SWEVEGHEM clear before dark. 3Tp and 5Tp spent the night together 2 miles South of COURTRAI. 1Tp were in the town protecting a nervous Inns of Court lorry. 4Tp worked their way through HEERTERT then SE to AVELGHEM. All the 22nd Armd Bde were streaming up the road by the R. ESCAUT; the only opposition was well-wishing civilians hurling showers of flowers and fruit. SHQ was moving with 1st RTR well into the dark and at 2330 hours we halted for the night. The most noticeable thing of the day was the much greater welcome that we received in BELGIUM than we ever had in FRANCE. D Sqn. Tried to get across the bridge at QUINCHY which was held strongly so moved at speed through WANGLES, CARVIN to SECLIN from where 3Tp moved to NOYELLES, HOOPLIN being held by Infantry. Remained in LILLE all afternoon till last light then as night fell motored after the Regt, spending the night 13 Km South of OUDENARDE at 0230 hours.
5/9/44	RHQ. The advance towards GHENT continued. A Sqn reached X roads 1167 and was held up by A/Tk guns and reverted to our command later in the afternoon. B Sqn was on the left and by 1000 hours were in DEYNZE having reported WAREGHEM and CRUYSHAA TEM clear. Both bridges at DEYNZE were reported clear but Germans were streaming across from COURTRAI and THEELT to GHENT. By 1200 hours however B Sqn were forced to withdraw from DEYNZE and took up a position ½ mile out of the town and took 93 PoW and a staff car. Another B Sqn patrol reached PLAATSE without opposition and another at the main COURTRAI – DEYNZE road which met some opposition at HARLEBEKE from PLAATSE. They advanced NE to MECHELIN and then East to NAZARETH which was strongly held by Infantry and A/Tk guns. After heavy shelling by the Gunners the enemy pulled out and a patrol reached ASTERNE and met an 88mm which our 75mm



engaged killing 4 of the crew.

At 1700 hours some enemy were reported at WAREGHEM and two Tps of B Sqn attacked them and captured 12 PoW and destroyed 4 lorries. In addition to this B Sqn also captured 20 HDT and 50 PoW and a Lt Paymaster, unfortunately without his funds. A Belgian girl attached herself to a patrol claiming that she had been dropped by a plane two months previously at LIEGE to do espionage for the Allies. At about 1200 hours D Sqn reported the bridge at WETTEREN intact but slightly burned by the enemy. They crossed and patrolled to ZELE where they reported no movement seen. Contact was made with the local White Bde who were to prove their weight in gold during the next few days.

C Sqn meanwhile were directed through OUDENARDE up the main road to GHENT and also to NAZERETH. A Tp passed through 5th RTR at OUDENARDE and went NE but were held up by the same A/Tk gun encountered by A Sqn. Another Tp was therefore sent to recce the bridge at 128608 which was found to be intact but covered by A/Tk guns. The Tp Ldr therefore directed 75mm fire onto the enemy and was supported by 5th RHA.

The Tp directed on NAZERETH went through CRUYSHAUTEM but was told by a civilian that there was enemy at 094682. A dismounted Scout sect was sent forward to try to confirm this and managed to get observation onto the main NAZERETH – EECKE road and reported 1 Mark IV tank on the road.

By 1130 hours they were just short of NAZERETH but were engaged by an A/Tk gun and were forced to withdraw.

Meantime the Tp with 5th RTR reached HUTSPOT and 1 mile from the outskirts of GHENT and found a road block covered by A/Tk guns. They tried to recce a way round on foot but were engaged by MG fire.

The NAZERETH patrol was gradually working forward to within 500 yards of the main road at 105745 and saw an 88mm only 120 yards ahead. The Scout sect engaged with LMG fire, killed 1 German and withdrew.

A further patrol was sent to recce bridges at 154654, 173718, 186746 which they succeeded in doing. C Sqn.

1Tp and 4Tp left at first light to advance through AUDENARDE up the main road towards GHENT. 5th RTR were ahead of us at first but they turned NW at AUDENARDE while we went on NE. Just short of X roads 115670 1Tp encountered a Tp of A Sqn who were under 22nd Armd Bde and out of W/T touch with RHQ. Shortly A & C Sqn HQs met up 1 mile short of this X roads and A Sqn were withdrawn; but not before their Tp had been fired on by an 88mm and had reversed into a ditch. The crew were ok and we later recovered the car.

4Tp were out on the left directed on NAZERETH and when 1Tp were held up, 3Tp went out to the right and reached X roads 128608. From here 3Tp sent one car to recce and later defend the bridge at 135668 which was intact and later used as the Div axis. Lt Ballingal went to the area of the station 123668 from where he got good observation and conducted a shoot on enemy A/Tk guns and Infantry with 7Tp, and also a Tp of 5 RHA whose Bty commander was with SHQ. 5th RTR came up and engaged the A/Tk guns and Infantry.

4Tp had advanced through CRUYSHAUTEM and by 0850 hours was at 094682 where he got reports from civvies that there was one German General in the Chateau 125693. This was confirmed by another civvy with 1Tp and the chateau was shelled. 4Tp put out his Scout section to try and spot the enemy and they got a good view on the road leading East from NAZERETH to PECKE. Scout section reported one Mk IV Special and later on 2 lorries, a staff car and M/C going the same way.

By 1130 hours 4Tp was only 300 yards short of NAZERETH and could see a number of Germans and an AC in the village ahead. On trying to advance, his leading car (Cpl Woodhead), was fired on by A/Tk but withdrew ok. 4Tp also got a civvy report that the enemy were advancing South from DEYNZE which would bring them behind 4Tp. This was B Sqn area and they dealt with the situation.

1Tp, following 5th RTR, reached HUTSPOT only 1 mile short of the outskirts of GHENT. The road ahead was blocked by fallen trees covered by A/Tk guns. 1Tp Ldr together with a civvy went round the position to the South to try and get a better look. They came under MG fire and the civvy was wounded but evacuated ok. His "lady friend" insisted on remaining with the Tp until they could get her back into GHENT – this was not achieved for 3 days.

4Tp meanwhile had advanced again to within 500 yards of the main road at 105745. On reaching this point the leading car came round a corner to see what he thought was an 88mm only 120 yards ahead. It was impossible to engage from that position so the Scout section went out with Brens and Stens and got fairly close but were themselves engaged. They killed one German and withdrew.

3Tp was withdrawn and 5Tp ordered out to recce bridges at 154654, 173718 and 186746. This was done ok. 5Tp had been reformed under Lt Esch with L/Sgt Jowett from HQ Tp. Since we had been short of 3 ACs, 2Tp had temporarily dismounted but they were also reformed with 1 reinforcement AC and a Honey tank which we had salvaged.



	Tpr Bamford, the Sqn DR had a peculiar experience. His MC broke down and after repairing it he tried to return to B1 about 8 miles behind SHQ. Meanwhile the enemy had retaken this sector of the road and EYNE. In EYNE Tpr Bamford was captured by a small German patrol which was itself captured by some Belgian Patriots though many Germans were still close by. The Patriots had the MC and dressed Tpr Bamford in civilian clothes and he lived amongst the Germans for 2 days. On the first day he witnessed the return of the Germans into EYNE where the civilians were still celebrating our arrival. The Germans in Tiger tanks opened up on the civilians with MG killing or severely wounding between 60/70, including women and children. This was only one incident of many similar. The next day Tpr Bamford was recaptured by 3/4th CLY and had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy concerned, some 200 with 30/40 MET practically wiped out. Last light all Tps returned to SHQ at 122685. A Sqn. The advance continued with 2Tp Lt Sutton in advance. On reaching the X roads at 1167 he was held up by A/Tk guns and Infantry and had one car ditched by A/Tk. C Sqn came up later and we reverted to command of the Regt and were withdrawn. We spent the night at BAELGEM. B Sqn. Unfortunately it turned out impossible for us to lead the advance and do left flank guard as 1, 3 & 4Tp were all well away on the left at COUTRAI, so C Sqn were sent through to take the lead and we were made responsible for the left flank. 4Tp reported WAEREGHEM clear then CROYSHAUTEM and then turned North and by 1000 hours he was in DEYNZE which was very good; he reported both bridges intact but that the place was stiff with Germans who were all streaming through there from both COUTRAI and THIELT to GHENT. By 1200 hours the place was too hot for one Tp and as there was no chance of getting any Infantry support they withdrew half a mile out of the town. Lt Flood remained there for the rest of the day during which time he captured a German Captain and his car and a further 93 PoW, killing one German. Meantime 5Tp in the centre advanced to SWEVEGHEM and then to WAEREGHAM and then to PLAATSE without opposition and 3Tp moved up the COUTRAI – DEYNZE road capturing 9 PoW. Having replenished with petrol at PLAATSE with 5Tp, 3Tp moved on NE to MACHELEN and cut across East to NAZERETH which was strongly held by 200 Infantry and a 50mm A/Tk gun which shot at 3Tp. Lt Chapman, after gunners had shelled the place, made a recce in his Dingo and found the Germans pulling out so pushed on North to ASTENE, turned East and found an 88mm and a further A/Tk gun 1 mile down the road. Lt Nicholson using the 38 set and the 75's shelled the gun and killed 4 of its crew. The Tp was withdrawn at dusk. 1Tp had an equally successful day. In the morning they captured 20 HDT and 50 PoW and a Lt Paymaster, unfortunately without his cash box. Lt Young also picked up a Belgian artist who asked if he could assist and also a Belgian girl who had been dropped by plane two months ago at LIEGE as a spy. She proved very useful. 1Tp then went on to B1 for a rest for the afternoon with 5Tp. At 1700 hours Lt Young rang up from B1 asking permission to collect some enemy reported at WAEREGHEM; between them 1Tp and 5Tp collected 12 PoW and destroyed 4 lorries and 5Tp went on and destroyed another lorry. SHQ and 2Tp had moved to NAZERETH where the Sqn concentrated for the night. Total bag – 6 killed, 2 officers & 155 ORs PoW, 5 lorries destroyed, 3 staff cars captured and 20 horse drawn carts captured. D Sqn. Moved to RHQ area at 1200 hours, 1Tp and 2Tp despatched. 1Tp main road to WETTERIN, 2Tp via SOCHPEN, all no movement seen. Bridge at WETTERIN intact with only superficial damage. All crossed, 2Tp reached 347826 where there was an A/Tk gun and MG. This was stonked by 7Tp. 3Tp reached ZELE – no movement seen. Night spent at CALKEN. 5th DG's operating towards GHENT from the East. Maquis organised for local night patrols.
6/9/44	RHQ. This was an exciting day with GHENT still held by the enemy, and large numbers of enemy Infantry trying to walk East to avoid being encircled. In the morning B Sqn were ordered to recce the road from DEYNZE to GHENT but found the bridge at 093769 held by an A/Tk gun and 2 ACs. These were promptly engaged by the 75mm Tp and a direct hit was claimed on the 88mm. This Tp was directed on DEYNZE itself. An enemy HDT column was captured with 93 PoW. An ambush was then formed on the North bridge on the main THIELT – GHENT road and 2 staff cars were accounted for. Meanwhile large numbers of enemy Infantry were trying to infiltrate East and one such column was reported to be coming NE from COUTRAI to DEYNZE and this patrol was sent to meet them. Unfortunately whilst chasing some HDT across the bridge at PONTHOEK they were



engaged by an 88mm and 2 cars were knocked out.

B Sqn also sent a patrol to look at CRUYSHAUTEM which was reported as now occupied by the enemy. Here some stiff fighting took place and contact was made with 4th Armd Bde who were working on the left.

D Sqn pushed out a Tp to TERMONDE where contact was made with 61 Recce Regt (%0 Div) who were our right hand neighbours. Another Tp went North to LOCKERIN and reported all bridges intact.

The A/Tk gun at 347826 was again engaged by our gun Tp and this time seen off. During the day D Sqn captured a staff car with a full Colonel in the back and inflicted a number of casualties in a spirited action with 30 Infantry at last light.

C Sqn sent one patrol in the morning up the main road to GHENT to the area of the road block and found only a Spandau there which they accounted for. They then went towards the next main road at 145764. By 1430 hours it was obvious that there was a serious threat from enemy Infantry movement towards the East and 4th Armd Bde were in no position to stop them. It was decided to mine the bridges in DEYNZE and between DEYNZE and GHENT. One Tp of C Sqn was sent to protect the RE's who were going to fix the bridges in DEYNZE. On the way they encountered a column of HDT which had crossed the canal by the railway bridge at 011729. This column was engaged and a Gunner officer afterwards reported that he saw 30 Germans killed and wounded.

The RE's were then contacted and a Scout sect was sent across the DEYNZE bridge as an 'alarm bell' while the RE's worked on the bridge. Three German DR's who approached the bridge were killed. Once the order was given to blow the bridge the Scout sect withdrew but unfortunately the charge was not sufficient to blow the northern bridge but the second bridge went up OK. The bridges at 150780 and 164784 were found already blown so another Tp was sent to protect the RE's while they blew the rail bridge at 011729.

C Sqn.

5Tp went up the main road towards GHENT as far as 176764 the area of the road block which they had been told by civvies was clear. It was, except for 3 Germans with Spandau – who were captured. 3Tp meantime was directed on X roads 105745 which he reached by 0900 hours and contacted B Sqn after which he was withdrawn.

An enemy 88mm on tow with 20 Germans and Spandaus was wandering about SHQ area; first of all to our West then only 500 yards to the North but just out of sight and finally 1 mile to the West after which it went away to the NE. Several patrols went out to contact it following regular civvy reports but were all just too late.

At 0940 hours 5Tp was directed North towards the next main road at 145764. He passed a brand new abandoned flying bomb base on the way and reached main road at 1125 hours. He then went West towards B Sqn and took 1 wounded PoW.

At 1430 hours the enemy were once more infiltrating into the area from the West. It was decided to blow the bridges on the canal in DEYNZE and between DEYNZE and GHENT. 5Tp Ldr returned in the Dingo to contact RE's at 089685 while 3Tp was directed SW down the main road from DEYNZE, 1Tp due South down the secondary road and 4Tp South from X roads 068698. 3Tp after going 3 miles was called back to escort and protect some RE's while they blew the bridges in DEYNZE. On the way back they observed a column of HDT about 1 mile to his West – the carts having crossed the canal over the rail bridge at 011729. Lt Ballingal waited for them to come close and then opened up with MG. The result was complete chaos and though 3Tp could not wait to count the results a Gunner officer in the area said he saw 30 Germans fall and not rise again. The column was completely disorganised and scattered. 3Tp then contacted the RE's who prepared to demolish the bridges.

SHQ had meantime observed a number of Germans approaching their position at 089685 from the West. It was during a conference with the CO and OC B Sqn. There was a certain amount of MG fire and soon 2 or 3 PoW were taken by a Scout section of B Sqn about 100 yards away. One of these was a German Sgt-Major who said if we would let him go back to his comrades he would bring in 80 more – which after a short delay he duly did.

5Tp took his RE's to the bridges at 160780 and 164784 – both of which were already blown so he was sent to the rail bridge at 011730 which was known to be in use. 1Tp went to 052678 where he encountered 3 German lorries – the first he brewed up with 2pdr and the other 2 he captured, but the crews baled out. One German was killed and 7 captured.

4Tp went to 072659 where he took 2 PoW and engaged 16 Germans but could not observe the result. 3Tp meantime in DEYNZE had placed his Scout section across the bridge to give warning of any enemy approaching, while the RE's were working on the bridge. A party of 3 German DR's and one staff car passed the Scout section and nearly reached the bridge. They were met by a burst of Besa from 3Tp which killed the DR's and damaged the staff car. The Scout section then withdrew and the bridge was blown. Unfortunately the blow was not complete as the concrete was reinforced but the second



	bridge was destroyed completely. 5Tp also fixed up their bridge and the whole Sqn finally withdrew South and East to GAVERE after midnight. L/Sgt Nash of 7Tp went on a foot recce and took 8 PoW. A Sqn. Remained in same position doing maintenance. Two Tps were sent out to investigate reports of enemy movement SE of GHENT. 1Tp and 2Tp were used and advanced towards GHENT from the SE but the report was unfounded and they were recalled. B Sqn. At first only two patrols were ordered out – 2Tp on right to main road to GHENT from DEYNZE. 2Tp were directed to report on the bridge at 093769. On approaching it Lt Burridge reported one 88mm and 2 ACs with 20mm guns and one lorry. He shelled them very accurately as an OP for Sgt Matheson's 75mm guns, knocking out the 88mm with a direct hit and brewed up a lorry and drove away the 2 ACs. The bridge had been badly burnt but the civilians got to work to repair it and had almost finished when we were told the policy was to blow the bridges and the REs were sent to destroy it. The bridge was blown at 1930 hours. During this time 2Tp collected 50 PoW. 5Tp was on the left directed on DEYNZE. Within 1 mile of the Sqn leaguer area Lt Svwright ran into 21 horse drawn carts which were captured together with 3 lorries which were brewed up and 93 PoW. 4Tp and Cpl Hornsby were sent out to take over what the Maquis and civilians left whilst 5Tp pushed on up the road capturing 2 PoW, two 15cwt trucks and 1 M/C. Lt Svwright then went on up the road where he formed an ambush by the northern bridge on the main road THIELT – GHENT. The first German vehicle was a staff car, 2 of the occupants were killed, 3 were taken PoW and 2 RASC men who had been captured the previous night were recaptured. Shortly another staff car came along and the driver was killed. At 1500 hours Lt Svwright was told that a column of 500 Germans was coming NE from COUTRAI to DEYNZE. He was sent to contact the head and 1 mile SW of DEYNZE he contacted a 20mm SP gun on a half track which he destroyed killing the crew of 4 and capturing 4 PoW and a Red Cross Fiat. On reaching PLAATSE he captured a German Cpl who said that there were many Germans up the road NW who wanted to surrender and at that moment Lt Svwright saw 2 horse drawn vehicles (HDV) going up the road to PONTHOEK. Sgt Orchard in front went streaking after them for a mile until they crossed the bridge at PONTHOEK; suddenly Sgt Orchard saw an 88mm 300 yards away which was unlimbering; he shot it up with 2pdr and Besa as did Lt Svwright but sad to say the 88mm hit his car twice and brewed it up; Lt Svwright managed to get his crew out into a cottage 50 yards away in time. Meanwhile 3Tp had been sent out to CROYSHAUTEM reported as just occupied and after some street fighting captured 40 PoW and killed 4; after an hour the 3rd CLY arrived and posted a Tp of tanks up each road going out of the place and they received a surprisingly hot reception from the Germans, losing 2 tanks. 3Tp then went up the road NW to PLAATSE where he saw 5Tp streaming off after the 2 HDV. 4Tp were also out at DEYNZE and backing up 5Tp SW of there. Lt Flood remained by the level crossing SW of DEYNZE and watched the bridge at 011729. 1Tp, to complete the pack of all five Tps working, was out in the centre going North of CROYSHAUTEM for 3 kilos where he met C Sqn Tp firing at snipers and then went NW to MACHELAN railway station where he remained and acted as a link. To return to 3Tp and 5Tp. Sgt Orchard must have been killed instantly. Tpr Norton was found in a nearby cottage and would have bled to death if he had not been found by us, as the Germans had neglected to attend to him. He was given a blood transfusion by Sgt McGuire in DEYNZE by a doctor. We all went to area East of RESCAUT to GAVERE where we spent the night. total bag: 20 killed, 193 PoW, one 88mm KO'd, 20mm on half track brewed, 7 lorries brewed, 3 staff cars brewed. Captured: 1 MC, 4 staff cars, two 15cwt and 25 HDV. Except for Sgt Orchard and Tpr Norton's disasters it was a great day for B Sqn. D Sqn. At first light 4Tp went to TERMONDE via ZELE and contact 50th Div Recce. 1Tp found the A/Tk gun again at 347826 and moved it with 7Tp. 5Tp went into LOCKERIN via ZELE, all bridges OK. 1Tp moved to 348863, 5Tp to 397859. 1Tp captured a staff car and 3 officers, one a full Colonel. 5Tp had a small battle at last light with 20 enemy Infantry. Great help was given by the Maquis under Mr Van Geert of DONK and Mr Hoste, commander of Section 20. Most accurate and useful report at CALKEN
7/9/44	RHQ. B Sqn formed a little protective bridgehead over the ESCAUT at GAVERE and collected 22 PoW. D Sqn spent a quiet day in CALKEN area and took 3 PoW and shot up a 20mm Portee.



C Sqn sent one patrol towards GHENT by way of X roads 115670 but found the enemy had advanced during the night and made slow progress to the railway crossing at 120682 where they were held up. Another patrol reced ESCAUT Canal between GAVERE and GHENT to see if any of the bridges were being used by the enemy, they reported all bridges either blown or incapable of taking any load. The Ferry at 154641 was said to be in use by a large number of enemy so another Tp went there but reported no movement seen.

SUMMARY.

The period 1 – 7th had been an eventful one. We had advanced from the SEINE to the SOMME and crossed into Belgium. The Regt had taken many PoW and accounted for a considerable amount of enemy equipment.

The Regt Bag for this period was :-

C Sqn	killed	30 plus
	PoW	110
	Destroyed	4 lorries, 3 MCs and many HDT (Horse Drawn Transport)
A Sqn	PoW	200
	Captured	1 staff car
B Sqn	Killed	26 plus
	PoW	586
	Destroyed	14 lorries, 4 staff cars, one 88mm, one 20mm
	Captured	7 staff cars, 45 HDT
D Sqn	Killed	20 plus
	PoW	398
	Captured	2 staff cars, 2 lorries
	Destroyed	many HDT

C Sqn.

At first light 2Tp left for X roads at 115670 then to turn NE towards GHENT but found that the enemy had advanced during the night to the bridge just West of CAVERE where he had been stopped. Gradually the enemy were pushed back and by 1055 hours 2Tp were on the rail crossing at 120682.

3Tp was sent to recce the canal ESCAUT between CAVERE and GHENT to see if any of the bridges were being held. 3Tp found that all bridges were blown or inadequate for any transport and civvies said no Germans had crossed. At 1945 hours 2Tp took 7 PoW otherwise no incidents and the Sqn went into reserve.

This was virtually the end of our advance into BELGIUM. Our role had been chiefly left flank guard – the flank which was the least disorganised and an area which had not previously been covered and in which one could not expect much support. The enemy on the whole was not entirely disorganised and some units were in a position to give a lot of trouble. From 1 – 7th Sep we took 110 PoW including 7 officers and killed 34 and probably more. We also destroyed 4 lorries, 3 MCs and some carts.

A Sqn. Still at BAELGEM carrying out maintenance. 4Tp was ordered out to recce the bridges on the R. ESCAUT between MELLE and TERMONDE. There was found to be 2 ferries of little use to the enemy and one bridge which was blown other than the bridge at WETTEREN which was in our hands.

B Sqn. Lt Burrigge went over the bridge at GAYERE and past the station and then went 2 miles down the main AUDENARDE road where he organised an ambush. During the day he managed to collect 18 PoW and wounded 2 Germans. We were holding a bridgehead over the river.

4Tp went 2 miles up the road to DEYNZE where Lt Flood halted all day as a stop; he collected 4 PoW and reported on explosions in the woods at LOZER after our gunners had shelled them.

D Sqn.



	3Tp to 348863, 2Tp to 397859 via ZELE, 4Tp to HERENDE. Quiet day. 2Tp brewed up a 20mm and killed 3 enemy. The Colonel came and explained that a big battle was in progress at DEYNZE, so nothing was moving to our area for a bit. Night at CALKEN.
8/9/44	RHQ. The enemy were still reported to be in the northern part of GHENT and A & D Sqns were ordered to recce across RDURME. D Sqn crossed at HAMME and reported STNICOLAS strongly held and an enemy defence line running SE from STNICOLAS. D Sqn HQ and Sgt Lyon's Tp were chased by a Tiger tank which came on practically to HAMME itself. A Sqn sent out three Tps to recce road junctions and bridges. RHQ with B & C Sqns moved to the LIDO at DONCK. The Belgian White Bde had been of the greatest help to our patrols during the last three days and the information brought back by these intrepid Bde patrols was very accurate and valuable. We received news that the Guards Arm'd Div had made a bridgehead on the ALBERT Canal at BEERINGEN. A Sqn. Sqn moved out to a position West of DOKEREN and three Tps were ordered to recce road junctions at WACHTBEKE, MOERBEKE and KIEN SNAY. 1Tp went to 292922 and found the bridge blown. He was then ordered to bridge at 264904 and found it blown also and covered by 2 A/Tk guns. No further advance was made and he stayed in observation. 2Tp advanced to 352904 and reported bridge at 354908 as blown and covered by 2 A/Tk guns and 100 Infantry. He used the Gun Tp on this position but no results were observed. 3Tp advanced to 392920 and reported bridge at 392928 blown with a gap of 12 feet. He was then ordered to bridge at 371878 and found it ok. He took 7 PoW during the day. All Tps were called in at last light to SHQ. B Sqn. We moved at 1000 hours to DONCK, 5 miles out of LOCKEROU; it was a lovely place with a lake and pubs galore for the soldiers. D Sqn. Three A/Tk guns had been reported by the Maquis on the main road at 421877 and 3 more at 443889. 1Tp to HAMME and then North, reached 493885 but was held up by A/Tk gun and 4 MGs at 492895. HAMME bridge was intact. 5Tp was sent North to cut in on the main road at HEESDONK. A Mk VI tank moved South towards WAESMUNSTER and 2Tp DSC was put out of action, a tyre destroyed, and LCpl Williams Wynn made his escape by a bicycle followed by the tank and several shells. The tank turned into WAESMUNSTER and advanced to LOCKERIN at a fair speed. Sgt Lyon MM took it on at 400 yards with 2pdr squeeze without result and withdrew over the bridge at 387849. The tank with its Infantry support walking on each flank turned round at the bridge and went back to STNICOLAS on the main road. By evening 5Tp who were sent to relieve 2Tp reached WAESMUNSTER and reported no movement seen. 3Tp went to the South side of the bridge to report any movements there and 1Tp was withdrawn to HAMME X roads. Spent the night with RHQ at DONCK. The Greys arrived and spent the night in LOCKERIN.
9/9/44	RHQ. 4th Arm'd Bde attacked and entered STNICOLAS and A Sqn rec'd North on the West side of the town and D Sqn on the East side of the town. One Tp of D Sqn entered STNICOLAS with the leading elements of 4th Arm'd Bde. 4th Arm'd Bde found that it was impossible to hold STNICOLAS and push North at the same time without more Infantry, so they went into the town itself. D Sqn meanwhile pushed up to the West end of the ANTWERP Tunnel across the RSCHelde and captured a bewildering piece of enemy equipment consisting of a large turntable on wheels mounting a number of bells. A Sqn met heavy opposition at NIEUWERKEN WAES just North of STNICOLAS and Lt Sutton's Tp was shot up by a Panther and Lt Sutton, Sgt Fitzpatrick and other members of the Tp were captured. At ST GILES WAES heavy opposition was also encountered. During the day 3 enemy columns were trying to work South into STNICOLAS under the impression that the town was still in German hands. The most common enemy practice was to send Infantry down each side of the road to make contact with our patrols and then a tank would come down the road at full tilt shooting up everything in sight. RHQ moved to KETTERMUIT area.



	A Sqn. 4th Armd Bde were to attack STNICHOLAS from the South and the Sqn was ordered to provide patrols to the North. 4Tp advanced towards STEKENE and was held up by 3 A/Tk guns and Infantry in area 4295. The Gun Tp was used but 4Tp was unable to advance any further. 5Tp advanced to KEMSEKE and shot up a staff car killing 2 German officers. 2Tp advanced through STNICHOLAS then NE to NIEUWERKEN WAES. He reported 3 tanks, guns and Infantry holding the town and was engaged by a Mk IV Special. He was forced to bale out and Lt Sutton, Sgt Fitzpatrick, Tpr Kirkham, Tpr Harris and Tpr Fowler were all taken prisoner. The White Scout car was used by the Germans to take them away and the DAC and DSC were later recovered. During the afternoon 5 enemy troop carriers were reported moving West from NIEUWERKEN WAES and 5Tp were ordered to gain contact. He was unable to do so as the carriers split up and returned to NIEUWERKEN WAES. 1Tp was ordered to a position West of ST PAUL where he found the place held by 3 A/Tk guns which had moved in from the North during the day. The enemy were also reported in square 4792 thus cutting off Sgt Hall's escape route to the South. He appreciated the situation and decided to force his way through ST PAUL. He was successful in this by receiving the A/Tk gun positions and by-passing them in the village itself. On the West side however he came under fire from them and from HE but suffered no casualties. During the day 2 PoW were captured. All Tps returned at last light to SHQ at a position West of ST NICHOLAS. It was seen after the day's probing that the enemy was holding a line South of the Dutch border to enable the bulk of his army to withdraw from the Channel ports and flying bomb sites. They were withdrawing through HOLLAND and being ferried across the R. SCHELDT and it was appreciated that the line would be held for some time. B Sqn. We hoped for a morning on maintenance but had to move at 1230 hours to a position 2 miles South of STNICHOLAS. A civilian report in the evening of 200 Infantry in the woods 1000 yards North of us entailed a composite patrol of it. Lt Gibson, who had just joined the Sqn, was attached to 3Tp as Sgt McGuire's gunner and Sgt Gardiner who went and found this report was nonsense. D Sqn. At first light 4Tp moved to WASMUNSTER and 1Tp to HAMME. A battle ensued NE of STNICHOLAS by which time 3Tp, who had gone in at first light and found it clear, had reached MESELE and was ordered to proceed North to CALLOO. 1Tp found the sides of the road mined the last 2 miles to the ANTWERP TUNNEL. The tunnel was full of mud and impassable except on foot. The foot tunnel had the ventilation shaft blown and was flooded. A dummy 88mm AA site of 6 guns was found round the tunnel. Moved back to 509880 until evening.
10/9/44	RHQ. A & B Sqns moved forward in the morning. By 1200 hours they had contacted an enemy line running East/West approx on the line of the 00 Northing grid line, with guns and MG in VERREBROEK and CALLOO and flooding between these two points. The Royals were operating on the left of A Sqn. RHQ moved to Chateau at HOOGENDE, Lt Haart (Belgian LO) attached to the Regt. Lt Brown joined the Regt. A Sqn. Three patrols went out to the same positions as the previous day and were able to advance a little further north. 3Tp advanced to HETKALF and reported 3 A/Tk guns, 200 Infantry in CLINGE. He engaged a staff car and brewed it up also 20 Infantry of which he killed 6 and took 2 PoW. 4Tp advanced to GROENENDY and reported Infantry and 1 A/Tk gun at 465016, also HDT. He used the Gun Tp on this position and killed 10 Germans. 5Tp advanced to 495986 and reported SALIETEM to be held by Infantry. All Tps stayed on this line because as previously stated the enemy were holding their line South of the Dutch border. B Sqn. 1, 2 and 3Tps were out. 1Tp went via STNICHOLAS to BEVERN WAAS and finished up ½ mile North of the latter place where Lt Young was unable to get any further North because of floods. He spent the day there and had some good shooting with the 75mm against 20mm in CALLOO. 2Tp were on the right and went to the road from KETTERMUITNE via HAESDONCK to MESELE in front of the Greys who were to take CALLOO. Civilians reported CALLOO strongly held and all Tps had conflicting reports from civilians, obviously given out by the Germans with this intention.



	3Tp were on the left, directed on VACRENE where he was told that VERREBROEK was held; Lt Chapman appreciated that the long straight road direct to VERREBROEK would be most unhealthy so he edged his way East via ZILLEBEKE and up North to VLIENSTAL which he turned into a little base from where he operated all day. Lt Chapman using the 75's in the morning shifted an 88mm from the road and put 20 enemy Infantry to flight. In the evening Lt Chapman in order to confirm conflicting reports from the locals concerning VERREBROEK, advanced up the road and got heavily shelled halfway to HETFORT by 20mm's on both sides and MGs – he got out alright and then warmed up the area with the 75's. D Sqn. In reserve. Much maintenance to be done. Moved after lunch to CHATEAU TERSAXEN at BEVEREN where everyone was well housed for a rainy night.
11/9/44	RHQ. C Sqn took over on the left and B Sqn continued on the right. Once again enemy opposition was encountered on the 00 Northing and B Sqn were held up by enemy in HETFORT. B Sqn also investigated vague civvy reports about enemy in VRACENE and reported it clear. C Sqn moved through ST GILES WAES and KEMPHOEK. Bad visibility owing to close country and conflicting civilian reports caused the Royals to pull back their right hand patrol at ST PAUL and consequently our line was readjusted. It would appear that the Germans are spreading false reports by means of soldiers disguised as civilians or in some cases civilian collaborators. C Sqn. Sqn had moved up the previous evening to ST NICHOLAS area just West on ANTWERP. Three patrols went out to the NW to watch a line facing North looking into HOLLAND against the enemy flank guard which was guarding the crossing over the R. SCHELDE. 1Tp, 2Tp and 5Tp went out. Numerous civvy reports of large numbers of enemy tanks and Infantry proved rather inaccurate and alarmist. In the afternoon friends on our left (Royals) were forced to withdraw rather suddenly which left a considerable gap in the line until 1Tp and 2Tp withdrew to conform. Later all returned. 2Tp was approached by 5 Germans but the cover was too thick to get a good shot at them. They withdrew a bit later. All Tps returned for the night. A Sqn. In Regt reserve at RUISTRAAT. Capt JA Friend rejoined the Sqn as 2i/c and Lt Williamson took over 2Tp. B Sqn. Two Tps were out – 4Tp to VLIENSTAL and 1Tp to VRACENE. 1Tp had a clear run and remained in reserve at ZILLEBEKE for the morning. 4Tp found an MG nest which seemed to vanish when we stonked a hamlet half way up the road to HETFORT. VERREBROEK and HETFORT were both strongly held and progress was impossible. How much of the enemy were escaping North of the CALLOO – VERREBROEK flank guard it was hard to say. In the afternoon a gunner OP was sent to Lt Flood and in order to get observation on to VERREBROEK, Lt Flood went forward in his Dingo with 3 of his army of Maquis up to the hamlet which appeared to be clear; so he parked his Dingo behind a house and with the Maquis walked up the road. He had not gone 50 yards when heavy fire from behind him was opened up on his Dingo by 2 Breda MGs and a 20mm sited in the flood water on the West of the road. These guns then traversed left firing just over his head but luckily there was a slight slope which screened him. Then an MG opened up on him and he decided to take a header into the water; but the bullets followed him and he returned to the bank to slip back and cross the road to his Dingo, under cover of smoke from a burning haystack just by his Dingo. This was a lucky escape. For the remainder of the day Lt Nicholson who was with 4Tp, OP'd for the 4th RHA and at one time had the whole Regt firing on to VERREBROEK. At midday 5Tp relieved 1Tp and remained as a stop in VACRENE till dusk in spite of continual civilian reports of Tiger tanks and Infantry being there too. Sqn spent the night in the area of a chateau. D Sqn. In rest at the chateau. Maintenance and cleaning of cars.
12/9/44	RHQ. C & B Sqn carried out some patrols with the Royals on the left of C Sqn. Polish Armd Div prepared to take over on the following day. C Sqn. 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp went out with 3Tp on the left who went into KEMSEKE where he was later joined by



	friends. 5Tp was in the centre and 4Tp on the right. 3Tp found a wounded PoW in a house and evacuated him. 5Tp was approached by a party of 5 men but they kept well under cover and could not be engaged. At 1620 hours Tp saw a German cross the road carrying a portable W/T set. Shortly after he captured a German SSM from 7th Pz Grenadiers riding a bicycle. Nothing further to report and at last light we withdrew, the Poles taking over. B Sqn. 2Tp out to VRACINE and 3Tp out to VLIENSTAL continuing the duties as stops. An 88mm was engaged by 3Tp using 7Tp and it was forced to move back. A number of hidden Infantry moved back also. Polish force took over from us in the evening and we returned to Chateau. D Sqn. Due to the proximity of some mythical tanks we had to move to a position 2 miles North of HAMME where maintenance was continued.
13/9/44	RHQ. Polish Armd Div took over from 7th Armd Div and 4th Armd Bde. 1st Polish Armd Regt relieved 11th Hussars. Regt moved to LAC D'HOFSTADE South of MECHLIN. This was a delightful spot in an old peacetime Lido, and only ½ hour from BRUSSELS and the Regt was given 48 hours stand down. Much needed maintenance was done. A Sqn. Moved as a Regt to the BRUSSELS area. B Sqn. Regt moved to area just South of MALINES. No Tps out. Good billets in chateau. D Sqn. Moved at 1015 hours as a Regt to MALINES area. Area by the Lido and very pleasant. Arrived at 1530 hours maintenance until 1800 hours.
14/9/44	Make & Mend. Leave parties to Brussels and Mechlin. A Sqn. In reserve carrying out much needed checking and maintenance. Organised parties allowed to go into BRUSSELS for recreational purposes. In rest until 18th Sep 44. D Sqn. Sgt Luke fell ill with tonsillitis and was evacuated. Work until 1300 hours. 1 lorry with 30 men to MALINES from 1400 hours to 2045 hours and one the same to BRUSSELS.
15/9/44	Make & Mend. Leave parties to Brussels and Mechlin.
16/9/44	Make & Mend. Leave parties to Brussels and Mechlin.
17/9/44	RHQ. Regt was warned for operations on the following morning. 7th Armd Div to take over line of ALBERT CANAL from exclusive ANTWERP to HERENTHALS. Intention to protect left of 12th Corps who in turn were to protect left of 30th Corps in their bridgehead over the ESCAUT, while the Canadians on the left of 7th Armd Div were to clear up ANTWERP. 11th Hussars responsible from exclusive ANTWERP to 91 Easting with 22nd Armd Bde on immediate right. Regt were allotted one Tp of 15th LAA acting as impromptu A/Tk guns. 1st Airborne landed on bridges over WAAL and RHINE at NIJMEGAN and ARNHEM. D Sqn. At 6 hours notice to move but managed to get the leave parties to Malines and Brussels in again. Sgt Luke returned having escaped complete evacuation.
18/9/44	RHQ. RHQ Tac with A & D Sqns moved out at 0630 hours. A & D Sqns took over from 8th Hussars with A Sqn on the left and D Sqn on the right. RHQ Tac moved to CHATEAU DE BIST. The morning was uneventful but with the enemy still in HERENTHALS on the North side of the canal and D Sqn reported some mortar fire and A Sqn was troubled by sniper fire from the North bank. At 1600 hours the Canadians moving East from Antwerp took over from A Sqn and A Sqn moved on to D Sqn right. Unfortunately in this handover Tpr Green of A Sqn was killed by a sniper.



	Later in the day C Sqn moved up to immediate reserve with RHQ. At last light patrol took up alternative positions and remained there for the night. The role we had to fulfil was very similar to the day on the river VOLTERNO in Italy when our AC patrols fulfilled an Infantry role by day and by night. A Sqn. At first light the Sqn moved to take a position on the ALBERT canal from the 8th Hussars. The stretch on the canal was from the East of ANTWERP for a distance 5 miles East entailing a four Tp front. 1Tp was ordered to Stadium, 2Tp to X roads at 735980 and 3Tp to road junction at WYNEGHEM. 4Tp was ordered to road junction at 772958 and SHQ to Fort No. 1 at ANTWERP. In these positions the canal was covered with the exception of a few blind spots which were, shortly after arrival, covered by the Scout sections. The Tps remained in position during the day and reported spasmodic sniping and odd Infantry North of the canal. At 1500 hours the Canadians took over our positions and we were ordered to another stretch of the canal between VIERSEL and GROBBENDONCK, which required only three Tps to cover it. When 3Tp were being relieved by the Canadians at WYNEGHEM, Tpr Green of the Scout section was shot by a sniper and killed instantly. His body was recovered by the Tp and later buried in our new position. 1Tp was ordered to VIERSEL. 2Tp was ordered to DE BIST and 3Tp to 883900. At last light all Tps were withdrawn ½ mile and became listening posts because the enemy had made a practice of infiltrating across the canal during the night. However nothing was seen or heard during the night. At this point it must be stated that all bridges across the canal had been blown. D Sqn. Moved at first light to take over from 8th Hussars on the ALBERT canal between ANTWERP and HERENTHALS. During the day 1Tp saw 30 Infantry and 2 spandaus across the canal which were heavily stonked 3 times by 7Tp, 2 rounds falling in slit trenches. One mortar was firing from 828937 and 1 suspected SP. These were all stonked by 7Tp. 1Tp and 3Tp were relieved by A Sqn but 3Tp got a car stuck and had to stay out. 4Tp was relieved by the Canadians in the evening and spent the night at 795941. 1Tp came back to SHQ and 3Tp stayed the night with A Sqn.
19/9/44	RHQ. After a quiet and uneventful night A & D Sqns carried their standing patrols as on the previous day. In the early morning a DSC from A Sqn was returning from the 1st Rifle Bde on their immediate right was fired on by a small A/Tk gun from the South. It was thought at first that this must be one of our own guns but it was later discovered that it was in fact an enemy bazooka which had been lying up South of the canal. A certain amount of enemy mortaring was experienced during the day and our 75mm were active shelling the opposite bank of the canal. During the afternoon the Canadians took over from D Sqn complete and also the A Sqn left. A Sqn's remaining patrols remained out for the night. B Sqn sent one Tp to 12th Corps HQ for special W/T duties. A Sqn. 4Tp and 5Tp relieved 1 & 2Tp and 3Tp remained out. All Tps remained out during the day and night and reported no enemy activity whatsoever. B Sqn. Still at chateau but 1Tp were sent out on a liaison task with Corps HQ. D Sqn. No movement seen till 1500 hours when 1Tp shot 3 Germans at 838932 and heavily stonked the area with 7Tp and the Bofors Tp. A mortar at 828938 was also stropped up after firing into 1Tp position. This later fired from 822948 into the bridge area 838932 but landed among the enemy. Battling ensued until 1900 hours. 7Tp fired 238 rounds and the Bofors 450 rounds. Canadian patrols were in our area all night and 8th Recce took over at first light.
20/9/44	RHQ. After a quiet night the Canadians completed their relief of A Sqn. In the afternoon we received an unexpected change of orders. While we had been watching the ALBERT Canal the remainder of 12th Corps had been making a bridgehead North of GHEEL over the JUNCTION Canal at ATTIRT. An increased stiffening of enemy resistance here against the 15th Scottish Div had caused them to withdraw and blow up the ATTIRT bridge.



	With the withdrawal of the GHEEL bridgehead we were given a new section of the ALBERT Canal to watch and we were ordered to take over from the 1st Rifle Bde in area South of HERENTHALS at first light on the following morning. C, A & D Sqns were each given task of relieving a Coy of the Rifle Brigade's and Sqn Ldrs married up with respective Coy commanders during the evening. RHQ & B Sqn moved to CHATEAU at HERENTHOUT. A Sqn. Handed over the positions to the Canadians and 22nd Armd Bde. All Tps returned to SHQ at HOOGE HEIDE. B Sqn. Regt moved to HERENTHOUT. Sqn still in rest. Played football against civilian side. D Sqn. Handed over to 8th Recce to Canadian Div completed by 0900 hours. Moved at 1430 hours to 965865 preparatory to taking over from 2nd RB.
21/9/44	RHQ. C, A & D Sqn took up position on the canal at first light. Some enemy mortaring and shelling during the day. Once again the local White Bde did sterling work crossing the canal by night and bringing information from the enemy lines. Patrols stayed out for the night. C Sqn. Sqn role was to watch the banks of the ALBERT canal from the South and to prevent enemy patrols from penetrating South between HERENTHALS on the right and X roads 9-79-3. 1Tp was on the right at WOLFSTEE with a foot patrol on the railway line at 942897 under L/Sgt Howard. This patrol was very close to the enemy who were in HERENTHALS and was sniped and mortared frequently during the day but without result. 2Tp was on the railway line at 942897 and 4Tp also on the line at 922795. They inter-visible along the line but woods obscured vision on either side. 3Tp was on the X roads at 908902. At 0750 hours 3Tp saw 3 men at 910913 and at 1115 hours saw 1 man at 920906. Two enemy 75's were in action to the North of the railway. 7Tp stonked the area and they did not fire anymore. 1634 hours 3Tp reported some Belgian Resistance had encountered 5 Germans at 921906, they shot 1 and the rest ran away. 1800 hours a number of German Infantry approached 2Tp position. Shots were exchanged but in the close country results could not be observed. Tps stayed out for the night which was quiet except for some MG fire and very lights by some 'locals' at 0200 hours which caused a slight scare. A Sqn. Took over the same stretch of canal from 22nd Armd Bde using 1, 2 and 3Tp. Tps remained out day and night. no enemy reported. D Sqn. Took over from RB's. 2Tp to 98883 where he sat on a big mound of earth from the canal and had a very good position of observation while his Scouts watched the lock gates. 3Tp to another big mound at 981887 and 5Tp with 2 Scout sections to 963887. C Sqn were on our left and Queens on our right. 7Tp was used considerably and with success, scoring a brew at 955900. Sniping started in the afternoon at 3Tp and generally over 5Tp area. 5Tp with 24 Resistance men patrolled in front for the night. A number of Germans were seen by the FFI, four approached 5Tp with very lights but were fired on and went away.
22/9/44	RHQ. Standing patrols as on previous day. By 1400 hours 49th Infantry Div (1st Corps) had moved up to our area and their Sqn took over by 1600 hours. Orders received for the Regt to concentrate near 7th Armd Div HQ in area East of MEERHOUT on the morning of the 23rd. C Sqn. Same Tps in place. At 0915 hours 2 enemy 75's opened up. 1Tp & 2Tp each got bearings and 7Tp stonked the area which stopped them. 1205 hours 2 guns opened up, cross bearing gave the area which 7Tp stonked again. By 1545 hours Sqn was relieved by 58 Recce Btn. A Sqn.



	Handed over to 49 Recce Regt and called in all Tps at 1600 hours. B Sqn. Still resting. Games in afternoon. The biggest blow the Sqn has suffered so far was when Major Reid Scott MC broke his ankle and was evacuated to the UK. He was greatly upset at leaving and the Sqn will miss him very much. D Sqn. At 0550 hours 3Tp was mortared without effect. Infiltration during the night and 2 spandaus were firing from area 955890 but could not be found. 7Tp KO'd a spandau at 983893. Four 75mm tried to counter battery 7Tp but were hopelessly out, the shells landing in NORDERWYCK village. Handed over to 49th Div Recce at 1600 hours and spent the night in WEKEVOST.
23/9/44	RHQ. Regt moved across ALBERT canal by ALBERT bridge South of GHEEL. At approx 1100 hours 49th Div had got into HERENTHALS and reported it clear and they reported that the enemy appeared to have withdrawn from area South of RETHY – CASTERIE road and the Regt were ordered to send 2 patrols each of 2 DSC to recce bridges over CANAL D'EMBRANCHEMENT. C Sqn were given this task. In the evening we were ordered to relieve 131 Bde the following day on the JUNCTION canal and 7th Armd Div less 11th Hussars were to move to EINDHOVEN area. C Sqn. Reports were received that the enemy had pulled out from GHEEL bridge and that RE's had repaired the bridge sufficiently for us to cross. That was at 1700 hours and 3 patrols were sent on the far side. Actually when we arrived they had not started the bridge but were preparing to put a scissors bridge over the lock 300 yards East. A ditch had to be filled in and a house demolished before the scissors could reach the selected spot. This spot was found to bear the sign of MINEN but empty holes led us to believe it had been cleared. Three of our scout section and some RE's crossed the canal by pontoon and started to clear the roads on the far side of mines and debris, also some German dead. By 1845 hours all was set for the first car to cross over the scissors and a crowd of spectators gathered round to watch. At 1846 hours the car (Lt Ballingal) went over a Teller, luckily the far wheel which was never seen again - the car was almost a total write off and a bottle of whiskey and a bottle of champagne inside it were total write offs. The operator had slight scratches on his leg. The car was dragged out of the way and the area searched revealing one more mine. It was decided to pack up for the night as it was getting dark so we remained in observation. A Sqn. Moved with the Regt to GREES. B Sqn. Capt J Lovett took over the Sqn temp and Lt Burridge took over 2i/c. Lt R Preston, an officer of the Sherwood Foresters joined the Sqn under Lt Sivewright. Sgt McGuire took over 2Tp and Sgt Purkiss became Tp Sgt of 3Tp. Cpl Evans rejoined from hospital and took over the Dingo in 3Tp. 1Tp still away at Corps HQ. Regt moved to GREES, a miserable area in the woods South of MOLL. D Sqn. Moved with the Regt to area of concentration (in the rain) South of MOLL. Two new officers joined the Sqn, Lt Alton and Lt Gurteen both from the Sherwood Foresters. The former to 3Tp and the latter to 5Tp under instruction.
24/9/44	RHQ. In the morning we took over from 131 Bde with C Sqn on left and D Sqn on the right and settled down to the boring role of watching an area which no enemy had been reported in for 48 hours and once again the Div moved on and we were left behind. A very quiet day was spent. Patrols were withdrawn at last light and orders came through during the night for us to move to rejoin 7th Armd Div South of EINDHOVEN. C Sqn. 3Tp stayed out during the morning; picked up 6 Yanks whose glider had become separated from its towing machine during the air operation two days previously, also 4 German PoW and 1 Russian. A Sqn. Lt Newnham joined the Sqn. Still at GREES.



	B Sqn. 3, 4 & 5 Tps were out on patrol watching the ALBERT canal. All bridges had been blown and it was a nothing to report day. Bag – 2 PoW brought in. D Sqn. Spent the day at the same place. Rained most of the day and night.
25/9/44	RHQ. Regt moved at 0800 hours to STEENSEL South of EINDHOVEN, crossing the Dutch frontier North of MOLL. 30th Corps axis now ran from EINDHOVEN – NIJMEGAN – ARNHEM where they were still trying to reach the 1st British Parachute Div in ARNHEM itself. This axis was repeatedly being cut by enemy movement from both West to East and East to West. 8th corps were operating East of the axis and 12th corps were given the task of protecting the left flank of 30th Corps axis. 7th Armd Div were moving up the line of 30th Corps axis to make contact with 101st Para Regt at VEGHEL. This contact was made during the afternoon and 131 Bde were ordered to advance to SCHINDEL on the 26th and form a bridgehead over the ZUID WHILLEMScanal while 22nd Armd Bde were to push West from VEGHEL and protect the bridgehead from the North. 11th Hussars were given the task of recce in an area North of the canal as far North as 4851. To do this we were to move to VEGHEL behind 5th RIDG and to go through them at VEGHEL. By last light the road was not clear of enemy it did not appear as though we would be able to carry out our role at first light. C Sqn. 5Tp remained out during the night and at 0630 hours 2Tp left to relieve him and at 0645 hours both were withdrawn. A Sqn. Moved with the Regt in stages to SLABROEK. B Sqn. Regt moved to STEENSEL and had orders to move at first light on 26th to patrol area North of VEGHEL. D Sqn. Moved at 0800 hours to South of EINDHOVEN. Rained all day.
26/9/44	RHQ. The Regt was placed on 1 hours notice with no possibility of a move before 0800 hours. The Glider Regt at VEGHEL reported 1 Btn of enemy Infantry in the West part of the town and also a number of guns around SCHINDEL. At approx 1000 hours the Colonel was called to 131 Bde for a conference and a fresh plan was made which had as its immediate intention the capture of SCHINDEL. 8th Hussars were to operate South of SCHINDEL and 5th RTR pushed through VEGHEL and took up positions as right flank guard. 11th Hussars were placed under command 22nd Armd Bde to carry out a recce as detailed the previous day. At 1030 hours Tac and B & D Sqns sent out patrols NE cross country to work up the South bank of the canal. B Sqn made contact with elements of US Glider Regt and sent out patrols NE from VEGHEL to the line of the railway where they were held up by enemy Infantry. During the evening the enemy Infantry made a fairly determined attack in an attempt to break out East across the railway but were soon repulsed. B Sqn. Early move cancelled but Regt moved at 1100 hours. Sqn leaguered SE of STOEDENRODE and 4Tp and 5Tp were sent to VEGHEL to recce roads going NW. 5Tp holding canal bank and 4Tp along parallel to main road. Both contacted Americans in area of railway bridge but neither could move due to enemy holding a line about 800 yards away up these roads. 5Tp were heavily shelled and 4Tp reported an enemy attack at last light. The attack was held. A picture was built up of the opposition in the area and although the Tps made no progress their reporting was of value. D Sqn. Moved at 1200 hours to 1 mile East of OEDENRODE. 1Tp through VEGHEL up the main road to UDEN where he contacted Grenadier Guards – then to NISTEROODE where he met more of them and spent the night – no movement seen. 4Tp to VEGHEL then North to DERP. Very bad road, all mud. 3Tp to VEGHEL to railway crossing 485387 where there was a USAirborne Div. Smartened up German Infantry at 467389. 3 & 4Tp returned to SHQ East of VEGHEL for the night.



27/9/44	RHQ. B & D Sqns carried out patrols West of VEGHEL. SCHINDEL was strongly held by the enemy and 131 Bde were unable to take it, and the enemy had a strong line North from DINTHER. The Guards Armd Div reported OSS clear of the enemy and at 1700 hours RHQ Tac moved to MENZEL where the Regt concentrated in pouring rain. B Sqn. 4Tp and 5Tp continued with their 2 patrols. 5Tp held all day by enemy in the woods. 4Tp moved up and got to DINTHER where they were supported eventually by 1st RTR and RB's. 7Tp were used during the day on suspected enemy areas and as a diversion to fool the enemy who were about to be attacked from another direction. Patrols were called in at 1600 hours and the Regt moved to MENZEL in the middle of the biggest rainstorm ever. D Sqn. At first light 1Tp moved SW to LOOSBROEK – no movement seen. 3Tp went to 510 thence to DERP, BEDAF and NISTEROEDE – no movement seen. 4Tp North to VOLCHENBOSCH where his flywheel collapsed and 2Tp was sent to relieve him and push on to 1Tp at LOOSBROEK. From there 2Tp went South on to 442414 where he was shot at by an A/Tk gun at 438413. This he stonked with 5th RHA guns and 1st RTR moved up to clear DINTHER. All Tps called in at 1630 hours, moved to NISTEROEDE with the Regt. Rained very hard.
28/9/44	RHQ. A Sqn sent out three patrols. 150 enemy Infantry were reported in woods at 4349, MET were reported moving along the road HEESCH – SHERTOGENBOSCH. 5th RHA who were in support, registered this stretch of road and MET using this road were heavily shelled. Infantry with bazookas were holding DOORNHOEK and 50 Infantry at 471485 were engaged by A Sqn. A Sqn. 7th Armd Div was responsible for the protection of 30 Corps left flank between VEGHEL and X roads 580510. The task of the Regt was to recce West from NISTEROEDE to SHERTOGENBOSCH on a seven mile front with the Sqn on the right. Three patrols were used with the left directed on to DOORNHOEK, centre on NULANDSVENKEL and right on LAGEWIJST. 1Tp centre, 2Tp left and 3Tp right. 1Tp advanced to 424483 which was North of NULANDSVENKEL and reported 150 Infantry in woods at 4349. He could also see the main road from HEESCH to SHERTOGENBOSCH in certain parts and reported MET moving East. The road at this point was registered by 5th RHA with Sgt Hall doing OP. From then onwards all MET using the road was engaged by the guns. 2Tp advanced to DOORNHOEK and was forced to withdraw having been fired on by bazookas and small arms in the town. He took up a position at X roads 400450 where he remained for the remainder of the day. A local Maquis which he used reported that the ZUID canal from SHERTOGENBOSCH to 410418 was held by Infantry and MGs. Also that there were 800 Germans in SHERTOGENBOSCH, 150 Infantry and 10 MET at 3548 and 30 Infantry with MGs at 3649. 3Tp advanced to 471485 and reported 50 Infantry at 471485 which he engaged. He then used 5th RHA but was unable to progress any further. All Tps returned to SHQ at last light at KANTJE. B Sqn. Sqn resting, maintenance and gun cleaning. A Sqn took over our patrols. D Sqn. In reserve.
29/9/44	RHQ. A Sqn sent out 3 patrols. Infantry and an 88mm in the GROES area were engaged by the RHA and the gun KO'd. The guards Armd Div were working down to SOGGEL from the North and soon cleared it up. A Sqn. Patrol positions were very much similar to the previous day. 5Tp on the right advanced to LAGEWIJST and reported Infantry in area GROES which he engaged with K Bty resulting in one 88mm KO'd and 3 Germans killed. He then advanced to HOCGEWIJST and reported it clear. Thence to SOGGEL where he reported enemy Infantry in the area. He smartened these with small arms killing 6 Germans. He later handed over to the Guards and returned to SHQ at last light. 4Tp was centre and advanced to VINKEL and North to 422488 and reported 12 Infantry at 421497 with an A/Tk gun. They were smartened up by small arms fire and withdrew. He then advanced North of the



	road and reported a large gun at 413454 which he engaged. He later reported this as being abandoned. He then went on to 418503 and reported numerous Infantry in the area which he smartened in time. A 150mm gun firing from the West eventually got a bracket on the Tp position thus forcing them to withdraw South of the road. 3Tp was on the left and advanced to 400450 and engaged Infantry at 398456. He then advanced to CORSO and was held up by a road block of fallen trees, small arms and shelling. He remained in this position in observation. On returning to SHQ at last light he was fired on by two 50mm guns in area 408422 but came through unscathed. Today was a good day. All Tps had very good practice with their guns and good results obtained. B Sqn. Still resting. All deficiencies taken and 406's done. D Sqn. In reserve.
30/9/44	RHQ. C Sqn operated under 22nd Armd Bde. It had now become obvious that SHERTOGENBOSCH could not be captured and held by 7th Armd Div alone as it was on the main enemy supply route to TILBURG and BOXTEL and would require at least another Infantry Div in support for such an operation to succeed. SCHINDEL too was still strongly held. So the form now was for 7th Armd Div to operate in two Bde groups North of the ZUID canal. 11th Hussars were to be responsible for the defence of OSS by day and night with day patrols up to the line of the river MAAS to the North. The Regt was ordered to move at first light the following morning and take over from 52nd Recce Regt (52 Div) in OSS area. C Sqn were to remain under command 22nd Armd Bde. C Sqn. 1,3 and 4Tps went to PAPENDIJK, GROES and X roads 421497. On the way out 1Tp took a PoW at 439493 from 437 Infantry Btn who stated that his Coy was all split up and had been abandoned by its officers. Sqn was placed under 22nd Armd Bde with the role of gaining contact with the enemy in the area of patrol positions. 1Tp got into his area in which he found a number of Germans; several of which he took PoW including 1 RSM and 1 SSM. 1Tp was later joined by 2 Tps of Skins who took further PoW in the area. 4Tp got to his position and moved West down the road till he met a road block of 6 felled trees at 415495. During the afternoon a heavy mortar stonk came down on 1Tp. It wounded the driver trip Bucket, breaking his leg. Tpr Bucket had been with the Sqn since the outbreak of the war. 3Tp patrolled all round his area but could find no enemy. All Tps withdrew a short way for the night which was very wet. A Sqn. In reserve at KANTJE. Lt Brown and Richards left the Sqn. B Sqn. Order to move at first light to OSS next day. D Sqn. Moved to VOLCHENBOSCH. 3Tp and 5Tp patrolled the roads between VEGHEL and DINTHER – no movement seen. The road was full of people, USAirborne patrols to 1000 yards outside VEGHEL and 1/5th Queens on the outskirts of DINTHER. A waste of time but gave others confidence presumably.
October 1944	CO: Lt Col W Wainman MC
Oct 44	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/10/44	RHQ. At first light A & B Sqns moved up to take over from 58th Recce Regt. B Sqn in the MAREN area and A Sqn in the MACHAREN area. RHQ moved to a textile factory in OSS and were soon joined by D Sqn and C Sqn. B Sqn set an OP in the church tower at MAREN and shelled the FORT 3558. A German OP and 2 Rak guns were identified on the lock gates South of the Fort, and MGs and mortars in the Fort itself. Enemy



	Infantry were engaged in the HETWILD area. A Sqn contacted the Polish parachutists at RAVENSTEIN and also the RAF Regt patrols and an aerodrome with 3 Sqn of Spitfires South of RAVENSTEIN. At last light the Sqn took up defensive positions around OSS and one Tp of the Norfolk Yeomanry (A/Tk guns) came under command. 5th RHA laid down DF lines for us and we also had 100 local patriots under command, with a complicated telephone system bringing in information. It was thought that the enemy might try and breakout East through OSS itself after their failure to get through HEESCH a few days previously. Also in OSS itself there was a large German food dump at the HERTOOG factory, which at one time had been shared by both British and German echelons, but was now exclusively for British use. C Sqn reverted to command at 1400 hours. C Sqn. Tp objectives for the day were right GEFEN – centre SCHOTSCHEHEUVEL and left as far down the main road till contact at roadblock could be removed. 1Tp and 4Tp went to the roadblock early and started to work on it with a Scout section out in front, Cpl Golding. The Scout section took 2 PoW with a 3" mortar on a hand-cart from 2nd Infantry Ersatz Bn 212. 5Tp went out to relieve 1Tp and reached objective SCHOTSCHEHEUVEL, ("that fast place for skirt"). At 1010 hours a mortar stonk came down on 5Tp. LCpl Powell and Tpr Thomas were wounded. Both 3Tp and 4Tp got bearings on the mortars and an OP with SHQ put down a heavy concentration on the area and quietened them. 3Tp reached GEFEN and moved West as far as X roads 418512. The track from here was too narrow to the West but he reced South searching houses, and North as far as the railway line. Here he saw 2 Germans at close range and they were 'sweetened' with hand grenades. At 1400 hours the Sqn was withdrawn to RHQ at OSS. OSS was to be held by the Regt for the night, and enemy patrols were considered possible though not probable. 2Tp and 5Tp were out at 475553 and 485546. Nothing to report. A Sqn. The Regt was responsible for the defence of OSS both by day and by night. The Sqn was given the northern commitment and Tps were despatched to OIJEN, MEGEN and HERPEN for day patrols, i.e. on the R. MAAS. Night patrols entailed blocking a X road North of OSS at 469557. No enemy were seen by day or night. B Sqn. 3Tp patrolled from OSS in a westerly direction directed on SHERTOGENBOSCH. 2Tp directed on HETWILD via LITH. The country was very open and 3Tp sat in a position of observation about 2 miles North of NULAND. Enemy Infantry were seen and engaged by 7Tp. 2Tp used 7Tp on the Fort NE of MAREN between the WAAS and WAAL rivers and suspected emplacement at HETWILD. Both patrols drew back to night positions on the North and West of OSS but the night was quiet. D Sqn. Moved to school in OSS. Rained. In reserve.
2/10/44	RHQ. 2nd – 5th. Sqn took it in turns to do the patrols in the LITH area and the standing patrol due West of OSS at 416537. There was very little to report. The enemy were in HETWILD and on the West bank of the R. MAAS. A certain amount of mortaring and MG fire was reported from the Fort but we stonked this with 75mm. The enemy in HETWILD appeared to be KREIGSMARINES and on the banks of the MAAS there were some SS. Occasionally the enemy would come forward at night to MAREN and even as far as KESSEL once our patrols had been withdrawn. By night, Sqn took up positions on the perimeter of OSS supported by one Tp of Norfolk Yeomanry and one Tp of 15th LAA sited in the ground role as well as for AA. The local Patriots (OD and KP) proved most helpful and 'Tom' at LITH, an ex Dutch army officer, gave us very useful information on his morning Streps. C Sqn remained under command 131 Bde until 5th October when they were relieved by B Sqn. On the 5th, Major JCAD Lawson DSO MC, rejoined the Regt and took over B Sqn. Also on the 5th, 3 Typhoons suddenly attacked the HERTOOG factory in OSS with rockets, wounding about 10 civilians. Div were immediately informed but it was never discovered why this attack took place. An Officers dance was given on the night of the 5th at which the Burgomaster of OSS (M. de Bombac) – who claimed to be the rightful king of France – welcomed the British Army, despite the unfortunate incident at the factory. C Sqn. Remained in same area during the day. 3Tp did eastern patrol and 5Tp did northern patrol during the night. Nothing to report.



	A Sqn. Day patrols remained the same with the exception of the right at HERPEN which was withdrawn. Night patrols as for the previous day. No enemy seen. B Sqn. 5Tp relieved 3Tp and 4Tp relieved 2Tp at first light. They carried out the same two patrols. 5Tp engaged Infantry at NULAND and 4Tp had a busy day at MAREN. They shelled the Fort and the lock towers and were then ambushed by German patrols. They withdrew just NW of MAREN. 5Tp engaged parties of Infantry all day and at last light reported 5 explosions in the NULAND area. Both Tps were withdrawn to their night position. 5Tp reported an explosion during the night, possibly the bridge which they had crossed over during the day, as D Sqn found it demolished on the morning of the 3rd. Sqn relieved by D Sqn. Men promised 24 hours rest. D Sqn. In reserve. Football match with C Sqn.
3/10/44	C Sqn. Sqn came under orders 131 Bde and moved South to 4542 by 1430 hours. Our role was to hold the line of the WILLEMSVAART canal between DINTHER and VEGHEL, a distance of about 5 miles. There were 4 possible foot crossings but no vehicle crossings, and the possibility of patrols crossing by boat had also to be considered. 1Tp went to DINTHER and had 2 Scout sections at 438406 and 443406 and 5Tp went to BEUG with foot patrols at 455401 and 462358. Each foot patrol consisted of 4 men with 1 Bren and 2 Sns and a 38 set for communication to the Tp. They arranged booby traps consisting of trip wires attached to the rings of Mills Bombs over each footbridge. 4Tp had a patrol position at DINTHER and he patrolled 4 times during the night, to VEGHEL to contact the RE's who were holding that area. 2Tp was just behind in close support of the forward Infantry patrols at HEESWIJK. Only one enemy patrol was contacted during the night, this came within 50 yards of Cpl Golding's section and was driven off by Bren. A Sqn. 3rd – 7th. Position remained the same during the day and at night three patrols were used to cover roads to the North and East of OSS. SHQ during this period was established just North of OSS. B Sqn. Sqn resting; lectures on First Aid by the MO. 1Tp back with us. Lt Gibson took over Dingo in 3Tp, Cpl Evan took over second HSC in B1. D Sqn. 1 Tp to MAREN, 4Tp to 432538. Much shelling in NULAND area seen by 4Tp. Enemy Infantry seen in Fort and lock gates by 1Tp also enemy Infantry seen at WILD. A quiet day.
4/10/44	C Sqn. 5Tp foot patrols were withdrawn as some of our tanks took up position in the area. 1Tp was reinforced by an additional Scout section. 2 & 4Tp were withdrawn during daylight. A quiet day. A bit of shelling otherwise nothing to report during the night. Two Queens patrols, going spare, approached our lines. One got shot at – very near miss on their feet which made them dance. The other tripped over a booby trap, but being light footed the chap concerned fell down and did not pull the pin out of the grenade. They did not appear to mind much. Anyway they ought not to have been there. B Sqn. Resting, still at OSS. Orders to relieve C Sqn on the morning of the 5th Oct. D Sqn. 5Tp to MAREN. Infantry and MGs seen near the fort and were stonked by 7Tp. The White sect were shot up at 40 yards range by 4 enemy who came up from WILD. 2Tp went to 432530. Saw only activity in the NULAND area. Heavily shelled by 3 guns and some mortars and had to move his Tp back 1000 yards, leaving White sect and DSC only. The church spire in MAREN was shot off at 2100 hours.
5/10/44	C Sqn. Sqn undertook 2 patrols on the left – 3Tp with 1 Scout section went to 412426 with the object of the Scout sect visiting CASTEEL. This patrol produced no contact but there was a certain amount of shelling in the area. 4Tp were then ordered to contact the enemy who were known to be at DOORHOEK area. He reached



	the X roads at 396454 without seeing anything and turned WSW. Here he saw a burnt out tank just ahead and the Tp Ldr, Sgt Berry, decided to investigate on foot. He walked up to the rear of the tank and was much surprised to see 3 Germans at the front end of the tank. Luckily they were equally surprised and both sides withdrew. The country was densely wooded and the enemy patrol escaped. In the afternoon B Sqn relieved us and we returned to OSS 1 & 5 Tps were out during the night – nothing to report. B Sqn. Relieved C Sqn under command 1/6th Queens. Major Lawson DSO MC, rejoined the Regt and took over command of B Sqn. 1, 2 and 3 Tps went out on static patrols. 3Tp had two Scout sections watching the river crossings by day and night. 1Tp were shot at by MG from area of LAAR and withdrew later to a night position near ZANDKANT. 2Tp were at KAMEREN and reced the crossing of the river and canal due South. They were shot at by spandaus but got safely back. They were withdrawn at night. 4Tp with the two Scout sect were at night position watching the river. The night was noisy but no enemy came. D Sqn. 3Tp right and 4Tp left. A very quiet day. No movement seen all round, except odd men digging at MAREN and shell fire at NULAND. 2Tp out on local protection at night on exit to OSS.
6/10/44	RHQ. During the night 5/6th, German Infantry came into MAREN and imprisoned the greater number of the population in the church. They then endeavoured to bribe a local man to bicycle forward to our patrols as they came out in the morning and tell them that there was a badly wounded American parachutist in the church at MAREN. Unfortunately for them, with true Teutonic thoroughness, they picked one of the most reliable of the local KP for this task. He took the bribe and immediately took a warning to our patrols of the true situation. "TOM", the head of the KP in LITH asked us whether in view of the situation we could leave patrols by night in the LITH area as the locals were afraid of the Germans coming on in the night and there was a considerable danger of a large number of refugees flocking down into OSS which was already crowded with refugees. Unfortunately we were unable to do this as we had only three Sqs available, and they were all required for night defence of the OSS perimeter. However, during the afternoon, the enemy pulled back over the river again and D Sqn were able to enter MAREN and reported 20 houses burnt down and also a number of haystacks. It was obvious that the enemy were trying to deny us MAREN as an OP onto their main supply route. C Sqn. LCpls Hayward, Jones, Dalloway and Tpr Smith, who had been captured when Lt Creaton was killed, returned to the Sqn after escaping. Lt Creaton was killed as supposed at the time. He was shot through the back of the head while accepting the surrender of another batch of Germans. After that there was considerable firing on both sides and the AC and Dingo between them destroyed 2 lorries and 1 staff car and at least 6 Germans killed and left on the ground. The AC was unfortunately jammed between 2 other vehicles on the road and could get neither forward or back. The Dingo reversed but there was insufficient room and it went into the ditch. When the AC had a bad stoppage, the crews were forced to surrender. They marched with the Germans for 4 days, about 60 miles or so. On the 5th day the guards were somewhat relaxed in the early hours of the morning and they all made their escape into a nearby wood. No search was made and by night all Germans had left. They made their way to the nearest French village, which had not yet been reached by our own troops, and was not in fact reached for 4 days, during which time a very good time was had by all. B Sqn. Sqn remained under 1/6th Queens. 1, 3 and 4Tp were out in static positions South, West and NW of DINTHER. Enemy snipers were active especially in the area of LAAR where 1Tp successfully dealt with the situation. 1Tp were withdrawn to SHQ at last light and 3, 4 & 5 Tps remained out to watch the crossings South of DINTHER during the hours of darkness. D Sqn. 2Tp to MAREN and found 30 SS there. Stopped at KESSEL. They went into a house at 352579 with MGs and were heavily stonked by 7Tp in the afternoon and they left at 1700 hours having burnt 30 houses and all the haystacks in the village. 1Tp took over A Sqn patrols and moved round MEGEN, no movement seen.



7/10/44	RHQ. It was obvious from the events of the previous day that we must keep a sub-unit in the LITH area by night. Permission was therefore asked, for B Sqn to be released from 131 Bde. At 1530 hours B Sqn rejoined us. C Sqn spent the night at LITH and the 75mm Tps combined, took up night positions on the northern outskirts of OSS, and were lined up to give DF fire on the western approaches of LITH. This was a new and interesting role for our 75's. A quiet night was spent. C Sqn. The Sqn moved out at first light to take over the LITH area. 1Tp went to area 428541 with 2 Scout sect on the canal embankment just to the North. The position had a fine look out over the dead flat polder country, but nothing was seen all day. 2Tp went to KESSEL where he received a report of 10 Germans in the area and shortly afterwards he saw half a dozen of them at X roads 387583. He engaged them with MG and they disappeared into a watery bed where they at any rate got wet. 5Tp was sent to assist and went to the X roads from the East. Nothing could be seen of the enemy so he moved on to MAREN where the Tp Ldr, Lt Esch, met them suddenly walking round the side of a house. The house was, as far as possible, surrounded by the 2 ACs, 1 Dingo and 1 White SC of 5Tp and later another AC and White of 2Tp. The country was flat all round the house, but a thick orchard and deep ditches made it difficult to spot the enemy. The Scout Sect under LCpl Leeming attacked the orchard with hand grenades; while the ACs perforated the house with 2pdrs. After a bit of this 1 PoW was taken by the Scout sect, but others were believed to have got away to the South down a deep ditch. This was shortly confirmed by L/Sgt Woodhead who suddenly saw a man in a ditch about 20 yards away, aiming a bazooka at him. Luckily he got in a burst with MG before he fired. The hunt was then transferred to a large field of turnips surrounded by 3 ACs and the Scout sect did 'beater' and after a bit flushed a covey of Jerries – one of which was 'winged', the remainder packing up. They (5 in all) proved to be the 16 SS Coy and stated that their patrol had originally been 7 men, so two got away somewhere. They acquired 2 Pz Faust, 2 spandaus and 1 Tommy gun. The MGs we gave to the local Resistance movement who much appreciated them. 2Tp moved to the South end of MAREN and 5Tp remained at the northern end. A few mortar shells landed in MAREN in the evening but without effect. All Tps withdrew to LITH for the night and formed a screen around the village. Quiet night. B Sqn. 3Tp was under fairly heavy artillery fire during the night. One AC was hit but no casualties. At 1500 hours all patrols were withdrawn and the Sqn moved complete into the Phillips Factory at OSS where Capt Lovett had found extremely satisfactory accommodation. The Colonel had decided that 1/6th Queens were using the Sqn in roles only suitable for Infantry and he needed the extra Sqn for the defence of OSS. At night time the Sqn provided two Tps for the perimeter defence of OSS. This was done by 2 and 5 Tps who returned at first light to the Sqn area. D Sqn. 7th – 14th. During this period patrols were at railway crossing 467537 and at 457538. Always no movement seen but soothed the civilians who concocted fantastic rumours. At 2200 hours on the 10th, heavy stonking in the GEFFEN area followed by MG fire heralded some sort of attack. The Sqn stood to and two Tps were despatched to thicken up the area, but nothing happened. It transpired that two platoons of the 2nd RB's, plus 5th RHA completely subdued and routed a Btn of Infantry, supposedly trying to blow up the church at GEFFEN.
8/10/44	RHQ. 8th – 10th. Same patrols were carried out and the combined gun Tps took up positions each night for DF fire. The Gun Tps by day moved up to an area East of LITH by the lock gates. C Sqn. Thick fog until 1030 hours. 1Tp went to the same place as the previous day, 3Tp went to the South end of MAREN and 4Tp to the North end. At 1230 hours, the Tp Ldr of 3Tp, Lt Ballingal, was watching over a bank and was surprised to see a German, or possibly two, appear only 5 yards away on the other side of the bank. Lt Ballingal quickly fired a burst of Sten and threw a grenade at him, as he disappeared over the other side – equally surprised. For a time, he could not be seen again until about 15 minutes later, coinciding with a visit by the Colonel, he was observed swimming across the river. Soon he came into full view on the opposite bank – stark naked and running for his life. Rifles, K Gunson on the Dingo and Stensall opened up, but with more enthusiasm than accuracy and he finally disappeared over the far bank – definitely limping



	and holding his right leg, but still a runner. A reliable civilian reported that the village of HETWILD was held by 400 Marines, manning the line of the road. All the guns of the Regt (8 x 75mm) were brought up to the area and the Sqn Ldr and 5Tp went to within about 1 mile due West of HETWILD from where a clear view was obtained. Three good targets of Germans walking about and looking up at us, and each one in turn was thoroughly and accurately subjected to about 100 rounds apiece. During this time no attempt was made to interfere with either the guns or the OP, so the dose was repeated with very satisfactory results including two large house fires, and houses which the Germans were seen to enter received direct hits. In all, about 700 rounds fell in the target area. All Tps withdrew to LITH. A Sqn. 8th – 9th. Remained at OSS in reserve with patrols out at night in a defensive role. B Sqn. Sqn in factory in OSS. Day spent in cleaning up and maintenance. A football match against A Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp were out for the night on defence of OSS.
9/10/44	C Sqn. 2Tp and 5Tp went to MAREN at first light. The village itself was clear. At 1000 hours 4Tp was ordered to go to Y roads 365543, only 300 yards short of HETWILD. The guns were divided into 2 Tps of 4 guns each. By 1115 hours 4Tp was in position and reported 1 German on a bike going South down the road at 363543 and about 10 Germans in a house in the same area. 4Tp engaged these with 7Tp and also engaged the house with his 2pdr, which caused the enemy to bale out of the house and into the artillery fire and finally over the bank. 4Tp also took 2 PoW with a bazooka close by his position. They were then ordered to the bridge at 374535 and on arriving there about 20 minutes later he reported the bridge as Class 40 and 15 feet wide. 4Tp also saw and reported many Germans who obviously had no idea that they were under observation and were just wandering about. The first salvo from the 75's landed well amongst them and was repeated many times causing complete confusion and panic. Mortars opened up on MAREN from across the river. 5Tp saw the flash and smoke of one and accurately engaged it with 7Tp and silenced it. Later on an 88mm shelled MAREN. This was located at 354564 and by 1715 hours it was joined by three more and the 4 of them made MAREN a bit hot with airbursts, so 2Tp and 5Tp were ordered to withdraw which they did without casualties or damage, but with some near misses. All Tps were withdrawn for the night, which was quiet except for a few rifle shots in the distance and 2 very lights. B Sqn. Sqn still in Phillips factory in OSS. Sgt Mathison and the 75mm Gun Tp still away with the remainder of the Regt's Gun Tps. They had been employed since the afternoon of the 7th in support of C Sqn with various DF tanks in addition. 3Tp and 5Tp were out for the night in the same positions.
10/10/44	C Sqn. A Sqn relieved use early and the Sqn returned to OSS. A Sqn. The Sqn moved to LITH to relieve C Sqn. The job was to maintain a line of observation during the day on the MAAS from LITH to GUWANDE and at night the Sqn was responsible for the defence of LITH. 2Tp Lt Williamson took up a position at MAREN with a Scout sect ½ mile to the North and another Scout sect at the southern end of the village. Visibility was very restricted during the day owing to inclement weather and no movement was seen although rifle fire and MG fire was heard from the factory area 3758. 3Tp Lt Hodgkinson took up a position at 3854 with a Scout sect on the canal bank at 382540 who reported 5 dug-outs which appeared to be manned at 373535. 5Tp Lt Osborne was used as a stop gap patrol at KESSEL. Another source of information was from the Burgomaster TOM of LITH whose men carried out cycle patrols during the day and were responsible for the defence of the western end of the town. Information from TOM was 100 SS constructing gun-pits between the two factories in square 3554. At night all Tps were employed for blocking roads and a defensive fire plan was laid on using all eight of the Regt's 75mm guns. At 2330 hours a general 'stand to' was ordered owing to an enemy attack in Btn strength on GEFFEN. This attack was repulsed by the Rifle Bde and normal guard procedure was adopted at 0200 hours. B Sqn.



	Sqn same location. At first light 2Tp Lt Burridge, who has returned to command his Tp after doing 2i/c since Major Reid Scott was injured, went out to a patrol position on the canal in area 4153. This was to watch for any enemy movement from NULAND, or of any enemy infiltration East, from the SHERTOGENBOSCH area. Nine explosions were reported from NULAND, which the enemy still held. Lt Nicholson with a Scout car patrol recce'd the area NE of OSS and saw no signs of the enemy. 2Tp returned at last light and 1Tp and 4Tp did the night patrols. A football match against D Sqn resulted in a draw. Yesterday and today the whole Sqn had hot showers in OSS.
11/10/44	RHQ. During the day a number of civvy reports were received to the effect that there were 2000 Germans in ROSMALEN and also 4 tanks (SP guns?) and that the Germans there were reported to have said that they were going to OSS that night. At 2100 hours the enemy started shelling GEFREN and OSS and 1st RB reported enemy Infantry attacking GEFREN from NULAND in Btn strength. Some enemy Infantry were reported working up North of the railway towards OSS. Sqn went on constant watch and emergency patrol positions were taken up in addition to the normal night ones. In case this attack should be supported by tanks, all B vehicles were packed and ready to move East. By 0400 hours the 1st RB reported the situation well in hand and only about ½ dozen Infantry had reached the outskirts of the town, and had immediately withdrawn again. C Sqn. 11th – 17th. Remained in OSS. Two Tps were out nightly doing perimeter defence – nothing to report. A Sqn. 4Tp Lt Woodhouse was ordered to the MAREN patrol and reported 12 Infantry at the lock gates at 3558 and 5 Infantry at 360585. The enemy shelled MAREN with four 75mm guns from the area of the brick factories just before last light but no casualties were sustained. 5Tp carried out the southern patrol and reported no movement seen. The defence of LITH was carried out at night and no incidents were reported. During the two days SHQ was established in the brewery which unfortunately was not in operation. B Sqn. During the night the enemy attacked NE from NULAND towards GEFREN. A Coy of RB's on the NULAND – OSS railway took the brunt of the attack which was supported by 2 or 3 SP guns. There were signs that the enemy might also attempt to infiltrate into OSS which from 2200 hours to 2400 hours was subjected to spasmodic shellfire. At 2330 hours the Sqn was alerted and remained in this state until 0300 hours. 1Tp and 4Tp reported the enemy activity throughout the night and 3Tp was sent out to fill the gap between 1Tp and 4Tp. 2Tp was alerted into a position of readiness to support them. 4Tp engaged enemy in area 455546 who withdrew. By 0200 hours the "flap" had died down but 1, 3 and 4 Tps remained on the perimeter for the whole night. A careful recce of the ground at first light found no signs of the enemy. Tps returned to Sqn area. Tp Ldrs of 1, 3 and 4 Tps visited A Sqn patrol positions which we take over tomorrow. 2Tp and 5Tp did the night patrol. A quiet night.
12/10/44	RHQ. 12th – 17th Nothing to report. Some excellent shooting enjoyed by Sqn. In reserve and hot baths were available in the HERTOOG factory. A Sqn. B Sqn took over and the Sqn returned to OSS and was billeted in the Phillips Factory. B Sqn. Sqn moved at first light to take over from A Sqn at LITH. 4Tp was at MAREN with the Scout sect of 1Tp under command. 3Tp was at 403548. There was little activity during the day and the only enemy actually seen were those reported by 4Tp Scout sect in the area 357557 on the West side of the MAAS. In LITH, SHQ is located in the house of the Burgomaster's brother. The Burgomaster named Tom, operates the local Maquis with great efficiency. These Dutchmen are a good organisation and get useful information. 1, 2 and 5 Tps were in the night positions which constitute a close perimeter defence of LITH. Tom's outfit is responsible for the East end of the town. The CO visited the KESSEL patrol in the afternoon.
13/10/44	A Sqn. 13th – 20th.



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	Remained at OSS and carried out defensive patrols at night. During the day maintenance and inspections. B Sqn. 1Tp and 5Tp were out at 382587 and 405544. 1Tp had a Scout section in KESSEL and MAREN in observation of enemy across the MAAS in the HOOGewaard area. These were a small garrison of German marines who looked after the Fort and the lock gates at 3558. Enemy were seen in these areas during the day but there was nothing unusual to report. At last light 1 and 5 Tps returned and 2, 3 and 4 Tps went into the perimeter defence positions on the outskirts of LITH. The HCR with Majors Herbert and Grant Lawson were firing their A/Tk weapons in the LITH area.
14/10/44	B Sqn. 2Tp and 3Tp were out during the day, usual activity reported. At last light 2 & 3 Tps returned and 1, 4 and 5 Tps were in the usual night positions. They put out a new type of trip flare that we have been issued with and some consternation was caused by the fact that 4Tp's was set off by some unknown body; and ½ an hour later the same situation occurred in 1Tp area which drew fire from the Tp. The reason for this set-off was not discovered.
15/10/44	B Sqn. At first light 4Tp moved into KESSEL. All other Tps remained in their night position. At 0645 hours D Sqn (Major Crankshaw) arrived to take over from B Sqn who returned to OSS in time for breakfast. We were billeted in the school which was not so comfortable as the Phillips Factory. The day spent in settling in. At night we provided two patrols for the OSS perimeter defence. There were no incidents during the night. D Sqn. The Sqn moved at first light to take over from B Sqn at LITH, SHQ living in the brewery of M. Vimourik and his brother Tom of Lith – the organiser of the OD in the area and a splendid chap. 1Tp went to MAREN, with a Scout sect at KESSEL who reported no movement seen all day.
16/10/44	B Sqn. Sqn in same position. We are to paint our cars and do a certain amount of training. Everybody is comfortable accommodated, baths are available and there are 3 football grounds in OSS of which we took advantage. 4Tp and 5Tp were out at night in the normal place. There was a little shelling from the NULAND area. D Sqn. 2Tp found Germans still burning houses at 0830 hours. 20 enemy seen at 363547 and were stonked by 7Tp with 80 rounds and got 5 of them. The other 15 fled back to ALEM less their kit. LCpl Rivers heavily booby trapped MAREN at last light in case more burning was intended. 5Tp went to the left and built a bridge over the ditch to enable the cars to get under cover, but heavy rain prevented its use. Nothing occurred during the night except heavy rain.
17/10/44	B Sqn. We continue painting our cars. The paint runs out but SSM Emery makes friends with the local paint shop and for some cigarettes we are able to manage. There is no activity reported during the day except the normal shelling of GEFFEN. 2Tp and 3Tp are in the normal night positions. No incidents of enemy nature occurred although the flares of both these Tps were set off by soldiers of the Rifle Bde or an A/Tk Regt returning from late walks in the country with girls; in one case a serious accident nearly occurred. D Sqn. 3Tp right, saw nothing during the day due to the rain except 2 SS officers inspecting the bank, one of them was shot in the thigh by LCpl Rivers. 4Tp left, no movement seen. Rain all day. Tom captured 2 Dutch spies who had been paid 3000 Guilder each to find out who and what we were. Nothing seen during the night.
18/10/44	RHQ. During the night of 17/18th the bridges at 464566, 443563 and 429550 were blown. This was discovered



	on the early morning of the 18th by C Sqn who were on their way to relieve D Sqn at LITH. This was quite obviously an 'inside job' by civilians in German pay. Later in the day KP LITH picked up 3 civilians carrying HE. They were immediately arrested and handed over to 22nd Armd Bde for interrogation. A party was sent out under Capt GV Churton MBEMC, and the bridge at 464566 was rebuilt and christened "BOWLER HAT" bridge. During the night 17/18th the enemy had also entered MAREN and burnt down more houses. D Sqn had previously laid booby traps there but it was found out that these had been tampered with and neutralised – probably once again by civs in enemy pay. A curfew was imposed on the town from 2100 hours to 0600 hours and any civs leaving or entering OSS were liable to be shot by our patrols. C Sqn. Sqn left OSS to relieve D Sqn at LITH. At 0730 hours 7Tp reported the bridges at 464566, 443563 and 429550 had been blown during the night. We had to go on as far East as 472572. The blowing of the bridges was thought to have been the work of spies, or at any rate assisted by civilians. In fact the Burgomaster of LITH – Tom – caught 3 spies on this day – carrying not only a large sum of money but explosives, fuse wire and detonators. It is hoped that they were shot – the blown bridges made us 2 hours late. 3Tp went to MAREN, 5Tp went to KESSEL and 1Tp to 405543. 3Tp observed some enemy working at 361571 – digging in and an MG on the road embankment. They were engaged with 7Tp and scattered. Some MGs opened up later in the afternoon, engaged and silenced.. Tps withdrew for the night. At 0310 hours a large explosion was reported, probably in KESSEL. B Sqn. Sqn location still the same, patrols still the same, no incidents reported. Lt Nicholson who has been commanding the Scout Tp has taken over 2Tp from Lt Burridge who takes over Scout Tp. As of today the Tps are commanded as follows:- 1Tp Lt Young, Sgt Richmond 4Tp Lt Flood, Sgt Truswell 2Tp Lt Nicholson, Sgt Ruder 5Tp Lt Sivewright, Sgt Purkiss 3Tp Lt Chapman, Sgt McGuire 6Tp (Scout) Lt Burridge, Sgt Gardiner 7Tp (guns) Sgt Mathison. In addition Lt Preston with 5Tp and Lt Gibson with 3Tp are supernumerary and under instruction. D Sqn. C Sqn were to take over but they were delayed by blown bridges. 20 enemy were reported in KESSEL but not found by 1Tp who cleared MAREN for C Sqn. Returned to OSS – it rained – prepared cars for painting. At night patrol at bridge called Bowler Hat, no movement seen.
19/10/44	RHQ. 19th – 20th. Quiet days. Patrols as before. C Sqn. 2Tp with two Scout sections did MAREN and KESSEL. The explosion reported at 0310 hours proved to be the demolition of KESSEL church, the enemy telling the locals we had been using it as an OP, which was not true, as in fact it was not a good OP. 4Tp went to the southern position at 405543. He had considerable difficulty in getting there through the mud – it having been a very wet night. A Honey tank, which we had picked up a few months previously, proved invaluable in recovering ditched ACs, as it did in this case. The enemy left a boat on the far bank in full view of 2Tp. It was decided to sink this with 2pdr at last light, but the car got stuck again in bad going and had to be towed out again by the tank. Going was practically impossible off the roads. B Sqn. 19th – 22nd. Sqn remained in OSS and carried out the normal day and night patrols. On the 22nd the 43rd Div which had concentrated in the OSS area on the 21st, commenced an attack towards S'HERTOGENBOSCH, as an aid to the advance of the Canadians and Poles who were advancing slowly, too slowly, towards the TILBURG – BREDA line, in the face of strong enemy opposition. B Sqn took no part in the attack. D Sqn. In reserve. Night patrols, no movement seen.
20/10/44	C Sqn.



	1Tp took over the MAREN KESSEL area and 5Tp the southern patrol. MAREN was reported clear, but at 0910 hours, shots were fired at 1Tp from about 50 – 100 yards to the West in the village. A few Germans were seen moving amongst the houses about 80 yards away and were engaged with MG. They could not immediately be followed up as the AC driver (Tpr Henderson) was missing. He was soon afterwards found to have been shot and killed. It appears that a few Germans had laid up in the farm next to the one we normally occupied. They waited until we reported it clear and thought there were no enemy in the area – then had a few shots and withdrew. The village was searched but only revealed some Teller mines, which they had recently brought across. These we destroyed. Nothing else to report during the day. D Sqn. 5Tp out on patrol North of GEFFEN. A quiet day except that they were taken on by 2 Spitfires who made 6 low level attacks and scored 3 hits, despite all the recognition panels and smoke. Fortunately no one was hurt.
21/10/44	RHQ. A quiet day. Owing to the events of 20th Oct, A Sqn did NOT enter MAREN South of the canal – NTR. C Sqn. The Sqn was relieved at first light by A Sqn and returned to OSS. A Sqn. Moved up to LITH. Two sub-units were used, one to MAREN and one South to 4055. They remained out during the day and had nothing to report. The defence of LITH was carried out as was previously done on the 10th of October. D Sqn. In reserve.
22/10/44	RHQ. 53 Div attacked from OSS and HEESCH, and 131 Bde from VEGHEL, all towards SHERTOGENBOSCH. The Regt came under command 53 Div for this operation, providing right flank protection by observation. A Sqn patrolled to MAREN and met a party estimated 12 – 20 enemy. In the attempt to clear these, Cpl Aris and Tpr Neal were killed and later Sgt Poynton's car was KO'd by a bazooka; he was killed and his crew wounded and PoW, later recaptured in SHERTOGENBOSCH. His body was recovered the following day by the O.D. Other A Sqn dingo patrol pushed forward to the line of the 38 Grid North of the canal and D Sqn pushed similar patrol to the 39 Grid South of the canal. Southerly movement was observed on the WILD – GEWANDE road and movement in the latter of small bodies of enemy troops. These were engaged by our 75's which also fired a total of 1700 rounds on a series of targets including a Bty of guns at 345559. The 53 Div attack went smoothly and at last light 160 Bde were firm in KRUISTRAAT. A Sqn. 4Tp to MAREN, 1Tp Sgt Hall to 4055. Dingo patrol to 381549. A programme was laid out for the Regt to engage targets on the West side of the MAAS in areas ALEM and KIRKDRIEL and on the East side in area HETWILD and GUWANDE. 4Tp were to clear MAREN and get an OP in the southern end of the village. In carrying out the clearing of the place they ran into a party of enemy Infantry ensconced in the houses. Cpl Aris and Tpr Neal of the Scout sect ran into trouble in one house and were both shot by small arms fire and killed. In trying to round up these Germans, Sgt Poynton was killed by a bazooka hitting his car and his crew, LCpl Blake and Tpr Lambert were both taken prisoner. This meant that an OP could not be set up in the South. The Tp took up position on the northern part of the town with a dismounted sect stationed in a house overlooking the canal. The observation was very restricted owing to the weather which was very dull and misty. The Dingo patrol reported 12 men moving South from HETWILD to GUWANDE. He was also able to OP a few of the gun Tp tasks in the South. The Gun Tp under Lt Brett engaged in all 16 targets and fired off 1700 rounds. Unfortunately poor observation was obtained owing to the weather and the majority of the shoots were from the map. The bodies of Sgt Poynton, Cpl Aris and Tpr Neal were recovered and buried in the Military Cemetery at OSS. D Sqn. The attack on SHERTOGENBOSCH started. 2Tp went to normal patrol North of GEFFEN. Nothing seen due to smoke from brews drifting across the front.



23/10/44	RHQ. In the morning A Sqn made no effort to push further than KESSEL in the North, but the same Dingo and foot patrols were out both North and South of the canal. C Sqn this time on the South to 379523 – no movement seen. 53 Div Recce Regt relieved C Sqn by 1100 hours and A Sqn by 1400 hours and at 1500 hours the Regt moved complete from OSS to concentrate near Main HQ 7th Armd Div area, while remaining under command 22nd Armd Bde. C Sqn. 53 Div commenced a push against SHERTOGENBOSCH. We were to send one Tp out on their right flank. 2Tp went to 417537 and then to 379522 with a Scout sect at 373535. The Scout position was that which 4Tp had occupied for his shoot on the 9th and the Tp and SHQ position was the same area that he had shelled. His shot had fallen right amongst what appeared to be a Coy position. The morning was very foggy right up to 1130 hours. 7Tp did several shoots 'off the map'. At 1130 hours Sqn was relieved by 53rd Recce. A Sqn. Two patrols were despatched as for the previous days and at midday 53rd Recce Regt relieved us at LITH. We moved with the Regt to VEGHEL in preparation for the offensive towards TILBURG. B Sqn. At 1500 hours the Sqn moved from OSS to the UDEN area where the Regt spent the night concentrated. D Sqn. Moved at 1330 hours to VEGHEL area.
24/10/44	RHQ. Regt remained in rest for the day in the same location until 1800 hours when it moved to concentration area in WYBOSCH, a very liberated area, prepared to operate under command 22nd Armd Bde, pushing at first light towards the North and NE exits from TILBURG. C Sqn. Moved with the Regt to SCHINDEL. A Sqn. Moved off at 1800 hours and spent the night at WYBOSCH. B Sqn. The day was spent in the UDEN area. At 1800 hours the Sqn with the Regt moved to area of WYBOSCH where the night was spent. We are prepared to operate tomorrow. The Sqn Ldr lost his way on a simple night march. This was very shaming. D Sqn. Moved at 1800 hours to WYBOSCH.
25/10/44	RHQ. 51st (H) Div were to have secured bridgeheads for this advance at ESCH 304379 and at 322402 through which 22nd Armd Bde were to pass, and push East along 2 axis, to dominate roads leading North and NE out of TILBURG. A Sqn were to provide left flank protection until 15th (S) Div appeared from the South. D Sqn were to provide advance guard along the southern axis, B Sqn along the northern axis and C Sqn to pass through and provide right flank protection to the MAAS-SHERTOGENBOSCH canal. At first light the bridge at ESCH was reported clear and Class 9, but the construction of a Class 40 bridge was prevented by shelling and mortaring, but a D Sqn patrol reached 286374 before being forced to withdraw when heavily shelled. A Sqn, passing South round through BOXTEL, pushed a patrol to 272352, which was held up by Infantry at 272356. Another A Sqn patrol remained in observation at ESCH. Over the northern bridge which was OK and Class 40 B Sqn reported a road block at 328415 and Infantry on the line of the railway at 311399. 51st (H) Div operated against these but made no significant progress until after dark when our patrols withdrew, though a B Sqn patrol went 300 yards West of the railway, seven 88's were in action in this area and caused casualties to friendly tanks. One was KO'd by our gunners. 11th Hussars bag – 6 killed and 1 PoW. Whilst assisting the wounded crew of a Norfolk Yeomanry tank, Lt Chapman was wounded when the tank blew up. At last light the road block was undefended. C Sqn. Moved with the Regt to ST MICHEL GESTEL. A Sqn.



	The 7th Armd Div were to advance on LOON OP ZAND. The job of the Regt was to provide an advance screen and also a right and left flank guard which necessitated the use of four Sqns. A Sqn was on the left and two Tps were used at first. 1Tp Sgt Hall was despatched to BOXTEL and reported it clear of enemy. He remained there during the day awaiting the arrival elements of 15th (S) Div from the East. 2Tp Lt Newnham advanced to the bridge at 274354 and found it blown and held by Infantry with mortars. He was mortared and shelled and forced to withdraw into a wood from which point he used his guns but was unable to make any further advance. All Tps returned at last light to SHQ at DE KETTING. B Sqn. The Sqn moved at first light. 3Tp and 5Tp proceeded to the bridge at 4240 over the R. DOMMEL which had been constructed by 51st Div during the night. 3Tp arrived at the bridge to find it incomplete and the sappers stated it would be complete by 1000 hours. At ESCH the situation was that AC recce could not approach the river because of mortar and artillery fire. At 0945 hours 3Tp crossed on a class 9 bridge and at 1000 hours the class 40 bridge was completed. After moving North for about 3000 yards, 3Tp found a road block which appeared to be held only by snipers and spandaus. Two tank Tps of the Northants Yeomanry and carriers of the Black Watch were also across. 5Tp had crossed the bridge and moved 1500 yards West followed by a Tp of D Sqn. At 1045 hours the enemy brought up SP artillery and counter attacked the bridgehead. Two Shermans of the Northants Yeomanry were knocked out. Lt Chapman went immediately to the aid of the crew nearest to him which had been hit by two 88mm shells. He helped the crew from the tank under enemy fire and it was while attending to their wounds that the Sherman exploded, killing or wounding those around it. Lt Chapman was wounded in the hand and leg but not seriously. He had behaved with great gallantry. He was evacuated and Sgt McGuire took over 3Tp. 5Tp had also come under 88mm fire and a shell hit a tree close to Lt Svwright's scar, tearing down a branch which caused bad abrasions to his back. He carried on in command of his Tp. The enemy made some fanatical penetrations and all Tps retired somewhat towards the bridge. Sgt McGuire killed a German Sgt at 5 yards range. Northants Yeomanry had lost 4 tanks and 51st Div had some casualties. By 1400 hours the situation was restored but no advance had been made North of the bridge greater than 1000 yards. The bridge was mortared and intermittently shelled all day. In the late afternoon 51st Div started to advance and by last light reached the area of the road block. 3Tp and 5Tp were withdrawn and the Sqn complete spent the night in the area 1 mile NW of STMICHEL GESTEL. D Sqn. Moved at 0630 hours to STMICHEL GESTEL. 5Tp to ESCH bridge which was class 9 and had a bridgehead of a Coy of the Black Watch. Heavy mortaring and shelling took place all day and no advance was made. 1Tp was sent to the new bridge at HAL and turning West reached 306395 and was shot at by an 88mm from 304394. He withdrew to railway crossing to find 2 tanks brewing from an 88mm parked in at 318408. He managed, with the help of a stonk from 7Tp, to get back to the main road and shelling of the area continued throughout the day.
26/10/44	RHQ. The advance continued today with considerable success. During the night 51st (H) Div attacked South from the northern bridgehead and at first light, attacked West from the southern bridgehead and the two linked up. A Sqn southern patrol contacted 15th (S) Div and D Sqn patrols followed 51st Div across the ESCH bridge and penetrated to the southern outskirts of HAAREN by last light and in company with 5th RTR through MOLENSTRAAT to 263374, in contact with the enemy which included 3 SP's and one 88mm withdrawing North and NW. B Sqn moved North from 287375 in company with 1st RTR, and the revised 22nd Armd Bde centre line through MOLENSTRAAT – HELVOIRT and fanned out West and North. One Tp supported by 1st RTR reached UDENHOUT, where 1st RTR had a battle but secured the town by last light, wounding and capturing a Regt'l Commander of 59th Div on the way. C Sqn followed up and put patrols out to 263413 and 279408. A SP 88mm withdrew up the track and blew the bridge at 262415 behind it. The second C Sqn patrol had an exciting field day with staff cars and Infantry withdrawing onto its guns from the East. At last light Sqns withdrew patrols which concentrated for all round defence. Bag for the day – 19 PoW, 13 killed, 1 A/Tk gun, 1 88mm mortar, 1 ammunition limber, 2 staff cars. C Sqn. In the afternoon the Sqn took over the two right sub-units of B Sqn who were doing advance guard to



	the Bde. 5Tp went to 277401 and 3Tp to 267406. An 88mm was troubling the Tp of B Sqn at 267406, and he could here and understand the enemy giving orders on his own W/T – apparently they were both on the same frequency. We immediately engaged this gun with 7Tp and the enemy immediately came up on the air and requested ‘leave to move as enemy shelling was getting uncomfortably close’. The Sqn was shortly afterwards ordered to move to and hold LAAR which was on the CL. 3Tp was sent on ahead to recon the position, as the Sqn was held up in a traffic jam. 3Tp arrived just before last light and Lt Ballingal went round in his Dingo. On the road to the North he found a 75mm A/Tk gun, less breech block, and whilst looking at it he saw nearby 7 Germans who came out and gave themselves up. Unfortunately he could not tow the gun with his Dingo, so he returned to his Tp with the PoW and sent out a WSC to collect the gun, but they found it gone. 5Tp also took 1 PoW from 2 Coy, 1036 Grenadier Regt. Sqn all arrived OK at LAAR and there was nothing to report during the night, though the following night it was recaptured by the enemy. A Sqn. Two Tps again used in the South. 4Tp Lt Woodhouse to the bridges at 268354 and 274354. They were blown and he was unable to make any progress. Tpr Jones ‘80, a member of a Scout sect was wounded in the neck and evacuated. 1Tp recon the bridges South of OOSTERWJLK. The bridges at 245344 and 230340 were blown but the latter was under repair by 15th (S) Div. Lt Osborne was sent off as LO to the 15th Div. Tps returned at last light and 1, 3 and 5 Tps were used as local protection. B Sqn. Sqn spent the day in ST MICHEL GESTEL until 1400 hours waiting for a secure bridgehead. Eventually 5th RTR crossed over the ESCH bridgehead and made secure area 2638. 1st RTR were to be passed through them and advance to UDENHOUT. 2Tp was ordered to in front of 1st RTR on the centre line. 3Tp to watch HELOUIRT – VUGHT road and 1Tp to watch the road and advance SW from HELOUIRT. 3Tp had successful engagements with enemy Infantry in area 2740, killing several, capturing 9 and 1 officer. 4Tp operating North came within 150 yards of an 88mm from which he was able to retire before the crew had recovered from their astonishment. 7Tp engaged the 88mm and caused it to retire. 1Tp had no incidents. 2Tp had a hazardous run to UDENHOUT in front of 1st RTR who really moved, firing their guns non-stop for the whole of the 9 Kms. This was extremely unpleasant for 2Tp. Enemy showed some resistance in UDENHOUT but by nightfall the place was clear. Sqn concentrated with 8th Hussars and 1st RTR in UDENHOUT for the night. The enemy today having been completely surprised. D Sqn. 3Tp worked on to area BELVERT with enemy at EIND. 4Tp MOLENSTAAT where he was held up by a gun firing from 263374. He reached HAREN in the evening, a few enemy seen and disposed of.
27/10/44	RHQ. Advance continued against stiffening opposition. C Sqn provided patrols on right flank protection towards the MAAS- SHERTOGEN BOSCH canal, but were taken over in the morning by 51st H Div Recce. A B Sqn patrol pushed on early to 183398 with a Tp of 8th Hussars but came under fire from A/Tk guns and bazookas, withdrew, and spent the day at 187379. Another B Sqn Tp went to 158980, meeting only light Infantry opposition, and there turned North until held up by a road block at 158380. His attempts, with a Tp of 8th Hussars, to clear it brought down mortar and MG fire. In the South of our front there was little resistance and D Sqn patrols were able to get right along to 147381, 147364 and 152351, clearing the area to the East in company with Tps of the 5th RIDG against light Infantry resistance which yielded some PoW. Contact was made North of TILBURG with light units of the 6th Guards Armoured Tank Bde. A D Sqn Dingo went to the bridge at 135348 which was found blown (as were all bridges leading North and East out of TILBURG) but at last light there was nothing to report. RHQ pitched up for the night at a Trappist Convent Guest House, and the atmosphere, was perhaps, well-timed to counteract the moral effects of our 3 weeks residence in the enthusiastic hospitality, particularly of the female population, of OSS Bag for the day – 8 PoW and 2 bazookas. C Sqn. Sqn role was right flank guard with 3Tp on the right to 252422, 4Tp (Lt Mitchell in comd – Sgt Berry on leave) in centre and 5Tp on the left. The country was very thick with visibility limited to as little as 25 yards by trees and thick mist. 3Tp and 4Tp reached their positions and were relieved by Derbyshire Yeomanry of 51 (H) Div. 5Tp followed the CL as far as 185400 where he was with the leading Tp of B Sqn. Here the CL turned



	West and 5Tp had to continue North. At 0825 hours he had gone a further 200 yards in very thick fog. He saw and engaged some enemy in the wood just to his North, but immediately after the Tp Ldr's car received a direct hit in the front from a 75mm A/Tk gun. The driver, Tpr Mower was killed instantaneously, but Lt Esch and Tpr Hale managed to get out and get back to the rest of the Tp, though they were MG'd on the way. The second Daimler was also hit, by a ricochet, which did very slight damage. The Sqn moved on and concentrated at 186374. A Sqn. The Sqn spent the day at BERKEL with an LO with the 15th (S) Div, Lt Newnham. B Sqn. The plot for today is that 8th Hussars should advance to LOON OP ZAND with B Sqn operating in front of them. A very misty morning and patrolling was very difficult. 5Tp operated along the 8th Hussars centre line on the northern route. In the area of SCHOOORSTRAAT they were held up by bazookas, one of which missed Lt Sivewright's car by a coat of paint, and by enemy Infantry with spandaus. In addition, just to the North of 5Tp, a Tp of C Sqn had a car knocked out by an 88mm. 1Tp made slow progress because of a minefield. Later he captured a bazooka and crew. 2Tp reced well and boldly to HEIKANT where he contacted D Sqn and a recce of the Scots Guards. He moved North and joined up with 1Tp at 1538. 1Tp found a covered road block at 1539 and remained in observation of this. The enemy were obviously reluctant to our approaching LOON OP ZAND. The Queens Bde with 8th Hussars attacked it in the late afternoon with no success. Tps were withdrawn at night and the Sqn was concentrated in UDENHOUT. D Sqn. At first light 1Tp went to OOSTERWIJK and found it clear, then on up to 215350 where he met 2Tp coming down the main road. 1Tp went on and found all the bridges on the canal at TILBURG blown. Shot sundry Germans in the area. 5Tp went to UDENHOUT and South to LEVENDE KRAN – no movement seen – worked up West to 172350 and found a few enemy in HEIKANT. Moved to 158360 where he was shot at by a Firefly of the 5th Dragoon Guards, which fortunately missed. 4Tp went along the canal to 135349 finding the bridge blown. 2Tp worked through the woods West of HEIKANT and found a few dispersed Germans.
28/10/44	RHQ. D Sqn continued on the left and A Sqn on the right, working with 5th RTR protecting the Div CL. Shortly after first light, a patrol of D Sqn (Lt Cousins) had reached the X roads at DE HEIDEBLOM and was fiercely engaged by a bazooka and a 75mm A/Tk gun from the woods, which were strongly held by the enemy. One DAC was knocked out and another DAC ditched. Lt Cousins, LCpl Cartwright '08 and Tpr Greenhough were killed. The 75mm Tp engaged the enemy position at the X roads. C Sqn. Nothing for us – Sqn moved to BERKEL. A Sqn. Moved back to LAAR and came under command 5th RTR who had a task force protecting the Div CL. One Tp went out to 233411 and reported 5 Infantry in woods 223420. He remained out during the night as a listening watch. B Sqn. Sqn were to be prepared to operate West from LOON OP ZAND dependant on the success of the Queens successful attack. 4Tp followed by 3Tp moved out in readiness to do this. 4Tp moved to the Infantry Start Line for their morning attack and came into the midst of a heavy enemy mortar concentration and also an extremely short concentration by our mediums. He withdrew and halted. It was now apparent that the enemy held a strong line running East and West through LOON OP ZAND. The battle now became an Infantry and tank one and therefore the Sqn was pulled back and ordered to concentrate in the area of 2036. Tpr Blackmore, the Sqn DR, was killed today by a stray shell that landed in Tac Sqn HQ at 1738 hours. This was pure bad luck. Tpr Blackmore was an old 11th Hussars hand in LIBYA and at one time was lost for 5 days in the desert with SSM Emery. D Sqn. 4Tp to go along the canal working up the main road. He reached the X road early at DE HEIDEBLOM, but his leading DAC was KO'd by a bazooka and his second DAC went into a ditch. The WSC, by very skilful manipulation (Cpl Trendall and Tpr Pritchett) managed under heavy fire from a 75mm SP gun, to get back down the very straight road. One shell went through the windscreen, wounding Cpl Trendall



	in the thumb. Sgt Walker and Tpr Breakell got back by foot , but Lt Cousins, Tpr Greenhough, Tpr White and LCpl Cartwright '08 were missing. 2Tp took over and spent the day in observation at 120355. 3Tp with scouts at 140382 stonked enemy Infantry with 7Tp.
29/10/44	RHQ. C Sqn took over on the left and A Sqn worked NW and SW from GULDENBURG and reported one SP and Infantry at 223420 which was successfully engaged by the 75mm Tp. C Sqn. At 1300 hours the Sqn had orders to recce West from 108379. SHQ and 1Tp & 4Tp went 2000 yards SE and met 5th DG still taking this place – the area was not taken till dark. Sqn concentrated at 132354. A Sqn. 3Tp and 4Tp moved NW and SW from GULDENBURG. 4Tp advanced to 233411 clearing the wooded areas and was later withdrawn. 3Tp advanced to 228437 and reported one SP and Infantry at 223430. The enemy force was shelled and withdrew. At 222439 he reported more Infantry who were shelled. He was withdrawn at last light to SHQ at LAAR. B Sqn. Major Lawson left the Sqn to take over 2i/c of the Regt. Capt Lovett takes over the Sqn and Lt Burridge becomes 2i/c. Lt Chapman was awarded the MC (immediate) and no officer deserved it more. D Sqn. In reserve. C Sqn and RB's found Lt Cousins, Tpr Greenhough and LCpl Cartwright killed and the second DAC blown up. Tpr White was reported by a PoW to be wounded in the stomach and leg and a prisoner.
30/10/44	RHQ. C Sqn reported DONGEN clear at 0815 hours. 131 Bde had patrolled up to the outskirts of DONGEN the previous night and had reported 30 Germans there. From DONGEN C Sqn sent patrols to look at the bridge over the DONGE at 024464 and to OOSTERHOUT. The patrol going to OOSTERHOUT engaged enemy Infantry at 030419 and again at 024425. At 1545 hours, C Sqn tied up with 1st RTR who attacked OOSTERHOUT successfully, but the bridges over the WILHELMINA canal were reported blown. The right hand patrol meantime pushed due North up the long straight road at REITENDIJKSGAT and at 1700 hours were just short of the DONGE bridge at 024464 and sent forward a Scout section on foot. The bridge was reported blown and heavy mortar and MG fire aimed at them from the opposite bank. RHQ, A, B & D Sqns moved to DONGEN during the day. The day was bitterly cold and weather experts predicted snow. Good billets were found for the Regt in DONGEN which were almost undamaged. Both patrols were withdrawn at last light. Bag for the day – 17 PoW and 1 lorry. C Sqn. 1Tp and 4Tp left at first light with 4Tp direct on DONGEN and 1Tp on the bridge over the canal at 067388. By 0800 hours, 4Tp was in the middle of DONGEN and pushing on WNW to OOSTERHOUT. There was a short delay caused by a large crater in the road at 054401. 3Tp was sent to the bridge at 048398 which was blown and thence to OOSTERHOUT also by the most southerly route. 1Tp had reached his bridge, which was blown, and had taken 5 PoW on route. Between 0900 and 1000 hours, 3Tp and 4Tp came amongst the 1st RTR who were approaching OOSTERHOUT from further North. By 1000 hours we were in a close semi-circle round OOSTERHOUT which the enemy was holding with Infantry and a few A/Tk guns. These guns were quickly KO'd by the 1st RTR tanks and artillery and soon after the tanks went in down the main road. 1Tp and 3Tp who were out on the left were held up for a while, but took several PoW – 13 in all, and 3Tp went through to the far side – nearly as far as the bridge at 001425, which was blown but held by enemy on the far side. 3Tp was heavily and accurately mortared and were told by a civilian that there was an enemy OP in a church tower. There were 4 or 5 churches but they soon afterwards saw a suspicious type through the window of a church, halfway up the spire, and machine gunned him. Shelling stopped. At 1615 hours 4Tp was ordered to move to 024426 to make a recce of the bridge across the canal. The road to the bridge was on an embankment with a line of trees on either side and very open country beyond these. No way off the road. 4Tp went to within 400 yards of the bridge and then halted, dismounted his Scout sect and advanced to within 50 yards of the bridge which was completely blown. The Scout sect was then MG'd and mortared, but withdrew OK. The Tp was then shelled but again remained OK.



	Sqn withdrew complete to DONGEN for the night. During the night a sentry challenged and captured 5 German soldierstrying to make their way home. A Sqn. The 53rd Recce Regt took over from us and we reverted to the Regt. Rejoined the Regt at DONGEN. B Sqn. Sqn moved to DONGEN. D Sqn. Moved at 1030 hours to DONGEN.
31/10/44	RHQ. C Sqn sent one patrol to operate with 1st RTR on the West bank of the WILHELMINA canal, but this was recalled later in the morning. B Sqn remained at one hours notice to be ready to support 1st RTR or 5th DG on the right. Training and maintenance were arranged and also an inter-Tp 7 a side football competition. Liberty parties were sent into TILBURG and B Sqn ran a vocal concert with a mixed cast of their Sqn and members of the local RC school. During the last week of this month Major RFHP Stuart French went sick and was evacuated to UK. Major Lawson DSO MC, took over as 2i/c and Capt GJ Lovett took over B Sqn. C Sqn. 1 & 4Tp with SHQ returned to OOSTERHOUT. 1Tp went to 008443 with the role of watching West over the canal and 4Tp contacted an RE officer and a 1st RTR patrol at 024426. It was decided that 4Tp should first try to approach the bridge unseen in the fog, to see if it were held – which it was – then our guns and the guns of the 1st RTR should shell the area of the bridge – which they did heavily and accurately – and finally a single tank with the RE officer on board, and our Scout sect of 4 men would drive up to the bridge for the RE officer's inspection. All of which went well. The RE's report was that the bridging would be a big job – more than 24 hours. 1Tp reported that the line of the WILHELMINA canal was held by enemy on the West bank – men kept showing themselves all the way along. At 1300 hours, the Sqn was withdrawn into Regtl reserve at DONGEN. A Sqn. At DONGEN carrying out maintenance. B Sqn. Billeted in church school at DONGEN. Maintenance the order of the day. D Sqn. The Burgomaster and the chief of the OD went to the graves and placed wreaths on them. Arrangements were made to move them to the cemetery at DONGEN.
November 1944	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Nov 44	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/11/44	RHQ. 1st – 6th. The Regt remained in reserve at DONGEN. The whole Regt was under cover and training and maintenance were carried out. The Burgomaster gave a small reception for the CO and 10 officers. C Sqn. 1 – 10th Sqn moved to OSS on the 7th Nov and remained in Regtl reserve for 3 days. On the 10th the Sqn moved South through EINDHOVEN to MAESEYCK on the RMAAS. Our Sqn area was on the extreme right of the British Troops, and on our right flank, just across the river, was the American 9th Army. The area was reported to be very quiet; the river being about 100 yards broad and in spate. The Sqn had three Tps out. 3Tp on the right at blown bridge 643790, 1Tp in the centre at the church 649799 with an OP in the tower, and 5Tp on the left at road junction 648804 with a Scout sect hiding in a house on the river bank at 650808. This was under enemy observation and had to be approached with considerable care – usually in the back of a farm cart. There was strict W/T silence and all communication were by telephone. Sqn arrived in the area about 1530 hours and Tps took over at 1630 hours. Shortly after dark the sentry at 3Tp heard shouts in the middle of the river and soon after saw an American soldier half-swimming and half-clinging to an overturned boat about 100 yards downstream



	from the damaged bridge. He was brought in in a very exhausted condition, and stated that there had been 4 men in the boat, trying to cross the river and it had been overturned against the framework of the bridge, which was in the water. He thought the rest had been drowned but 3Tp had heard voices and seen a light flash by the stone pillar in the middle of the bridge, and thought they had got out on the far side. Actually 2 had been drowned and the 4th had spent the night on the stone pillar in the middle of the river and 3Tp rescued him with considerable difficulty the next morning. During the night a Tp of A Sqn on our left was attacked by the enemy – a patrol – and their line went dis. 5Tp went up to contact them – found that they had beaten off the attack and were OK – so returned. A Sqn. 1 – 6th Remained at DONGEN on maintenance and training. During the morning of 3rd Nov, the White Scout sects, given the job of lifting SCHU mines in the area 0839, went out under Capt Friend and proceeded to clear the tracks of these mines. Midway through the morning, Cpl Marley, one of the sect commanders, stepped on one of the mines which was situated just outside the safe lane. He sustained injuries to his foot and Tpr Logue who was standing nearby suffered superficial injuries to his face. Both were taken to hospital. B Sqn. In billets, non operational, in DONGEN. Training and a certain amount of reshuffling in view of the number of men going home after 5 years overseas service. A grand concert, plus rum punch in the school buildings, organised by the Brother Superior and SSM Emery. D Sqn. 1 – 6th. Sqn in reserve at DONGEN. The weather was bad and the time confined to maintenance. Tpr Bachus went home for 10 days compassionate leave.
2/11/44	B Sqn. Training and night watching patrol of 2 WSC watching the river near OOSTERHOUT. Nothing to report.
3/11/44	B Sqn. Night patrols under Lt Preston. A very noisy night with the enemy trying to infiltrate.
4/11/44	B Sqn. Lt IG Troup rejoined the Sqn and goes to 2Tp as Dingo commander. He brought back a lot of comforts from Major Reid Scott whom we all hope will return soon. Nothing to report otherwise.
5/11/44	B Sqn. A fair proportion of the comforts handed to Capt Horsford, who had been instrumental in getting them. Warning order to move to the OSS area.
6/11/44	B Sqn. Tp Ldrs were as follows:- 1Tp Lt EAI Young 2Tp Lt ATR Nicholson (Lt IG Troup – supernumerary) 3Tp Sgt McGuire (2Lt B Gibson – supernumerary) 4Tp Lt RA Flood 5Tp Lt RCT Sivewright 7Tp Sgt Mathieson (Sgt Richmond – supernumerary) White Tp Lt RFH Preston
7/11/44	RHQ. Regt moved to GEFFEN. D Sqn took over our old beat at LITH and B Sqn day and night patrols at KRUISTRAAT, ROSMALEN and HERVEN. A Sqn was in immediate reserve with RHQ and C Sqn was in reserve at OSS. 131 Bde were on our left and were clearing up North of SHERTOGENBOSCH. A Sqn. The Regt moved out to area OSS – GEFFEN with B & D Sqns in the line and C & A Sqns in reserve. We were in GEFFEN with RHQ and were in immediate reserve. B Sqn. Sqn moved to ROSMALEN – with three Tps out at KRUISTRAAT, ROSMALEN and HERVEN day and night



	with a static role watching the line of the MAAS. Very little activity on either side. D Sqn. Moved at 0930 hours to OSS where we took over from 51 (H) Recce (Derbyshire Yeomanry) at LITH. Returned to the brewery. 1Tp to KESSEL and MAREN. No movement seen.
8/11/44	RHQ. Standing patrols. A certain amount of shelling and gun activity from the ALEM area, otherwise nothing to report. A Sqn. Remained at GEFFEN. B Sqn. Still doing static patrols. Sqn very comfortable in civvy billets. D Sqn. 2Tp to KESSEL and MAREN. No movement seen all day and much rain.
9/11/44	RHQ. Orders were received for the Regt to complete a handover to the 4th Canadian Armd Div and be ready to move to the NE corner of Belgium on the 10th. 4th Canadian Armd Div were relieving 7th Armd Div who were going to take over the line of the RMAAS between ZANDFORT and MAESEYCK. 22nd Armd Bde to remain in reserve. 11th Hussars were to be responsible from OPHOVEN to MAESEYCK with 131 Bde on the left. A recce party under the CO moved out at 1000 hours and after a bitterly cold drive lasting 5 hours, spent the night with 53rd Recce Regt. 53rd Recce Regt reported little enemy activity on the East bank of the MAAS. The whole move was further complicated by a wireless silence which was to remain in force for the move and for operations in the new area. This meant that all Tps on patrol would have to do their reporting by 'phone. It was therefore arranged that the SO (Lt JS Champion) should come down the following morning and arrange the complicated business of laying lines. This was done most efficiently by the SO and his staff with the co-operation of the 7th Armd Div Signals. B Sqn. Expected to be relieved by the Canadians who have now moved further East after having cleared up enemy from South of the MAAS. D Sqn. 3Tp to KESSEL and MAREN. LCpl Rivers killed 3 Germans at the factory from KESSEL with a snipers rifle – range 800 yards at least, otherwise no movement seen. Rained all day. Two officers from 4th Canadian Armd Div A/Tk Regt came and spent the night before taking over.
10/11/44	RHQ. The Regt, less D Sqn, moved out at 0700 hours along the Div axis and arrived in the new area at 1600 hours. It was once again bitterly cold with sleet and rain. The AC crews were most grateful for their 'Tank Suits' which had just been issued. RHQ Tac was at VEN. C Sqn took over MAESEYCK with a patrol at the MEUSE bridge SE of the town, and another at 648799 and a patrol at 649807. A Sqn took over OPHOVEN and B Sqn in reserve at NEERGETEREN. During the night at about 2100 hours, C Sqn reported a party of men attempting to cross the MAAS from the West bank. These turned out to be a party of Americans from the Div Cav Sqn on our immediate right. Their rubber boat overturned and 1 survivor was picked up and attended to by the MO Capt JH Balmer. A Sqn. Moved off from GEFFEN to take over from 53rd Recce Regt who were in the area of MAESEYCK in a role of holding and observing a river line on the RMEUSE. The Sqn was given the northern sector and two Tps were despatched at 1700 hours to take up position. 1Tp Sgt Hall went to the windmill East of OPHOVEN, 2Tp Lt Williamson was despatched to a position in GEYSTINGEN. A complete W/T silence was imposed on the Div and communication were established by field telephone. SHQ was set up in a house in the village of OPHOVEN and a line party was despatched laying the lines to the two Tp positions. No sooner than the line to 1Tp was established, it was broken by enemy shellfire. However the line party repaired the break on their return and by 1830 hours communication were established to the two patrols. B Sqn. Relieved by the Canadians and moved to MAESEYCK. Sqn were billeted in a school nearby, out of the line. 4Tp Dingo was damaged on the way down, but otherwise a good march in fearful weather. D Sqn.



	Handover during the morning and got baths in OSS, and amid a fantastic send-off we disappeared to OOSTERWIJK for the night before moving to MAESEYCK, where the Regt had moved during the day.
11/11/44	RHQ. At 0500 hours a party of Germans crossed the river opposite A Sqn at 659825 and put down 60 rounds of mortar fire on OPHOVEN. They were engaged by A Sqn with the aid of a Tp of 53rd Recce Regt and driven back across the MAAS. Unfortunately the mortar fire cut the phone wires from A Sqn. During the morning 131 Bde took over A Sqn northern patrol. The CRA of 7th Armd Div visited us and arranged DF tasks with 3rd RHA for our support. The weather improved and there were spells of brilliant sunshine. D Sqn rejoined us during the evening and moved into B Sqn area. C Sqn. Nothing further occurred during the day. 2 Tps relieved 3 Tp in the evening. A Sqn. At 0500 hours 1 Tp reported 10 to 12 Germans on the West side of the river and they had advanced as far as 654825. From this position they began to mortar the Tp with 2" mortars. Sgt Hall immediately manned his guns and put down withering fire with Besa and K guns and forced the enemy to withdraw. It was not possible to see how the river crossing was made because of darkness. The enemy fired in all, 20 mortar bombs with the result of a few damaged houses and the phone wires being cut again in 4 or 5 places. Civilians reported afterwards that there were 16 dead Germans on the river bank as a result of the action but this was unconfirmed. B Sqn. Maintenance and much cleaning after the journey. D Sqn. Left at 1200 hours and arrived at 2200 hours. The Sqn Ldr's AC was hit by 2 lorries in the dark and was left for the night. SSM McHardy went in the ditch as also did Sgt Addis. Sgt Lyon's AC was forced into a ditch by a car. It was very dark and the roads narrow and wet. Other cars were travelling too fast and with full headlights.
12/11/44	RHQ. 12 – 13th. Standing patrols as before. Nothing to report. C Sqn. Nothing to report. 4 Tp relieved 5 Tp in the evening. A Sqn. 12 – 13th. Patrols remained the same and each Tp took turns at the positions which remained static. B Sqn. The Echelon took over our billets and we moved into MAESEYCK into civvy houses. All the men happy and comfortable. D Sqn. 12 – 13th. In reserve. Rained all day.
13/11/44	C Sqn. Nothing to report. Lt Mitchell who joined the Regt in FRANCE replaced Sgt Mitchell, who had gone home to the UK after 5 years abroad. B Sqn. Gave a party to the men going home to England – repatriated after 5 years overseas service. Sgt Mathieson, Sgt Purkiss, LCpl Oliver, Tpr Stonier, Tpr Jordan, Sgt Cobley, Tpr Hickford, Sgt Gardiner and LCpl Midcalf. A great time organised by SSM Emery, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.
14/11/44	RHQ. During the afternoon a number of shells landed in A Sqn HQ area and L/Sgt Jellis was wounded and evacuated. In the evening, 131 Bde attacked and took the PANHEEL lock gates. The 75mm Tps concentrated as a Regt Tp and took on fixed targets throughout the night. C Sqn. At 1255 hours a gun fired on OPHOVEN area. We reported sound bearings of the gun. At 1630 hours B Sqn relieved us and the Sqn went into reserve, remaining in MAESEYCK in a comfortable school.



	A Sqn. D Sqn (Major Crankshaw) relieved us and we went into reserve near MAESEYCK. B Sqn. Sgt McGuire – 3Tp awarded the MM – a great and well deserved award. Sgt McGuire has shown outstanding bravery at all times, and his Tp Ldr (Lt Chapman), now recovering in England will be delighted. Took over three patrols from C Sqn. Operated for the first time using telephones – not a great success, but a devil of a lot of work laying and repairing lines. Nothing to report all day and night. The repatriated men (see 13th) went home. I wonder if we will see them again. Such fine old 11th Hussars can ill be lost to the Regt. 1Tp relieved 3Tp – 5Tp relieved 4t at last light. Telephones not considered an asset. D Sqn. Moved to Engineering College North of MAESEYCK. Sgt Luke (5Tp) helped A Sqn night patrol on the main road.
15/11/44	RHQ. 15 – 18th. Standing patrols as before. Nothing to report. It was now arranged that Sqn should do 4 days in the line. A & D Sqn taking turn about in the North and C & B Sqn in the South. C Sqn. 15 – 17th Remained in same area. Town was shelled and the children evacuated our school, making more room. A Sqn. 15 – 17th. Remained in reserve carrying out maintenance. Lt MacLean took over 1Tp from Sgt Hall who was due for Home Establishment. B Sqn. 2Tp remained on the bridge – 1Tp relieved 3Tp – 5Tp relieved 4Tp. Lt Preston took the White sect to the house overlooking the river. Nothing to report all day. D Sqn. Took over from A Sqn at OPHOVEN. 1Tp to the customs House, 3Tp to the farm at 655832. 2Tp to farm at 653826. NMS during the night.
16/11/44	B Sqn. 4Tp relieved 2Tp – 1Tp remained in the church, 3Tp went to northern patrol. Spasmodic rifle fire from across the river otherwise all quiet. D Sqn. 3Tp came in and 2 WSC of 2Tp. No movement seen. 3Tp took over left, 4Tp centre and 5Tp right. No movement seen, heavy frost.
17/11/44	B Sqn. 4Tp remained at bridge – 5Tp went to the church – 2Tp to the left patrol. Civilian reports of a boat on the other side of the river further South and a German guarding it. Nothing happened however, during the night. D Sqn. 4Tp came in. no movement seen. In the evening 2Tp left, 4Tp centre and 1Tp right. No movement seen during the night.
18/11/44	C Sqn. At 1630 hours we relieved B Sqn. 5Tp on the right – 1Tp centre – 2Tp on the left. A Sqn. Took over the position at OPHOVEN from D Sqn. The situation remained unchanged with the exception of two extra patrols by night only. This therefore meant extra night patrols were at 653832 and 645815. Spasmodic shelling again took place during the afternoon on the X roads at OPHOVEN. B Sqn. Nothing to report all day. Relieved by C Sqn at last light. D Sqn. 1Tp saw a suspected OP in a house at LAAK. 7Tp liberated it. No movement seen, except 1 mortar firing from South of the Jam factory at 660822. Stopped up by 7Tp. In the evening 3Tp left and 5Tp



	right. Nothing to report.
19/11/44	RHQ. During the night 18/19. A small party of enemy crossed the MAAS and laid an ambush for C Sqn left hand patrol. The ambush failed and the house in which the enemy were hiding was engaged by 2pdr and the enemy forced to withdraw with 1 man wounded. C Sqn. At 0100 hours a civilian reported to 2Tp that an enemy patrol had crossed the river and searched the house at 650809 – normally occupied by our Scout sect by day. At 0730 hours the Scout sect was ordered to approach the house with extra care in case of booby traps. LCpl Leeming, i/c of the section, got within 20 yards of the house when a German appeared only 3 yards in front of him and fired a Tommy gun at him but missed! LCpl Leeming fired back at him with his Sten and knocked the German over – then 3 more Germans appeared round the corner of the house and LCpl Leeming withdrew. An AC was moved up and put 5 rounds of 2pdr through the walls and the roof, but the German patrol had withdrawn back across the river and some rather scared civilians emerged from the cellar where the Germans had held them. They stated that the patrol had consisted of 6 men of which one had been wounded by LCpl Leeming. Nothing else during the day, a patrol of RB's occupied the same house during the day but nothing to report. 4Tp relieved 5Tp in the evening. A Sqn. OPHOVEN was heavily shelled during the morning and it was decided to move SHQ and the reserve Tps from OPHOVEN to 634827, otherwise nothing to report. B Sqn. Maintenance and gun cleaning. Unfortunate incident during the night. our guard shot and wounded a DR who failed to stop when challenged. Also enemy crossed the water during the night and ambushed C Sqn White sect going out to the northern patrol – no casualties but the enemy got away. D Sqn. 5Tp saw 2 men of the party which tried to ambush C Sqn patrol, otherwise no movement seen. A Sqn took over in the evening. 2Tp out on the main road.
20/11/44	RHQ. 20 – 23rd. Nothing to report. Two football grounds were now in use by the Regt and there was remarkable keenness throughout as we had had little opportunity for football since we were at STANDRE in the beachhead days. C Sqn. At 0530 hours a few mortar shells landed in front of centre. At 0900, 1010, 1135 and 1525 hours OPHOVEN was shelled by up to 3 guns. Bearings were taken and guns located in area 6980 and were shelled by Regt Tps of 75mm. A Sqn. 20 – 21st. Situation remained unchanged and on the 22nd D Sqn took over again and we went into reserve near MAESEYCK. Major Turnbull returned from hospital and assumed command of the Sqn and Capt Petch reverted to 2i/c. B Sqn. Nothing to report. D Sqn. 20 – 22nd. In reserve. Moved back to school. 1Tp, 3Tp and 5Tp out on the road at night.
21/11/44	C Sqn. At 0930 hours there was some artillery activity on the town and 3Tp and 4Tp both got bearings and guns replied. B Sqn. Nothing to report.
22/11/44	C Sqn. At 0745 hours there was some slight artillery activity. B Sqn took over in the evening. A Sqn. 22 – 25th. In reserve near MAESEYCK carrying out maintenance and training. B Sqn. Took over from C Sqn. 5Tp on the right with the location slightly changed. He now sits in a house about 300 yards NE of MAESEYCK bridge. 1Tp in centre at the church and 4Tp commanded by Lt Preston at the house patrol. Nothing to report during the night.
23/11/44	C Sqn. 23 – 26th.



	Remained in same area. On the evening of the 26th we took over the same patrols from B Sqn, with the exception that the right patrol moved forward 300 yards. At 1915 hours the town area was shelled by about four 105mm. Four shells fell in our old evacuated position. B Sqn. 2Tp relieved 5Tp. Lt Young did a good foot patrol to a house on the river front about 2000 yards East of his location and reported the house could be used as a good OP, also that there were a few enemy on the other side of the river who sniped at civilians. A quiet night. D Sqn. Took over from A Sqn. Lt Newton MC returned to Sqn. Nothing to report.
24/11/44	RHQ. During the night of 23/24, an enemy patrol succeeded in slipping across the river and laid an ambush with trip-wire across the main road between OPHOVEN and MAESEYCK. A DR from 15th LAA was taken prisoner. The enemy then withdrew across the river and the DR's MC was found by us the following morning. B Sqn. 2Tp still on right. 1Tp relieved at last light by 5Tp and 4Tp relieved 3Tp. Lt Troup and Cpl Sykes, dressed as labourers, got to the house mentioned previously; they took with them a 38 set in a basket and operated back to 2Tp. They returned at midday having seen nothing. 1 Tp engaged 6 enemy seen digging in and dispersed them. D Sqn. No movement seen. Lt Newton took over 4Tp. DR ambushed just South of OPHOVEN on main road at 0015 hours.
25/11/44	RHQ. A foot patrol of B Sqn consisting of Lt RA Flood and a Maquis worked up the West bank of the MAAS, disguised as civilians, to try and find the place where the enemy had crossed. They came across the body of a dead civilian which had apparently been left there the night before. The patrol reported that there were signs that the man had been tortured before being killed by a blow on the back of the head. Papers found on him indicated that he was a Polish immigrant from the mining district of the North. Among those papers there was the address of an American officer. The papers were forwarded to GSI, and 12th Corps became interested in the case as on the face of things it appeared that the man might have been employed by 30 Corps or the Americans as an agent. In view of this another patrol was arranged, to go out with a stretcher at last light on the night of 26/27th and recover the body. B Sqn. 4Tp left, 5Tp centre and 1Tp right. Lt Flood did a foot patrol with his Maquis from the left position to D Sqn's right. They found a dead civilian, badly mutilated, on the tow path but had to leave him as they were dressed as civilians. Div took a great interest in this find and we arranged for the body to be brought back by a night patrol. D sq. 25 – 26th. A quiet and uneventful time. Flood water reached many of the fields to the East of the river. General Lyne came to see us – having just taken the Div over from General Verney.
26/11/44	RHQ. At last light a patrol under Lt Flood went out and recovered the corpse of the Pole. Subsequent investigations revealed that it was more likely that the man was a member of a gang of smugglers who had been active in the area. No further clue could be given as to the manner or reason for his death but it was obvious that his body had been left there by the Germans. A Sqn. Took over OPHOVEN position from D Sqn and the situation remained unchanged. B Sqn. At last light, Lt Flood and Eddie Minnens (the Maquis), Sgt Hughes and LCpl Malkinson left the dog position and moved North along the MAAS to get the body. They succeeded in getting the body back which was taken to Div HQ for a pathological report.



27/11/44	RHQ. 27 – 28th. The C-in-C, Field Marshal Sir Bernard L Montgomery KCB DSO, held an investiture at Div HQ in BREE at which Lt Col W Wainman received the DSO and Sgt McGuire (B Sqn) received the MM. The Regt sent a party of 3 officers, the RSM and 19 ORs to act as spectators for this parade. The following awards were also announced: the MC to Lt DA Creaton (C Sqn) and Lt JAN Cousins (D Sqn), both of whom have since been killed in action. C Sqn. At 1620 hours there was heavy shelling of the area of the town, a number of shells landing near SHQ but many of them were duds, and the rest did no damage except for the odd window broken. A Sqn. No further change in the situation. B Sqn. Lecture by the new Div General to all officers. Out of the line now. D Sqn. A Sqn took over and we moved back to the school.
28/11/44	C Sqn. More shelling at first light, but again a good proportion of duds and no damage. River level reached the highest yet, well above normal and over the banks on the eastern side. Many fields flooded on both sides and our left had to withdraw 200 yards towards the main road to avoid being cut off. The river level started to fall in the evening. A Sqn. Patrols remained the same and the situation was quiet with an odd gun firing spasmodically. The front was taken over by 53rd Recce Regt and all Tps returned at last light to SHQ. B Sqn. Sgt McGuire presented with the ribbon of the MM by Field Marshal Sir Bernard L Montgomery, KCB DSO in BREE. The Colonel received the DSO at the same time. D Sqn. In reserve. Cleaned the vehicles.
29/11/44	RHQ. The Regt was told it was to be relieved by the 53rd Recce Regt by the night of the 29th and that the Div was to relieve the Guards Arm'd Div East of the MAAS. Recce parties were sent to liaise with the guards but owing to the condition of the MAAS bridges and the fact that the enemy had been reinforced on the Guards front, our takeover was postponed indefinitely. The 53rd Recce Regt completed its takeover by the night of the 29th and the Regt remained in reserve in its present area. C Sqn. River level down again. At 1400 hours shelling of the town – near the guns – no damage. At 1600 hours the Sqn was relieved by 53rd Recce Regt. All Tps returned to SHQ by 1730 hours. A large shell, 150mm, landed in the Sqn area but there was no damage. A Sqn. In reserve carrying out maintenance and training. B Sqn. Orders to move to take over from the Guards Bde on the East of the MAAS. Had the bridge at MAESEYCK been open it would have enabled us to get to our new patrol position in 10 minutes; as it is, we have to travel 70 miles to get there. D Sqn. 29 – 30th. All officers attended a lecture by GOC at BREE – very good. On 30th, 53rd Recce Regt RHQ came to live with us.
30/11/44	RHQ. In reserve. Training and recreation, concert parties and cinemas were available in BREE. November saw the Regt in a static role. The weather had become colder but we were fortunate in being able to get the whole Regt into buildings and the Tank Suits which had recently been issued were a great help during cold and wet periods. During the month 50 ORs had left the Regt under the PYTHON 5 year scheme and these naturally represented a fair number of our older and more experienced AC crews. A Regt training school had



	been established at TILBURG under command of Major AVC Robarts and was invaluable in training new drafts to the Regt and the upgrading of tradesmen as well as forming a welcome break for those NCOs who acted as instructors. C Sqn. In reserve with the Regt. A Sqn. Sqn Ldr; Major J Turnbull MC 2i/c; Capt H Petch MC DCM SSM; SSM Drew SQMS; SQMS Lovatt 1Tp Lt A MacLean, Sgt Lewis 2Tp Lt DAF Williamson, Lt Morton, Sgt Pearce 3Tp Lt GH Hodgkinson, Sgt Short 4Tp Lt JDA Woodhouse, Sgt Atkinson 5Tp Lt P Newham, Sgt Murray 7Tp Lt KL Osborne, Sgt Turner Sgt Jellis, who was evacuated from CAEN after receiving wounds from a bombing raid, returned to the Sqn in October. During one of the enemy stonks on OPHOVEN, Sgt Jellis who was a White Sect Comd was wounded in the right side by shrapnel and was evacuated. B Sqn. Move cancelled indefinitely; but we have handed over to 53rd Recce Regt and there were no Sqns operational.
December 1944	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Dec 44	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/12/44	RHQ. 1 – 3rd. Regt still in reserve. The plan was to take over from 2nd Armd Irish Guards in about 10 days time. Sqn training programmes were started and Rugby Football was started again, (the first time since HOMS in the summer of 1943), with a decisive win by D Sqn over B Sqn. Major Reid Scott MC rejoined the Regt from hospital and resumed command of B Sqn. A slight change to orders were received. The 8th Hussars had now relieved the Guards and we were to relieve them on the 6th. Regt was to come under command 22nd Armd Bde and 7th Armd Div were to come under 30 Corps. C Sqn. 1 – 7th Sqn remained in MAESEYCK. Did some training, having prepared for more, but much of this was cancelled by warnings to move, which in turn were cancelled. A Sqn. 1 – 6th. Sqn in reserve and carried out maintenance and training. On the 6th the Sqn moved to 632807 after D Sqn had moved to go into the line further South. B Sqn. Still in MAESEYCK. Small amount of training being done; getting cars and equipment up straight in view of the forthcoming move. D Sqn. 1 – 5th. In reserve at the school, carried out training and maintenance. We were threatened with a move almost daily. LCpl Williams Wynn had an interview with the GOC. A visit by General Horrocks, 30 Corps.
2/12/44	B Sqn. Major Reid Scott rejoined the Sqn from England where he had been recovering from a broken ankle. Everyone was delighted to see him and his enthusiasm is definitely infectious so we are all on our toes again. What with the PYTHON scheme, men on leave, courses at TILBURG, the Sqn has almost a complete turn around. A full week training programme was prepared to commence on the 4th, employing 73 men each morning.



3/12/44	B Sqn. Warned that we shall be moving on the 6th to ROOSTEREN to relieve the 8th Hussars.
4/12/44	RHQ. A recce party under Major Lawson DSO MC went down to prepare for our take over from 8th Hussars. RHQ Tac, B Sqn & D Sqn to move on the 6th. A & C Sqn to remain in their present areas. A driver/mechanics course was started in the Technical School where A Sqn were billeted. B Sqn. Sqn Ldr did a recce with Major Lawson of our patrol positions to be taken over on the 7th. It was a maddening thought that we should have to drive 70 miles to get there, whereas, had the bridge over the MAAS not been blown, we could have walked there in 10 minutes.
5/12/44	RHQ. Regt still in rest. Arrangements were made for move in the following morning. Lt General BG Horrocks CB DSO MC, GOC 30 Corps visited the Regt and welcomed us back to his Corps. B Sqn. The Corps Commander visited the Regt but only spoke to Sqn Ldrs for 10 minutes at RHQ. He said that everyone was pleased and honoured to have the 7th Armd Div back in 30 Corps. He asked whether the rations were sufficient and said that he had asked for more bulk. He came in a pale blue limousine just captured from the Germans and apologised for the vulgar colour. MAESEYCK witnessed some good parties during our month sojourn in its sub-area. There was no lack of female company, the variable factor being the quality. The return of the Sqn Ldr necessitated one or two changes. The following were the Car commanders:- 1Tp Lt Nicholson, Sgt Wilkins, Cpl Hitchcock. 2Tp Lt Burridge, Sgt Ruder Lt Troup 3Tp Sgt McGuire, Lt Gibson, Cpl Evans. 4Tp Lt Flood, Sgt Trusswell, Cpl Mills 5Tp Lt Siewright, Sgt Shakespeare, Cpl May Lt Preston supernumerary. Scout Tp Sgt Short, Cpl Hawkin, Cpl Sykes, Cpl Thacker, Sgt Hughes, Cpl Bagulaey. 75mm Tp Lt Young, Sgt Richmond, Sgt Edwards, Cpl Hodgson, Cpl Jenner SHQ. Major Reid Scott and L/Sgt Allen, Capt Lovett and LCpl Byard. SSM Emery Sgt Hornsby Echelon SQMS Smith, Sgt Freeman
6/12/44	RHQ. RHQ Tac, B & D Sqn crossed the MAAS at BERG and moved to PAPENHOVEN, ROOSTEREN and BUCHTEN respectively. 22nd Armd Bde was now temporarily under command of Guards Armd Div until 7th Armd Div crossed the MAAS. The day was spent in laying and checking telephone lines ready for D Sqn to take over at last light and B Sqn to take over at first light on the 7th. D Sqn took over at last light and had patrols as follows: 659756 – AC and foot patrols 656758 – Foot patrol 663752 – Two foot patrols during the night the house in a copse at 663753 was booby trapped with the help of the RE's. unfortunately 2 men from D Sqn were wounded, fortunately not seriously, on an American mine while returning from this party. A quiet night. B Sqn. B & D Sqn and RHQ moved over to the East of the MAAS and took over from the 8th Hussars. RHQ were in PAPENHOVEN and B Sqn went to ILLIKHOVEN, preparatory to going to ROOSTEREN to take over a sector of the line. D Sqn. Took over from 8th Hussars at GEBROEK. Live at BUCHTEN. In the evening move over MAAS by the bridge at BERG. Much flood water. 4Tp with Cpl Rivers and LCpl Williams Wynn and LCpl Thomas '92 (Cpl Rivers in the orchard SE of GEBROEK). Sundry sniping and MG fire from the enemy only 400 yards away. Late at night Tpr Hughes and Tpr Yeaman walked on a mine when taking food to Cpl Rivers section. Hughes leg was broken and Yeaman suffered from shrapnel in his arms.



7/12/44	RHQ. B Sqn took over from 8th Hussars in ROOSTEREN area at first light. K Bty 5th RHA were in support of the Regt and had OP's with each Sqn in the line. A Tp from the Norfolk Yeomanry (A/Tk guns) was in support of D Sqn. B Sqn also took under their wing a local army of Maquis 0 40 strong. At last light D Sqn mined the copse at 663753 and their patrol in the area was withdrawn. A Sqn. Remained at 632807. B Sqn. We took over the ROOSTEREN area from the 8th Hussars (B Sqn) at first light. SHQ and the B1 with 2Tp and 5Tp in reserve lived in the main street; 4Tp took over the left; 1Tp was in the centre and 3Tp on the right. Our area was the SW extremity of the German salient; to our North the line ran up the MAAS to VENLO and on our right SE to GELENKIRCHEN. The Sqn was responsible for about 3000 yards of front with no defences except the canal whose bridges were blown. The Americans had arrived about 2 months previously and had been followed by the Irish Guards and the 8th Hussars. The only plan was for each patrol to form a strong point at night and endeavour to observe by day without being seen. There were practically no alternative positions but luckily the enemy was short of ammunition whereas our gunners and 75's had plenty. We laid mines and wire in front of each patrol and hoped for the best. With so many hours of darkness, night patrols were quite arduous with double guards. There was a gunner OP from the 5th RHA who occupied a tower in the town and had certain DF tasks, which he could bring down in front of our patrols anytime. Other than that we had no support, except for 40 Dutch OD men, who occupied certain posts at night, equipped with all manner of German weapons and were rationed by us. In the course of the day we practised the gunner DF tasks, and made some for our own 75's and fired them. The gunners say that a DF nearer to our Tps than 400 yards is dangerous, but with the 75's we got one in front of 4Tp to within 100 yards of the Tp position. Apart from a few rifle shots from OUD ROOSTEREN the day was quiet although 4Tp was told some hair-raising stories from the 8th Hussars. In the night there was the odd ground flare over the canal. The officers had a good champagne party to celebrate Lt Burridge's and Lt Preston's birthdays. D Sqn. 7 – 10th. Patrols at GEBROEK. Nothing to report. Taken over by C Sqn on the 10th. Very muddy. At BUCHTEN.
8/12/44	RHQ. C & A Sqn came across the MAAS and joined us. C Sqn moved to PAPENHOVEN and later joined D Sqn at BUCHTEN. A Sqn moved to ILLIKHOVEN and it was arranged that whichever of B or A Sqn was in the line would move to ROOSTEREN during that period. During the night we were warned that a PoW had reported that Para Regt HURNER who were now identified opposite ROERMOND to our North, were preparing a number of assault boats for an operation scheduled for either the night of 6/7th or 7/8th. Although this was well to our North it was thought that the operation might take place near us and all sub-units were warned, but nothing happened during the night. C Sqn. Sqn moved South and crossed R. MAAS at BERG and billeted in GREVENBICHT. A Sqn. The Sqn moved South ready to relieve B Sqn. We moved to a village called ILLIKHOVEN which was nearly empty of civilians as the Germans had taken most of them away. B Sqn. 2Tp relieved 4Tp on the left, 1Tp remained in the centre and 5Tp relieved 3Tp on the right. The telephone wires were in a shambles and it took 2 days to sort them out; even the best operators made small mistakes in operating the telephones and the wires. The day was quiet but when it got dark, 1Tp Scout sect, Cpl Hawkin, advanced to the lock and spent the night in a slit trench on the bank only 30 yards from the enemy the other side; the lock bridge was blown but Infantry could climb across still, on a plank. Complete silence was essential and it was very cold and wet.
9/12/44	RHQ. 9 – 20th. The following positions were occupied during this period:- B & A Sqn alternated in four day shifts in ILLIKHOVEN and ROOSTEREN. In the latter position patrols were



	maintained at 662784, with an OP 200 yards North, at 658777 and in the chateau at 655755. Both these latter patrols sent dismounted sects to the canal bank at intervals. ROOSTEREN was thus guarded against any enemy attempts to cross the canal from OUD ROOSTEREN or to penetrate down the gap between the MAAS and the JULIANA canal. On Dec 10th, the dismounted patrol of the centre position of B Sqn, was engaged by mortar fire from the East of the canal. Lt Preston, Tpr Mercer and Tpr Williams were wounded, fortunately none very severely. After this dismounted patrols were NOT sent forward to the canal bank, except for special purposes. The defences were being thickened up by mines and wire continually. Unfortunately, on Dec 19th, Sgt Pearce of A Sqn set off one of these and was severely injured. Apart from this, and the routine observation of movement of small parties of Infantry in OUD ROOSTEREN there was nothing to report on this sector in this period. On our right C & D Sqn's alternated in the line in 4 day shifts, both operating from BUCHTEN in positions already given. The Americans had laid a number of mines in the area of GEBROEK and had left no plans behind. As a result, on Dec 7th Tpr Hughes '82 and Tpr Yeaman were wounded and later on the 23rd Tpr Mitchell was also hurt. Apart from this, little could be seen from the patrol positions. An AP minefield was laid to cover all approaches to GEBROEK from the North. On Dec 20th at about 1330 hours, an enemy recce patrol, estimated 6-8 strong, approached the position from the North, and on being engaged went to ground about 100 yards from our patrol, just beyond the mines. They were engaged heavily by our guns and those of K Bty, the Colonel observing for the 75's in person from the pillbox at 652759. Two enemy were wounded and recovered by their medics, and one corpse yielded the identification of GAF Sgs, and next morning was taken away by the enemy in a Wheelbarrow. C Sqn. Remained same area. A Sqn. 9 – 10th. Remained same area. B Sqn. 4Tp relieved 2Tp on the left, 3Tp relieved 5Tp on the right. Sgt Hornsby made up a scratch half-Tp with B1 personnel and did the comparatively safe day patrol in the centre. 2Tp had been shot at spasmodically during the night, by long range MG fire. There was the odd firing by small arms in the day which brought down a load of shells from our 75's and gunner each time. In the evening 1Tp took over from Sgt Hornsby for the night.
10/12/44	C Sqn. Sqn moved to BUCHTEN to take over from D Sqn. 2Tp went to GEBROEK with No. 3 Scout sect where also were two M10's of the Norfolk Yeomanry and an OP from 5th RHA. GEBROEK was a small village of 2 farms and some 5-6 outbuildings and barns. The enemy were in BAKENHOVEN, some 500 yards NE and also lining the banks of a canal 800 yards East. The country was fairly open grassland but with orchards round houses and willows on the canal banks, which made them hard to see. 4Tp manned the canal bank at 654751 by night to prevent enemy crossing. OUD ROOSTEREN was also occupied by the enemy. In daytime this patrol was replaced by one Scout section at 654760. Besides 5th RHA and Div artillery, the Regt'l Gun Tp was at 641721. At 1950 hours and 2030 hours 2Tp reported red and green very lights. Very lights of all colours went up regularly till midnight. No action taken and no conclusions reached. Remainder of night quiet. B Sqn. 2Tp again changed round with 4Tp and 5Tp changed with 3Tp. SSM Emery insisted on doing a patrol in the centre, at the same time instructing some young soldiers on his car and giving the Sqn Clerks (Tpr Raynes and Tpr Jessop) a chance to say that they had been on patrol; the house from which the SSM OP'd is called to this day "Emery's House". In the evening 1Tp, who had done 3 tricky night patrols running, went to the chateau on the right and 5Tp took over the centre for the night. Lt Preston, Sgt Shakespeare, Cpl May, Tpr Mercer and Tpr Williams had trouble with the telephone wires which lead to their trench, and soon after getting into position, were shot at by an 88mm with air-bursts and after with a spandau only 75 yards away. It looked as though they had either been seen or heard on the canal bank, and Lt Preston was ordered to withdraw a little. Almost immediately while withdrawing under cover of a high bank, 15 mortar shells arrived amongst them, the last one wounding Lt Preston in the ankle, Tpr Mercer in his right leg, which was broken, and Tpr Williams slightly in the leg. It was a bit of bad luck; Mercer had been in the Sqn for 2 ½ years and



	had done well as a first driver; Lt Preston was “a gallant old man” and Tpr Williams had just joined us. All three were well attended to at once by Cpl Baguley and Tpr Paynes and were quickly evacuated from under the very nose of the enemy, by the Doctor (Capt JH Balmer) who arrived soon with Capt Churton. Sgt McGuire with 3Tp was turned out to relieve 5Tp for the rest of the night, which was quiet.
11/12/44	C Sqn. Eight deserters left BAKENHOVEN and joined 2Tp who sent them back for questioning. They gave quite good info including exact pinpoints of enemy patrols which were shelled. Rest of day quiet. 5Tp relieved 2Tp at dusk and 3Tp went to ‘bank’ patrol. Quiet but cold night. A Sqn. Moved to ROOSTEREN to take over from B Sqn. Our role was to defend the village and prevent the enemy from crossing the canal into the village. Also to prevent the enemy from coming down from the North through the gap between the MAAS and the Juliana canal at 668790. B Sqn had 3 patrols out which we took over. By 0800 hours we had taken over completely. During the day very little happened. The patrols saw a few men on the East of the canal which were engaged by our 75's. At 1200 hours some Maquis went up to 4Tp to collect a Dutchman who had tried to get through our lines the night before but had been blown up on a mine. When they got to him he was dead. There were 43 Maquis in ROOSTEREN under command of the Sqn. There was also an OP – Capt Armitage – from 5th RHA who was responsible for the DF tasks and harassing fire. At night 1Tp sent his Scout sect to a position in a house 100 yards from the canal. B Sqn. 11 – 14th. B Sqn was relieved by A Sqn and we went back for 4 days rest to ILLIKHOVEN which is 2 miles South of ROOSTEREN. The Sqn Ldr and Cpl May went off in the jeep to see the wounded and eventually reached the 83rd General Hospital at HASSELT five minutes before Lt Preston and Tpr Mercer were lifted out of their ambulance; we greeted them as though we lived in the hospital. Our 4 days were spent in hot baths which were easily procured in a local colliery near SITTAARD. Some cinema shows and a general clean up and sort out. A new draft of 6 men arrived who were welcomed, as we were very short due to leave and courses. Training was done. Capt Lovett went on leave and looked better for it. Lt Burridge did 2/c and Lt Troup commanded 2Tp. D Sqn. 11 – 14th. In reserve. Training at BUCHTEN. Still very wet and muddy. Take over from C Sqn in the evening of the 14th. 2Tp to GEBROEK.
12/12/44	C Sqn. At 0850 hours 5Tp reported smoke coming from one of the chimneys in BAKENHOVEN. The house concerned was stonked by 5th RHA. Remainder very quiet. 4 relieved 5 and 1Tp, now under command Lt Brett Smith went to Bank patrol. Lt Mitchell was in hospital following a bad motor accident. Quiet day but very cold night. A Sqn. 2Tp took over from 4Tp, 5Tp from 3Tp and 3Tp from 1Tp. Nothing unusual happened during the day.
13/12/44	C Sqn. Nothing to see during the morning. At 1528 hours a few enemy guns seen on canal bank at 667761. These were shelled and disappeared. In the evening 3Tp went to GEBROEK and 2Tp to Bank. At 1915 hours 3Tp reported spandau and mortar fire in western house of GEBROEK. Investigation revealed nothing. A Sqn. 13 – 14th. The Tps changed over every morning before first light and nothing happened during these days except reveille on the 14th which was blown by a large explosion very close, which turned out to be the Germans re-blowing the bridge over the canal.
14/12/44	C Sqn. 0005 hours, 3Tp reported MG fire. At 0235 hours 3Tp saw and engaged 2 Germans about 30 yards away – nil results. 0730 hours. An explosion was reported – it turned out to be further destruction of the bridge at 662773 which was already half destroyed.



	Sqn handed over to D Sqn and concentrated at BUCHTEN area.
15/12/44	C Sqn. 15 – 17th. Remained BUCHTEN area. A Sqn. Handed over to B Sqn before first light and moved back into rest at ILLIKHOVEN. B Sqn. We took over ROOSTEREN again from A Sqn with the same patrol positions. 3Tp left, 2Tp centre and 5Tp right. A quiet day with little spandau fire from OUD ROOSTEREN. D Sqn. 15 – 17th. Cold and frost starts. Nothing to report from GEBROEK. Two Me 263 fly over during the day and planes continue all night over the area bombing and strafing but none near us. This activity heralding their new offensive in the ARDENNES.
16/12/44	A Sqn. 16 – 18th. Remained at ILLIKHOVEN in reserve and carried out training and maintenance. B Sqn. 1Tp relieved 3Tp on the left, 4Tp relieved 2Tp on the right and in the centre Sgt Hornsby with his cluster of beginner took over the OP in the rafters of 5Tp's chateau; 5Tp preferred to stay put for their days rest and not come to SHQ. Everyday we used the 75's – without mention of whom – the war diary would be very incomplete. We began to experiment with some new air-burst ammunition and found it most effective against over-bold Germans sticking their heads out of slit trenches. Lt Flood swears he could read "Afrika Korps" on one German tin hat; this man should obviously have been killed off by now according to the law of averages. At about midday it appeared that a sniper had had the brass neck to venture over to our side of the lock into the ruined lock house. Lt Flood with Cpl Thacker and his sect set out to investigate but the bird had flown. The remainder of the day was quiet except for the draw for leave in January. 23 out of 86 names were the lucky ones drawn by the head lady of the ROOSTEREN Red Cross, who 'had' not one word of English. She wore glasses and was very plain, in spite of strict instructions from the Sqn Ldr to the SSM to pick the best looking in the place. Perhaps the SSM had lost his touch. 5Tp took over the night duties at the chateau and except for the usual flares and odd shots, the night was quiet. It is a funny kind of war for the PAO's.
17/12/44	B Sqn. Except for unusually good visibility there was nothing of interest to report all day. There was an idea of broadcasting from the canal bank in German combined with stonking but on the first night the wind was in the wrong direction and by the second night, the German counter offensive through the ARDENNES was going so well that it seemed slightly inopportune to try and persuade them to desert. In the night there was much German air activity.
18/12/44	C Sqn. 1730 hours. 1Tp took over from D Sqn at GEBROEK and 5Tp went to Bank. B Sqn. We 'air-burst' very successfully Lt Flood's "Afrika Korps" friend in the slit trench on the far canal bank; it was better than rabbit shooting because we sat in a house instead of standing in a muddy lane. In the afternoon, two audacious German mortars were rude to 4Tp, 5Tp and Sgt Hornsby, but were nicely dealt with by our 75's. In the night at about 2300 hours, there was a scare from RHQ about black objects in the sky, probably containing parachutists but it turned out to be a fairy tale. D Sqn. Hand over to C Sqn. Planes again by night and report of approaching parachutists which landed at AACHEN
19/12/44	C Sqn. Spandau fire at 666758 at 0740 and 0800 hours, in a southerly direction. 1250 hours. Two Tps of 75's fired on ROOSTEREN from the NE. Shell reps were sent in on these.



	1404 hours. These guns were in action again. 1530 hours. GEBROEK was accurately shelled by two 105mm. 2Tp relieved 1Tp and 4Tp went on Bank. 2155 hours. 2Tp heard MT movement in SUSTEREN area, also mortar in approx same area firing South. A Sqn. 19 – 22nd. Moved to ROOSTEREN and took over from B Sqn. The patrols were the same and very little happened during the 4 days we were there. On the 19th, the enemy landed 10 shells in ROOSTEREN but did no damage. Lt Woodhouse went out and laid AP mines in the gap between the MAAS and the canal. Lt Williamson was on leave and Sgt Pearce took over his Tp while he was away. On the 22nd, while Sgt Pearce was on patrol, he unfortunately walked down a track on which B Sqn had laid an AP mine, which he knew about, but which for the moment he forgot. The mine went off and badly wounded him. The doctor got to him within 15 minutes and sent him straight to the FDS. He was hit in the right leg and was badly shocked; the doctor feared he would lose his leg. Lt Morton, who was in the Tp under instruction, took it over until Lt Williamson got back. B Sqn. A Sqn relieved us and we returned to rest at ILLIKHOVEN. We lost 7 fine NCOs and men who were due to return to England after 5 years abroad. They were: Sgt Spencer, Sgt Short, LCpl Willetts, LCpl Morris '91, Tpr Keen, Tpr Waister, Tpr Leach '92. It is hard to spare such chaps. The rest of the day was spent in cleaning up and sorting out. The Sqn Ldr and Major Grant Thorold, who had arrived the night before from England to take over the Sqn, visited RHQ. Major Reid Scott was returning to England to go on a course at the Staff College, much to his disgust. The Sqn will miss him very much. An Officers Mess was started, a Dutch woman and her daughter doing the cooking. D Sqn. 19 – 22nd. In reserve at BUCHTEN. Training on mortar, but map reading curtailed by fog which persisted all the period. A few shells landed on the eastern end of BUCHTEN in the afternoon of the 20th. Take over from C Sqn on 22nd. 1Tp laid mines and wire round North side of GEBROEK.
20/12/44	C Sqn. 0050 hours. HDT heard leaving BAKENHOVEN for DIETEREN. Both areas and the roads in between were shelled. 0705 hours. 4Tp on Bank heard movement of MT. All roads were heavily stonked. 0930 hours. Very foggy morning. A deserter walked into GEBROEK. He came from 2nd SS Pz Div which caused some excitement before he told us he had walked 30 miles before reaching us. 1220 hours. Sqn Ldr conducted Lt Col Hobart of the 1st RTR and a staff officer on a recce to GEBROEK. On arrival firing broke out. Approx 8 men had approached under cover of fog to within 100 yards of GEBROEK before being seen. They were then engaged by Bren and Sten and replied with spandau. They took cover in trenches so OP opened up extremely accurately on their position – barely 100 yards away with good effect as shouting was heard from the area. At least 2 spandau fired on GEBROEK from nearby and put bursts through many windows that anyone showed themselves at. A tracer set alight the straw loft of a house we were in and it was a close thing whether we could put it out or not, but we did with the fire extinguisher. Two or three 75's then opened up on GEBROEK and we sent for a Tp of the 8th Hussars for support and to pick up prisoners if possible. Firing had died down by the time they arrived. They decided not to approach the hedge where the enemy were as the going was too soft, but they fired into the area. A wounded German tried to crawl from the hedge to us, begging us loudly not to shoot, which we didn't. Unfortunately a ditch was in the way so he could not reach us. Two Red Cross men from GEBROEK came and carried away 3 wounded men, at least one of which appeared dead. They also removed their hats to a slit trench nearby. This area was later searched and a corpse found. His insignia and letters were removed and later a German came from GEBROEK with a wheelbarrow and took him away. B Sqn. The Scout Tp carried out training on the 3" mortar which had been added to the Regt's weapons. Major Grant Thorold took over command of the Sqn. Lt Young was selected to go on a 95mm howitzer course in England.
21/12/44	RHQ. 21 – 31st. A very dopey Pole deserted to our lines in this area, but contributed little to the sum of human



	knowledge, apart from the identification of 5/1219 Regt of 176 Div. On Christmas Eve, a discordant carol service by enemy in an advanced state of intoxication in OUD ROOSTEREN was heavily engaged by our 75's and peace reigned again. Also on the 24th, RHQ B3 received information of a party of 3 escaped PoW in their area. A patrol, led by SSM Wadsworth captured these at last light. A train carrying 50 – 100 PoW had been derailed and information was received of several similar parties. Another patrol under Capt Chadwick failed to locate any of them, but on Dec 28th another trio attempted to cross the MAAS on a raft which overturned. One half-frozen survivor was impounded by B Sqn in ROOSTEREN. Also on the 24th, A Sqn was ordered to proceed to JABHEEK under command 131 Bde, with, in support, a Tp of Norfolk Yeomanry (17pdrs), in a longstop role in the event of an enemy breakthrough in that area. An LO, Lt Wheeler, went to GANGELT to maintain contact with 52 (L) Div on their right. The Sqn was within 200 yards of the frontier of the REICH and GANGELT is well inside the border, so a large section of the Regt was able to defile enemy soil in the traditional manner on Christmas Day. At this time C Sqn moved to OBBICHT to be available for a three cornered system of reliefs with the 4th Sqn away. At 0545 hours on Dec 26th, heavy mortar fire began to come down on Sgt Luke's patrol position in GEBROEK, followed by MG fire from BAKENHOVEN, HE by two 88's from behind DIETEREN and an explosion in the minefield. About 25-30 enemy then penetrated the patrol position from the ENE, behind the minefield, and after a very brief engagement at very short range, compelled the patrol to withdraw, abandoning 2 DSC and 1 WSC which refused to start in the cold, and the 5th RHA OP tank disabled by a Panzerfaust. The patrol at 655757 stood firm and covered the withdrawal and a B Sqn additional patrol was stationed at ILLIKHOVEN to cover the canal bank from the West. At 1100 hours, a counter attack, spearheaded by two Tps of 8th Hussars following a heavy barrage, brought our Tp back into GEBROEK meeting only harassing fire from the 88's. Three enemy dead were found in GEBROEK with a considerable amount of abandoned equipment suggesting that their casualties had been high. One corpse was of a Sgt, probably the patrol Ldr and identified as 1/1219 GR. The WSC and the two Dingos were recovered damaged but repairable. Our casualties were 5 men slightly wounded of which 3 were evacuated – LCpl Reeves, Tpr Hunter and Tpr Chalmers. An unlucky over from the 88's fell on the house in ILLIKHOVEN occupied by B Sqn and killed Tpr Brown. As a result of this and because of the ice on the canal, a re-arrangement of our positions was effected on the 27th. A deserter from OUD ROOSTEREN on this day gave warning of an impending attack down the bottle neck North of ROOSTEREN. Accordingly additional patrols at night were provided by B Sqn and more mines and wire were laid on the northern approaches to OEVEREIND. That night our Div artillery including the medium Regt and the HAA Regt ranged on OUD ROOSTEREN. No attack materialised. During the month our 75's perfected a technique for using airburst ammunition which appeared to be very effective. A proposal to attempt a propaganda broadcast with an artillery programme to induce the enemy to desert was abandoned when the enemy counter offensive in the ARDENNES opened on the 18th. This gave a flip to the previously jaded moral of the Master Race and their minions, which would have countered any good effects of our propaganda. From 27th to the end of the year there was nothing to report. 1945 came in with an air raid, C Sqn then being at OBBICHT, A Sqn at ILLIKHOVEN, B Sqn at JABHEEK and D Sqn at ROOSTEREN. At 0002 hours on 1st Jan 1945, the feu de joie of a spandau at 667787 was answered by Scale 5 gunfire and the enemy thereafter relapsed into silence, at least for the night. C Sqn. Very foggy morning. An RE inspected GEBROEK area with the object of laying AP mines and erecting wire fences. This was started on. 1615 and 1630 hours. Single Germans seen walking area 667791 – engaged. 4Tp went to GEBROEK and 1Tp to Bank. A few very lights and trip flares before midnight. B Sqn. Mortar training continued and SHQ did some Sten gun firing. The whole Sqn assembled in the afternoon to wish Major Reid Scott the best of luck and to drink his health. There was also a farewell party in the Officers Mess which lasted well into the early hours of the morning.
22/12/44	C Sqn. All quiet during – D Sqn took over at dusk. the day. B Sqn. Major Reid Scott left for OSTEND with Lt Young who was going on his course. The Sqn Ldr visited A Sqn



	during the morning and went round the patrol positions. Firing with the 3" mortar took place in the afternoon and the Colonel came and watched.
23/12/44	C Sqn. Sqn moved to OBBICHT. A Sqn. B Sqn took over from us and we went back to ILLIKHOVEN. B Sqn. Just before first light the Sqn took over from A Sqn at ROOSTEREN. There was very little reported all day. A few odd rifle shots and MG fire being the most that could be produced. Sounds of SA fire near the tunnel to the NE were engaged by our 75's during the afternoon. A minefield had been laid in front of 5Tp position by A Sqn and it was decided to put some danner wire along our side of it. Two RE's instructed some of the Scout Tp how to do it and a party under Sgt Gibson was sent out to do the job at 1730 hours. The night was uneventful. D Sqn. 23 – 25th. GEBROEK quiet. Very heavy frost at night. Mines and wiring completed by 3Tp, 4Tp and 5Tp who took over Xmas night.
24/12/44	C Sqn. 24 – 25th. Quiet and peaceful but very cold Christmas. A Sqn. Sqn moved down to JABHEEK. Our role down there was to remain concentrated in the village, but if the enemy attacked in that area we had to send out patrols to observe and also delay the enemy as much as possible. For this we had a Tp of 17pdrs under command, and came ourselves under command 131 Bde. We had Lt Wheeler with the 52nd Div on our right as an LO to keep us informed of any thing happening on their left. He lived with the 5th KOSB. B Sqn. The night was very cold and there was a sharp frost. There was nothing of interest reported during the day. Soon after dark there was some movement of HDT on the other side of the canal, probably supplies arriving for the Germans at OUD ROOSTEREN. From about 2200 hours onwards, there was quite a lot of noise in OUD ROOSTEREN. The Germans appeared to be having a party and were singing and shouting. We did not mind them having a party but considered they were too noisy so gave them a few rounds from the guns. There was also a man who appeared to be making a speech to his men, exhorting them to fight and die for the Feuhrer and all the usual stuff. The singing went on intermittently till about 0300 hours. A PoW who was captured later said that all the noise was caused by a party of drunks and was not an attempt to put propaganda over to us.
25/12/44	A Sqn. 25 – 26th. Remained at JABHEEK and spent a very enjoyable Christmas. On Boxing Day we got hold of a 3 man band from one of the villages and held a dance which seemed to be enjoyed by the local inhabitants and the Sqn. B Sqn. Christmas Day. As we were in the line we had decided to celebrate on the 28th when we should be in rest. However, most of the troop had managed to get extra food (the chicken population of ROOSTEREN must have gone down considerably in the last day or two) and had a special Christmas dinner. There were a few rifle shots from the other side but the day was quiet, probably as many of the enemy had hangovers. Capt Hildyard from Div HQ came over in the afternoon and gave a lecture on the battle situation in the South. The situation appears to be improving.
26/12/44	C Sqn. Early in the morning a D Sqn patrol was attacked in GEBROEK. The situation was restored by dusk when we took over. 1700 hours. 1Tp went to GEBROEK. A minefield had been laid to the North but as the majority of the enemy had come from the South it was decided to complete the perimeter. This was nearly completed by midnight. 5Tp also manned a new post about 500 yards West of 1Tp for additional protection. 2Tp on the Bank.



	Night quiet and without incident. B Sqn. At about 0500 hours, gunfire and spandau was heard to our right. This continued until about 0730 hours. It was learnt that the Germans had attacked GEBROEK, where two Tps of D Sqn were. They overran GEBROEK but the Tps got out with only minor casualties, although some vehicles were lost. 4Tp relieved 3Tp and 1Tp relieved 5Tp. As the enemy were now in GEBROEK, 3Tp was sent to a position at 649758 just outside ILLIKHOVEN, to watch the canal in case the enemy attempted to cross and reach the MAAS. In the meantime, a counter attack was being prepared to retake GEBROEK. Just as this was going in, a few shells burst round 3Tp, one landing on the house which they were behind, killing Tpr Brown, who was Sgt McGuire's driver. This was very bad luck as they were unobserved and they must have been 'overs' from the GEBROEK battle. Tps reported seeing some V2 rockets being fired during the morning. The Sqn Ldr was called to a conference at RHQ where the changeover between A Sqn (now at JABHEEK) was arranged. Two Tps of A Sqn arrived at ROOSTEREN during the afternoon and 3Tp and 5Tp went to JABHEEK. The remainder of the relief was to be on the following morning. At 1840 hours, a German crossed the canal near the lock and, carefully avoiding the mines, was taken prisoner by 4Tp. He then stated that ROOSTEREN was going to be attacked by three Coy's of Infantry from the NE, either that night or the following. Tps were stood to and reserve Tps moved into positions from which they could quickly reinforce any Tp. There were several scares during the night but the attack never took place. At about 0300 hours another German was taken prisoner. He was actually an escaped PoW and had swum across the MAAS with two others who he stated had drowned. He arrived at Sgt Hornsby's position which was at the back of the village. His clothes were frozen stiff and he was in a bad way. His clothes were taken off and he was given a civilian suit which was found in the house. A very cold and tedious night gradually came to an end and the threatened attack never developed. D Sqn. At 0545 hours GEBROEK was attacked. A small party, presumably a feint, went on to the minefield to the North after the barrage of some 30 rounds from some 4 – 6 88's. soon afterwards mortaring and MG fire started coming in from the SE and Infantry, approx 30 strong, closed in on the village. Due to 12 degrees of frost, none of the cars would start and the K gun magazines froze up inside. Lt D'Arcy, K Bty 5th RHA OP, got all the DF tasks going and shot one German in the stomach before leaving his tank which was frozen in. Sgt Luke mustered his Tp and Cpl Cairns and Cpl Rivers Scout sections and the B1 Scout section and, when the Germans were right among them, withdrew to the broken bridge where 3Tp was. Sgt Bruerton shot one German and Tpr Heyward shot another. Sgt Luke and Tpr Hunter were slightly wounded but were not evacuated. Tpr Chalmers and Tpr Reeve were slightly wounded and evacuated. As soon as Sgt Luke was clear we let go with the 75's and all 5th RHA on GEBROEK itself, with 13 HAC and the two medium outfits on OUD ROOSTEREN, DIETEREN and SUSTEREN. At 1030 hours a Tp of 8th Hussars worked back to a deserted GEBROEK and 3Tp took over. Our cars which we had had to leave were ok except for 1 WSC which was burnt out. Practically everything was intact except the rations and 3 Germans (dead) including an SSM. Eight personal arms were also found and a percentage of clothing. The attack came from the SE where there was no wire or mines and just as the moon went down. We learnt for this sort of job, nothing can be moved and strong points must be formed with mines and wire and ditches and held against all comers. The whole thing must be changed to an Infantry role. However the enemy suffered fairly heavily for his project and gained little. C Sqn took over in the evening and we moved to OBBICHT.
27/12/44	C Sqn. Quiet morning. 1400 hours. GEBROEK was handed over to the 8th Hussars. Sqn was given a new sector of the line on the West bank of the JULIANA canal which was frozen sufficiently hard for walking across. An AC and a Scout sect manned pillbox at 653760 – 4Tp did this and 5Tp supported A Sqn in ROOSTEREN with a patrol at 653774 during night only. A Sqn. 27 – 28th. Went back to ROOSTEREN and took over from B Sqn. 3Tp and 5Tp went on the night of the 26th so as to take over the left and centre at first light. The rest of the Sqn moved up early next morning with Capt Petch, while the Sqn Ldr remained to hand over to B Sqn. At ROOSTEREN, the canal had frozen over so that the enemy could walk over when they wanted, so we put in another patrol at 658780, which meant we had 4 patrols out by day, and we put in another



	round ROOSTEREN itself at night. This made it a very tiring sector of the line and we were only left there for 2 nights and 3 days. The night before we arrived (26th), a deserter came across the canal and said that three companies of Infantry were going to attack ROOSTEREN that night or the next, so everyone was on their toes. But during our stay nothing happened and all was very quiet. We had some REs up who laid a lot of AP mines and we laid wire, so by the time we left, the whole place was mined and wired in. The only thing that happened was that a baby was born in ROOSTEREN. This kept up the average as it meant that one had been born each time we did our tour in the village. B Sqn. Just before first light the two A Sqn Tps took over and at about 0900 hours Capt Petch arrived with another Tp. SHQ and 1Tp and 4Tp and the B1 left for JABHEEK leaving 2Tp to follow. On arrival the Tps settled into billets and the Sqn Ldr reced the new area with Major Turnbull. We had no commitments unless there was a flap when certain roads had to be patrolled. The Sqn was now under command 131 Bde. D Sqn. 27 – 30th. In reserve at OBBICHT. Getting things straight again. Xmas Day was celebrated on the 28th and everyone had a good time. SHQ & B1 formed a band – Tpr Wright plays the piano very well. The ice was thick and quite a number went skating in the afternoon.
28/12/44	C Sqn. Nothing to report. B Sqn. Today was a holiday and we were celebrating Christmas. The SSM, officers and Sgts spent most of the day organising the dinner for the men in the evening. The dinner, and an impromptu concert afterwards, was a great success, chiefly due to the great efforts of SSM Emery. An inter-Tp competition, 6 men singing a song, was held and won by 4Tp. Individual turns were then given. Tpr Messenger got first prize, but all competitors, including Eddie the Maquis, got a prize of some sort though Capt Lovett inadvertently gave the SSM's cigarettes and matches to LCpl Clarke; it was afterwards discovered that there were only 2 cigarettes in the packet.
29/12/44	C Sqn. Nothing to report during the day. We relieved A Sqn in ROOSTEREN at 1700 hours. 1Tp went to 662784, 5Tp to 658777, 4Tp to Chateau 656774 and 2Tp, after being relieved at the pillbox by A Sqn, went to 658779. SHQ was in the centre of the village and 3Tp took up a night position on X roads 655781. Nothing to report during the night. A Sqn. Handed over to C Sqn and moved to ILLIKHOVEN. Had 2 patrols out – one at 653759, which was 24 hour, and one at 654774 which only stayed out for the night. B Sqn. Maintenance of cars and monthly inspections carried out. A dance was organised for the evening and although the band arrived late it was well attended and a great success. The SSM again excelled himself by his terrific enthusiasm and energy, both in the organisation and running of the dance.
30/12/44	C Sqn. At 1615 hours all Tps reported gun firing at GEBROEK, otherwise a quiet day. At first light 2Tp were relieved by the B1 Staghound who did the patrol throughout the day. At 1730 hours 2Tp relieved 1Tp, 3Tp relieved 4Tp and 4Tp relieved the Staghound which took up the night position occupied by 3Tp the previous night. A Sqn. Remained at ILLIKHOVEN with one patrol out all day and 2 at night. B Sqn. It had snowed a little during the night and more snow fell at intervals during the day. We had expected to move the next day but heard in the evening that we would not move till 1st Jan.
31/12/44	C Sqn. At first light Staghound relieved 4Tp.



At 0915 hours 5Tp reported 2 Germans walking along East side of canal bank from 663775 to 665777. 5th RHA engaged houses in OUD ROOSTEREN where movement had been seen by 5Tp. No other movements seen throughout the day. D Sqn relieved Sqn at 1700 hours and we moved to OBBICHT. B Sqn.
Another dance was organised to celebrate New Years Eve. This was even better attended, especially by the civilians. There was a certain amount of air activity during the night and some bombs fell in the area.
D Sqn.
Take over ROOSTEREN from C Sqn and all Tps out in position. Thicken up the wiring.

Appendix B

Roll of Personnel awarded decorations from 1 Jan 44 to 31 Dec 44.

Lt Colonel	W Wainman MC	DSO
Lt	OM Wentworth Stanley	MC
Lt	GH Newton	MC
Lt	DA Creaton	MC (since KIA)
Lt	PF Chapman	MC
Lt	JAM Cousins	MC (posthumous award)

L/Sgt	L Davies	MM
Tpr	R Pritchett	MM
Sgt	B McGuire	MM

All of the above were won for actions in the BLA Theatre of Operations.

Appendix C

List of Officers with the Regiment as at 31st Dec 1944

RHQ.

Lt Col	W Wainman DSO MC	CO
Major	JCAD Lawson DSO MC	2i/c
Major	HC Roberts	Sqn Ldr
Capt	GV Churton MBE MC	
Capt	JA Friend	
Capt	RR Lockett MC	Adj
Capt	E Chadwick MBE	QM
Lt	EK Brown	
Lt	JS Champion	SO
Lt	RAK MacAllan	IO
Lt	JRCG Wheeler	LO

Major AVC Robarts

Capt	JH Balmer (RAMC)	RMO
Lt	EDA Jones MBE (REME)	EME

C Sqn.

Major WV Burdon MC

Capt RE Wingfield Digby MC

A Sqn

Major J Turnbull MC

Capt H Petch MC DCM



Capt JR Ballingal MC	Lt JDA Woodhouse
Lt RN Brett Smith	Lt DAF Williamson
Lt J Gale	Lt KL Osborne
Lt VV Esch	Lt GH Hodgkinson
2Lt CJ Markham	Lt PA Newnham
2Lt EA Pearson	2Lt Armd Div MacLean
	2Lt JB Morton
B Sqn	D Sqn
Major RMHM Grant Thorold MC	Major JAN Crankshaw MC
Capt GJ Lovett	Capt TO'B. Horsford MC
Lt JD Burridge	Lt RE Alton
Lt RA Flood	Lt NCD Campbell
Lt ATR Nicholson	Lt RH Moore
Lt RCT Svewright	Lt SGurteen
Lt IG Troup	Lt M Hickman
Lt EAI Young	Lt GH Newton MC
2Lt CB Gibson	Lt AS Hunter
	Lt GL Nation Tellery

Appendix D

Summary of Personnel Killed in Action, Wounded, Missing and Escaped PoW

KIA	37, Of these, 11 died of wounds received.
Wounded	90
Missing	6, Of these, 2 are known to be wounded.
Escaped PoW	5
Known PoW	4
Missing, believed PoW	2

January 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Jan 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/1/45	RHQ. 1-5th The Regt was still based at PAPENHOVEN with a Sqn at ROOSTEREN, a second at ILLIKHOVEN and a third concentrated under command 131 Bde at JABEEK, available in the event of an enemy breakthrough between 131 Bde and 52nd (L) Div. The reserve Sqn was concentrated at OBBICHT. The weather remained cold and some very severe night frosts were experienced. Skating became our main form of exercise, now that shooting was no longer worthwhile, apart from a few fairly successful early morning flights on the river MAAS. Runstedt's great counter attack in the ARDENNES was being steadily pushed back and there now seemed to be a better chance of an enemy attack being carried out on our front. The civilians who came through the lines, reported that any German tanks that had moved onto our sector had now gone South, presumably to reinforce the depleted Panzers in the South. Extensive mining and wiring was being carried out, and with the freezing of the canal, extra stop-gap patrols were put out at night. On the night of the 3rd, a small German patrol crossed the canal and



	kidnapped one of the ROOSTEREN Resistance personnel in the area of 653774. On the following night A Sqn patrols in the ROOSTEREN area were subjected to very accurate mortar fire. C Sqn. The Sqn moved through SITTARD and into GERMANY by WEHR, and out again soon afterwards to JABEEK in reserve under command 131 Bde. No role unless a breakthrough by the enemy developed, except right flank liaison, Lt Pearson. B Sqn. The Sqn moved to OBBICHT and C Sqn took over at JABEEK. We had no commitment at OBBICHT. There was a lot of enemy air activity, single engined fighters. D Sqn. 1 – 8th In reserve at OBBICHT. Moved to JABEEK on the 4th and remained there until the 8th. While there we had a very good lecture by Major Nangle DSO (2/c 1/5th Queens) on Infantry tactics and life. We also had a very good dance with the local band aided by Tpr Wright on the piano and Sgm Buttery with his trumpet. It snowed again on the 8th and the move back to OBBICHT was a bit skiddy.
2/1/45	C Sqn. 2- 3rd. Same area. B Sqn. We took over from D Sqn at ROOSTEREN during the afternoon. 3Tp went to the chateau, 4Tp to the centre, 1Tp to the new position at 658779 (left centre) and 5Tp to the left. 2Tp occupied a position at 657782 by night. There were no incidents during the night which was one of the quietest we had spent up here. A sudden thaw set in during the night.
3/1/45	A Sqn. At about 2300 hours 5Tp on patrol at 653774 saw a Maquis pass him on foot along the road from ROOSTEREN to ILLIKHOVEN. Just after he had passed shots and a scream were heard. 5Tp went down immediately to investigate but could find nothing nor any sign of the Maquis. 4Tp was sent out to investigate some houses in that area but all he could discover was that one of the houses was expecting their brother to come and see them from ROOSTEREN. Nothing more was found out that night but next morning the Maquis had been found and a pool of blood but no sign of him. It was later discovered that a German patrol had come across the canal and wounded the Maquis and taken him prisoner. B Sqn. Tps remained in their positions by day, although 2Tp had no responsibility. The Colonel went round the patrol positions and suggested several improvements to the wire and mine defences. More wire and mines arrived during the day and plans were made for working parties during the night. Lt Gibson took out 2 wiring parties during the night and the RE improved the minefield. At about 2145 hours a member of the ROOSTEREN Maquis left to visit his brother who lived about a mile out of the village. He went past the A Sqn Tp at 653774 and afterwards a burst from a Schmeisser or something of the sort was heard, followed by a shout. A Sqn looked for the man but could not find him, so he must have been caught by a German patrol which had been lying up on the road. His cap was found the next day.
4/1/45	C Sqn. Returned to OBBICHT. A Sqn. Moved up to ROOSTEREN in the evening and had all five Tps out in the usual positions around the village. Nothing to report. B Sqn. 1Tp was relieved by a Staghound from SHQ. The Colonel again went round the patrol positions. Some more wiring and mining was done during the afternoon. At about 1700 hours A Sqn took over ROOSTEREN and we went to ILLIKHOVEN. 2Tp took over a position on the canal bank at 653759 and 1Tp was at 653774 for the night only. At about 0130 hours on the night 4/5th A Sqn patrols in ROOSTEREN were heavily shelled and mortared for about half an hour. 1Tp came in for some of this, shells falling near his position. The Sqn stood-to as it was thought an attack on ROOSTEREN might be imminent. However nothing happened and the Sqn stood-down. The weather had cleared at about midnight and it started to freeze hard.



5/1/45	A Sqn. At 0110 hours 1Tp reported 2 mines had gone off in front of him. About 10 minutes later the Germans began stonking 1Tp and 3Tp with two 75mm SP's and a few mortars. The remaining Tps seemed to get some of the overs and a few fell in the village itself. The stonk lasted for about 20 minutes and during which Sgt Short's car got a direct hit from a 75mm which wounded Tpr Smith '91 who was in the car, fortunately not badly. While the stonking was going on 1Tp engaged with small arms what they suspected to be Infantry trying to get through our minefield but never confirmed there were any there. The gunner OP shelled OUD ROOSTEREN with mediums and also put down a DF in front of 1Tp. The whole thing lasted about ½ an hour and the rest of the night was quiet, but it successfully prevented anyone getting any sleep. There was nothing of interest reported during the rest of the day. In the evening all Tps were out thickening up the wire in their areas which had been laid by B Sqn. B Sqn. 1Tp returned to ILLIKHOVEN at 0800 hours. At 1600 hours 5Tp relieved 2Tp and at 1715 hours 3Tp went out to the left position. The night was quiet.
6/1/45	RHQ. On the night of the 6th, a small party of Germans, about 8 in number, crossed the canal and DF tasks were put down on the West bank in the hope of catching them as they made their way back. No contact was made with this patrol and no further movement reported during the night. C Sqn. Sqn moved to ROOSTEREN to relieve A Sqn. 1Tp went to the OVEREIND position, 5Tp to the centre and 3Tp to the chateau. 3Tp sent a listening post to the canal bank, near the lock gate, this was commanded by Lt Markham. This listening post returned at about 2200 hours on seeing a small party of Germans crossing the canal. This party was not seen again by us, but Maquis between ROOSTEREN and ILLIKHOVEN opened fire on what may have been the same party, and they disappeared. Further light was thrown on this party two days later, when a civilian in ILLIKHOVEN said that a party of Germans came to his house at about midnight. Otherwise an uneventful night except that at about 2130 hours many trip-flares went up in the area – these were believed to have been caused by heavy snow or cats. A Sqn. Nothing reported all day. C Sqn came up and relieved us in the evening and we moved to OBBICHT. B Sqn. 3Tp returned soon after first light. 5Tp Scout sect took over from the Tp on the canal bank for the day. At 1715 hours 4Tp went to the night patrol position at 653774 and 1Tp took over from 5Tp on the canal. At about 2145 hours the Maquis post at 650765 opened fire and 4Tp sent a Dingo down to find out what had happened. The Maquis had seen 8 men approaching them from the canal and had fired, whereupon the German patrol retired back towards the canal. C Sqn in the meantime had reported that their listening post had seen more Germans cross the canal. Later on a few stonks were put down on the canal bank in the hope of catching the Germans on the way home. There was no further incidents during the night.
7/1/45	RHQ. 7 – 10th. The Regt Gun Tp which had proved even more valuable in the last month, and at times had fired up to 100 rounds a day, was broken up as all the 75's had been condemned as being worn out. In order to fill the gap until such time as the 95mm howitzers should come, two 3" mortars were allotted to the Regt and training was started under instruction from the RB's. C Sqn. Nothing to report all day and no movement seen. A listening post (Cpl Bond) went out to the canal bank again. They heard sounds of talking and coughing from the pill-box on the other side of the canal, and then there were small explosions in OUD ROOSTEREN, believed to be mines or rifle grenades. A Sqn. Remained at OBBICHT doing maintenance. B Sqn. In view of the German patrol during the night, the position of our northern patrol was altered slightly, to 655772. Mines were laid round it and flares between it and the canal. 2Tp took up this position at last light and 3Tp went to the canal bank. The 75mm of the Sqn were out of action as the barrels were worn.



	out, and some new ones had to be fitted. It started to snow during the evening and the night was very cold. A spandau fired from the canal bank in the direction of 2Tp, otherwise there were no incidents during the night.
8/1/45	C Sqn. At 1250 hours, 3 Germans wheeling bikes were reported at 676777 towards DIETEREN. Sqn laid mines in the area of the chateau. Nothing else to report. Sgt Berry became acting SSM while SSM Trumper went on leave to the UK. 4Tp being commanded by Lt Pearson. A Sqn. Moved down to JABEEK and remained there ready to take up position in case of a flap. D Sqn lent us Lt Gurteen to act as LO. B Sqn. It snowed quite hard during the day. The Sqn relieved C Sqn at ROOSTEREN during the afternoon. The take over was completed during daylight as visibility was reduced owing to the heavy snow which was falling. At about 2000 hours 2 grenades were fired at 5Tp. We replied by shelling OUD ROOSTEREN. At about 0100 hours, 6 more were fired falling about 100 yards East of 5Tp. They appeared to have been fired from the canal bank in the area of the bridge.
9/1/45	C Sqn. Nothing to report all day. A Sqn. 9 – 10th. Stayed in JABEEK. B Sqn. All Tps remained in their positions. A German with a spade was seen to emerge from the tunnel at 671789 and start to dig. He was engaged by our guns. A 2" mortar bomb was fired into the middle of the village and in reply we got the artillery to shell OUD ROOSTEREN. Snow fell intermittently during the day. 1Tp sent out a listening post to the canal bank. Except for odd flares and MG fire, mostly provided by our friends on the left, there was nothing to report. D Sqn. Still at OBBICHT.
10/1/45	C Sqn. Nothing to report during the day. Major WV Burdon MC and SSM Trumper went on leave to the UK and Capt Ballingal MC returned from the Regt School in BRUSSELS, where he had been instructing for a fortnight, to take over 2i/c of the Sqn. B Sqn. L/Sgt Edwards and 2 men went up to the chateau to man the OP for 1Tp who with the listening post out at night had had a hard time. D Sqn took over during the evening and we moved to OBBICHT. There was thick fog and it was freezing hard so the drive was anything but pleasant. It was decided that the 75mm guns were worn out and it was not possible to replace them. Four Cromwell tanks armed with 95mm guns were to be issued to the Regt as a temporary measure. One of these had to be manned by the Sqn. D Sqn. 10 – 12th. Took over from C Sqn at ROOSTEREN. Very cold and freezing, some 20° at night. nothing happened while we were there and we moved to ILLIKHOVEN on the evening of the 12th.
11/1/45	RHQ. A Sqn were recalled from JABEEK and we were relieved of that commitment. C Sqn. Nothing to report all day. At 2020 hours a D Sqn listening post heard movement on his right – but nothing was heard or seen by either of our patrols. A Sqn. Moved to PAPENHOVEN. B Sqn. We learned during the morning that we would not be moving to JABEEK on the following day but to PAPENHOVEN, where RHQ was, instead. The leave ballot for the remained of people eligible for leave took place in the morning.



12/1/45	C Sqn. At 1100 hours, 5 shells landed in the area of the pill-box, gun on a bearing of 20° from our right. At 1530 hours SHQ, 5Tp, 1Tp and the B1 moved up to ROOSTEREN to relieve D Sqn. At 1750 hours a heavy stonk was put down on OUD ROOSTEREN by our gunners. Many medium and the majority of the 3.7" airbursts landed in the area of 3 & 4Tp, causing considerable inconvenience, but fortunately no casualties. At 1830 hours, the listening post from 4Tp was in position after several abortive attempts to reach it owing to our own inaccurate shelling. This post was manned by one Scout sect (Cpl Golding) which had its HQ in a house at 658769, and 2 men forward on the canal bank. 1Tp reported movement heard in OUD ROOSTEREN, probably going towards DIETEREN and perhaps as a result of the stonk. A Sqn. 12 – 13th. Remained in PAPENHOVEN. B Sqn. Moved to PAPENHOVEN at 1000 hours.
13/1/45	RHQ. The Queens attacked and took BAKENHOVEN at 0500 hours with little opposition. During the night the enemy launched a small counter attack from OUD ROOSTEREN towards BAKENHOVEN, but were beaten off by our Infantry with casualties. C Sqn. At 0500 hours, 1/5th Queens attacked BAKENHOVEN which they took without much difficulty, the small garrison having baled out as soon as the attack started. But the preliminary bombardment again fell in amongst 3 & 4Tp, particularly 4 Dog who had shells all around them. Cpl Golding remained in his isolated position for some time and then asked for permission to return which was granted. At 0700 hours thick smoke drifted over ROOSTEREN and at the same time, considerable movement was heard in OUD ROOSTEREN, including HDT and vehicles. 4Tp reported 1 mortar firing from 105°. At 1730 hours we were ordered to send a listening post to the lock gates in order to find out if OUD ROOSTEREN had been evacuated, but before it could start the question was answered by spandau and mortars firing on BAKENHOVEN, and the Germans launched a counter-attack against BAKENHOVEN. They succeeded in occupying one house but were evicted in the morning, leaving 25 dead. During this attack, 3 & 4Tp were severely punished by medium DF tasks, which had still not been corrected. No casualties. The listening post (Cpl Bean) was in position at 2130 hours. At 2200 hours all Tps reported sounds of digging in the canal area. Several guns on bearings due East, fired throughout the night, intermittently into BAKENHOVEN. B Sqn. 13 – 21st. Remained at PAPENHOVEN carrying out maintenance and training. On Jan 18th Major Grant Thorold left the Sqn to take the duties of 2i/c of the Regt, in place of Major Lawson DSO MC, who was leaving to take command of the Inns of Court Regt. Major H Petch MC DCM took over command of the Sqn. D Sqn. The night was noisy due to our capture of BAKENHOVEN, followed by a counter-attack which proved a failure. The post on the canal bank was in a good place to see the whole battle.
14/1/45	RHQ. 14 – 15th. The final briefing for operation BLACKCOCK took place. This operation was aimed to clear the enemy up to the rivers ROER and WURM on the 12th Corps front. 12th Corps to consist of:- 7th Armd Div with 8th Armd Bde under command, 52 Div with one Regt of 8th Armd Bde under command, 43rd Div, 6th Guards Tank Bde, 3rd and 9th AGRA, One Sqn of Lothian and Border Yeomanry (Rail tanks) and a detachment of Crocodile flame throwers. Following the capture of BAKENHOVEN by the queens, 131 Bde were to capture DIETEREN and then swing South and capture SUSTEREN. 1st RB were to secure the crossing over the SLUISHEEK and VLOEDBEEK on the main SITARD - SUSTEREN road. One Bn of 131 Bde, with a Sqn of 1st RTR, were then to advance North and capture ECHT and 131 Bde were then to secure a further base ECHT - SCHILBERG. On completion of this phase, 8th Armd Bde were to advance up the main SUSTEREN - SCHILBERG road and then swing SE and advance on



	WALDEFUCHT in 3 columns. Once 8th Armd Bde were clear of SCHILBERG, 11th Hussars was to tap out North and NE towards MONTFORT and recce the approaches for the 8th Hussars. On the capture of MONTFORT, 11th Hussars was to recce to the line of the main STODILIENBERG – POSTERHOLT road. A special task was also allocated – the blowing of the STODILIENBERG bridge. On completion of this operation it would mean that the enemy would be driven back to the SIEGFRIED line itself. C Sqn. At 1328 hours 3Tp reported 2 Germans walking towards the canal with what appeared to be ammunition boxes. Ten minutes later they returned without the boxes. At 1400 hours 1 German walked South along track 667778 and disappeared behind a house at the northern edge of OUD ROOSTEREN. Movement continued along the same track until last light, up to 8 Germans being seen at the same time. By 1830 hours A Sqn had taken over all patrols and the Sqn moved to PAPENHOVEN. A Sqn. Moved to ROOSTEREN and took over from C Sqn and had the usual patrols out. Nothing to report. D Sqn. Major JAN Crankshaw MC, the Sqn Ldr, left the Regt for leave in the UK. The Sqn was therefore commanded by Capt TO'B Horsford with Lt RH Moore acting as his 2i/c.
15/1/45	C Sqn. 15 – 16th Still at PAPENHOVEN. A Sqn. Sqn Ldr's birthday. Nothing happened during the day. D Sqn. This was a day of preparation for operation BLACKCOCK which was due to begin at 2100 hours, but was postponed due to fog, until the next day at 0730 hours.
16/1/45	RHQ. 131 Bde captured DIETEREN and the cement works at 677761. A Sqn sent a patrol across the canal to the embankment South of OUD ROOSTEREN, when they were fired on and in going to ground, surprised a German section who panicked off into the mist and abandoned their spandaus. The patrol stayed across the canal for the night. A Sqn. At about 0100 hours the listening patrol was brought back as our guns were going to shell OUD ROOSTEREN. When the stonk was finished the patrol went out again but as they were approaching the canal bank they were fired on by about 8 Germans from the other side of the canal. We immediately called for a stonk on that area and when it was finished Cpl McKissock, the patrol Ldr, got up to his position without any further trouble and called up the rest of his section. They remained in position until first light and had nothing further to report. At 0700 hours the 7th Armd Div attack started with the 131st Bde taking DIETEREN after a preliminary barrage. At 1100 hours we were ordered to find out if OUD ROOSTEREN was held or not. 2Tp under Lt Morton was given the task. He took one of his cars right up to the edge of the canal bank overlooking OUD ROOSTEREN to try and draw fire. The visibility was so bad that he could see nothing and neither could he be seen. He sent his Scout sect under Cpl Higginson to cross the canal and work up from the South. The section crossed the ice about 200 yards South of the blown bridge and from there began to work up to the North until they hit the road running East from the bridge. The going was very slow owing to the fog. While they were working forward, LCpl Oddie with his section from 3Tp was sent to sit on the East side of the canal to cover his withdrawal. After reaching the bridge Cpl Higginson started to move down the road but after he had gone about 100 yards he ran into 5 Germans in what appeared to be a spandau post. These chaps immediately got up and ran leaving their spandau behind and one was very nearly caught by Cpl Higginson. Both parties were so surprised at seeing each other that neither side fired. The enemy then began mortaring that area so the sect withdrew, and having found out that OUD ROOSTEREN was held, they dropped South and took up a position covering any movement South from there by the enemy on the East bank of the canal. Both sections remained out for the rest of the day and had nothing further to report. During the afternoon we were told to have a listening post on both sides of the canal. To do this 3Tp and 5Tp White Scout sects under LCpl Oddie and LCpl Dineen were used, both under command Lt



	Osborne. At 1800 hours Cpl Higginson and LCpl Oddie were brought in and Lt Morton returned to his night position. Lt Osborne took out his listening posts, but for the first hour only had LCpl Dineen as his other one which had been out all day had to come in and have a meal before going out again. About this time D Sqn had sent up two Tps under Lt Newton and Lt Hunter to help us out and this enabled 3Tp to come in for a well earned rest. Lt Osborne had a little difficulty in establishing his 2 posts, first of all he fell through the ice when crossing, luckily he was the only one. Also they could not find a slit trench on the East bank of the canal. In the end they went about 100 yards South and established a post there. During the night the only thing that happened was that the Germans sent a patrol which passed within about 500 yards of one of our listening posts on the East bank. This patrol was driven off by our friends with a lot of firing but our post did not engage. A few shells fell during the night in the ROOSTEREN area but they only appeared to be over-throws. D Sqn. The object was to clear the Germans from the area East of the MAAS up to the rivers ROER and WURM. 131 Bde took DIETEREN and the Concrete works and then stabilised. A Sqn patrol crossed the canal from ROOSTEREN to OUD ROOSTEREN and captured spandau – crew fled. 2Tp and 4Tp helped out in the 'Fortress'. Good news from the Russian Front.
17/1/45	RHQ. SUSTEREN was captured by 131 Bde, and a Coy of the KOSB (on loan from 52 (L) Div) entered OUD ROOSTEREN and took 20 PoW including a Capt who said he had never attacked ROOSTEREN as he thought it was held by a whole Regt of ACs with tanks and Infantry in support. C Sqn. An operation to clear the enemy up to the river ROER started at 0800 hours. Troop taking part – 12 Corps with under command 7th Armd Div, 52 (L) Div and 43 Div. 131 Bde captured DIETEREN and 1st RTR pushed on towards ECHT. A Sqn. At first light 2Tp sent Sgt Gibson in his DAC up to the lock and try and draw fire as visibility was much better than the previous day. At about 1000 hours Sgt Gibson saw about 14 men walking about in OUD ROOSTEREN and engaged them with small arms fire and wounded one. After this they started mortaring and sniping him so he withdrew to his Tp position, having found out what was wanted, which was that OUD ROOSTEREN was still occupied. At about 1700 hours a Coy of the KOSB attacked OUD ROOSTEREN and occupied it without firing a shot, capturing a Bn commander and 50 PoW. Lt Williamson went up to the bridge and contacted them by shouting. This meant that the only threat to ROOSTEREN was now from the North. It turned out that the reason the Bn CO and his staff were captured was because Cpl McKissock, unknown to us, had had their HQ under observation all day and they could not get out. D Sqn. 131 Bde and the RB's clear SUSTEREN and KOSB enter OUD ROOSTEREN at 1700 hours. OPHOVEN and part of ECHT were occupied. 1/5th Queen's on the right met stiff opposition in area 6977. Thaw makes going 'unsound'. WARSAW falls to the Russians.
18/1/45	RHQ. 131 Bde captured ECHT and reached the outskirts of SCHILBERG against very determined resistance. In the South, 52 and 43 Divs attacked towards the line HONGEN to BREBEREN. C Sqn. 131 Bde with KOSB captured SUSTEREN but were held up at the bridge 695775 and SCHILBERG. The 8th Armd Bde came up to HEIDE and pushed East with some success. A Sqn. During the night the KOSB had been relieved by a Sqn of the Skins who we contacted at first light. After this we only had 2 patrols out during the day. During the morning, Cpl Higginson with his sect, went out and recced a position for another patrol to go out at night. The two Tps sent to us by D Sqn were sent back. D Sqn. ECHT cleared by 131 Bde, supported by 1st RTR, also part of SCHILBERG, but stiff opposition in the area 700783 held up progression on the right. 52 & 43 Divs attack begins on the right, directed on the line HONGEN – BREBEREN.
19/1/45	RHQ.



	In the morning, SCHILBERG was reported clear by 9th DI and 8th Armd Bde moved up to advance on WALDEFUCHT. At approx 1100 hours, C Sqn moved out and sent a patrol through SCHILBERG and started to work up the main road to MAASBRACHT. He passed through a patrol of the 1st RTR at 706800 and his leading DSC was knocked out by an A/Tk gun at 711813. Fortunately the crew were unhurt and managed to get back to a patrol of the 1st RTR. Sgt Davies MM was slightly wounded in the neck by a sniper but was back with his Sqn the following day. A second patrol worked up to HINGEN but could not get on owing to Infantry with bazookas in a house at 714806. A third patrol was held up by enemy Infantry at 712800 but managed to move on slowly to 718798, when a fourth patrol came out and worked along the track running parallel and South of him. A small party with bazookas was encountered at 730795 and also a road block. The track to the South was reported impassable from 720796 onwards. All C Sqn patrols were recalled at last light. During the day, 8th Armd Bde captured WALDEFUCHT. RHQ Tac moved to OPHOVEN. C Sqn. 9th DI captured SCHILBERG with one Coy in HINGEN. The Sqn was then given the task of finding a route to MONTFORT. At 1115 hours, SHQ, 3, 2 & 5Tp went up to the SCHILBERG area. 2Tp went straight through SCHILBERG and started up the main road to MAASBRACHT and LINNE where he was to contact a patrol of the 1st RTR at 712815. Unknown to us however, the patrol had dropped back to the area 706800, owing to the presence of an A/Tk gun at 715813. 2Tp Lt Gale motored past this patrol who made no attempt to stop them, and continued on to the map ref previously given. At 1300 hours his leading Dingo was knocked out by the A/Tk gun at 711813. The shot went straight through the engine, the crew, LCpl Dalloway and Tpr Chapple, were able to bale out into the ditch where they were heavily mortared by enemy mortars. Later they managed to reach a Tp of 1st RTR at 705811 and were returned to SHQ in the evening, none the worse for their narrow escape. At the same time as the dingo was hit, Sgt Davies MM, who was behind the Tp Ldr, was sniped from a house at 712812 and was wounded in the neck. It was probably an explosive bullet, which burst on the side of his car and a piece of shrapnel struck him. He was evacuated but insisted on returning to his Tp the following day. 3Tp went to HINGEN where 1st RTR reported that any progress North was prevented by enemy Infantry with bazookas in the houses at 714806. Meanwhile 5Tp was working down the track East at 712800 but making slow progress owing to sniping from his North. 2Tp Ldr went to ECHT where he reported 695828 held by the enemy and friends told him that nothing more would be happening in that area that day. He then returned to SHQ. At 1635 hours 3Tp had reached 720796 where the track became too bad to go on. This proved a blessing in disguise, for at 1710 hours he reported 2 Germans walking about at 728792 and an A/Tk gun at 729788 very well concealed. 4Tp reported sniping in area HINGEN otherwise nothing to report. All Tps returned to SHQ at last light. 3 & 5Tp had done particularly well to make contact down 2 very difficult tracks without incurring any casualties, in particular 3Tp Lt Markham for whom it was a first experience of mobile warfare. A Sqn. 19 – 24th. Remained at ROOSTEREN and after the 20th, we had no patrols out. D Sqn. SCHILBERG reported clear. C Sqn operates with three Tps out to the North and NE. slow progress, with additional hindrance from driving snow storms. 8th Armd Bde reach WALDEFUCHT along the BLACK route. DIETEREN and SUSTEREN are satisfactory evidence of the effectiveness of continuous harassing fire by our artillery during the previous weeks of inactivity. Hardly a habitable dwelling place to be seen, and the German morale must have undoubtedly been reduced to the lowest level by the unenviable living conditions thus forced upon them. The industry in their forward works (elaborate dug-outs, well fitted and sited weapon pits, assisted by the limited natural defences available, and wiring) seems to have hardly justified their efforts since they were taken with comparative ease.
20/1/45	RHQ. In the morning STJOOST was still reported as strongly held by the enemy. These consisted of Para Regt HUBNER – a crack German parachute formation who had been rushed down from the ROERMOND area. An attack was put in in the afternoon by the 8th Hussars and 1st RB but was held up South of the town where very fierce fighting took place. C Sqn patrols remained in readiness for an opening but it soon became apparent that there would be very little progress made that day as the enemy showed no signs of withdrawing despite heavy casualties. RHQ moved to ECHT which was heavily shelled during the night by a gun of very large calibre, believed to be a 12".



	C Sqn. By the morning STJOOST had still not been captured and civilians reported at least 300 Germans defending it. It later transpired that Regt HUBNER had been moved down from the ROERMOND area to defend it. 22nd Armd Bde was given the task of attacking it in the afternoon with 8th Hussars and 1st RB's. At 1350 hours 4Tp went to 706800 and 1Tp Ldr in a dingo went to liaise with 1st RB's in HINGEN. The attack started at 1430 hours but was soon halted by fierce opposition in the South of STJOOST. At last light 5Tp moved up to the area of the dingo knocked out on the previous day. They were unable to turn it around, and while trying to do so were heavily stonked. Finally it was towed backwards all the way down the main road with the Tp Ldr, Lt Pearson, sitting on the top and steering it. This was done under shellfire and sniping from STJOOST and was a very fine performance on the part of the Tp Ldr, who was commanding a Tp for the first time. D Sqn. Slow progress. 8th Hussars and RB's push North towards STJOOST from HINGEN and are directed on MONTFORT, with our C Sqn remaining behind them, ready to recce North towards MAASBRACHT which an independent Tp of B Sqn can observe from a point reached up the canal 696832. A PoW taken from HUBNER para Regt indicate reinforcements of troops in the area have come South from across the inter-army boundary which runs through LINNE.
21/1/45	RHQ. During the night 9th DLI moved up to and attacked STJOOST but by first light the enemy still held the town. HUBNER had given orders that no man must withdraw without orders, and as such orders never came through the paras were giving an amazing display of guts. C Sqn sent two patrols up into positions of observation at 708816 and 704812 and reported odd enemy moving about in STJOOST and were both shelled very severely by the enemy. The enemy SP guns were being very well handled and although their gunners were heavily outnumbered, they scored considerable success by good sighting and fire control. C Sqn withdrew their patrols at last light. At 1600 hours D Sqn moved up and took over BERKELAAR from the Commandos who had come across the MAAS after the capture of STEVENSWEERD. At about 2000 hours, orders were received from Div for the reserve Sqn to move out at first light on the 22nd and to operate in the gap between the right hand of 7th Armd Div at PEIJ and the left hand of 52 (L) Div at 730762. This entailed moving up on a 3 mile front with no information about the enemy and very little about the going, except that it was very boggy. This left only A Sqn West of the MAAS. They continued to sit at ROOSTEREN while 4th Armd Bde mopped up the island to their North between the MAAS and the canal. C Sqn. An attack was put in on STJOOST by the 9th DLI during the night, but in the morning the enemy was still in possession, and 9th DLI who have fought consistently in every campaign since Alamein reported some of the stiffest opposition they have ever encountered. At first light 5Tp went to 704812 where there were also two Tps of the 8th Hussars. There was heavy shelling and mortaring in the area but by 1200 hours 5Tp had managed to get to a house at 708815 where he had a good view NW and reported men at 712823. At 1245 hours 4Tp went out to 5Tp's old position at 704812 and throughout the day reported on odd enemy men in STJOOST. At 1400 hours the area of White patrols was heavily stonked by enemy guns, some falling extremely close to 4Tp Ldr, who however, refused to be shifted from his position. At 1700 hours the enemy made a final attempt to shift 4Tp Ldr with shelling, all of which landed within a few feet of his car. 4Tp Ldr remained adamant and the German gunners realised they had met their match and did not trouble him any more. Both Tps returned at last light. D Sqn. At 1600 hours the Sqn was ordered to take over BERKELAAR from the Commandos who had captured it the previous night. All round defence was necessary since vicious fighting was still in progress at last light in STJOOST and at 1900 hours, 2 Germans were seen to leave the village itself. Lt Moore went to the UK on leave and Lt Newton took over 2i/c of the Sqn.
22/1/45	RHQ. At first light D Sqn patrols began to work on foot North along the canal bank and from the lock at 701841 reported no movement seen in MAASBRACHT. A Tp under Lt Alton conforming to this patrol reached the southern edge of the town without incident and thence started making his way into the West of the town. Another Tp reached the windmill 710844 and came into very close contact with enemy in a slit trench – one bazooka man at least was killed. This Tp then withdrew slightly but although



in a very open position was noticed by no more reaction than a few shells.

Meanwhile on their right, C Sqn had a Tp at 704812. The enemy had evacuated STJOOST at last and one Tp moved onto 712916 where a PoW from HUBNER was taken, and reached 713821 where there were mines. Another Tp worked North through STJOOST and both Tps saw movement at 716830, the enemy had obviously not withdrawn far.

By 1115 hours, one Tp was at 718844 where a very close range engagement followed in which grenades were used and 2 Germans were killed. The other Tp were halted by HE at 728838 and by AP from 734849. Both Tps withdrew to observation at 720834 and were relieved by a D Sqn Tp at 1300 hours, after a good morning's battle.

In the afternoon, Lt Alton worked his way to MAASBRACHT Church with Scout sections and had a set-to with about 20 Germans round the houses. Four were definitely killed and several wounded. At last light they withdrew to D Sqn SHQ without loss.

Our total bag was at least 9 killed, several wounded and 5 PoW in a day of almost hand-to-hand fighting, unusual for our Regt. This bag included 1 killed & 1 wounded by B Sqn who operated in the gap between 7th Armd Div and 52 Div on our right round KLOOSTER LILBOSCH. Progress was made by one Tp as far as 758784 where there were mines, round to 766799 where the point car was lost on a mine, and 88mm fire from POSTERHOLT so he was forced to withdraw. Another Tp by devious ways reached 754815 where MG and shell fire compelled him to pull back and while so doing enemy in woods at 751806 were engaged and casualties inflicted. Two Allied airmen were picked up, one of them 9 months after being shot down behind enemy lines.

C Sqn.

At first light 1Tp was in position at 704812. It was soon apparent that the remnants of the enemy had at last evacuated STJOOST and 22nd Armd Bde pushed on without delay towards MONTFORT, and the Sqn was able to carry on with the task it had been trying to do for the last 3 days.

1Tp by 0900 hours had reached 712815 and 3Tp was working up through STJOOST. At 712816 1Tp took a PoW from Regt HUBNER and by 0930 hours had reached 713821 where he picked up several mines on the level crossing. At this time 1Tp and 3Tp saw movement of men in the area 716830 and it was obvious that the enemy had not pulled back far, civilian reports substantiated this. Both Tps had a good duff, and the men disappeared.

2Tp was then sent out to work up the track running NW from 712818. At 1030 hours 1Tp had reached 714826 and 3Tp joined the main road at 719833, turned right and worked NE up the main road. 1Tp continued up the main road and then turned up the track leading North to BRACHTERBEEK. At 1115 hours 3Tp had reached 728838 where he was halted by HE fire. 1Tp reached 718844 where some Germans in a slit trench were very close to his **Dingo**. They threw grenades, one of which landed in his **Dingo** but was thrown out by the commander Cpl Bown. The crew then dismounted from the **Dingo** and while doing so Cpl Bown was wounded in the leg and arm by spandau fire from the slit trench, they took cover behind the **Dingo** and the Tp Ldr Lt Brett Smith came up to the spot in his **Daimler**. He managed to get Cpl Bown on to the back of the **Daimler** and engaged the Germans with 2pdr and Besa fire. Two Germans were definitely killed, one by having his head removed by a 2pdr shot, and the spandau was knocked out. The remaining Germans went to ground and the Tp Ldr, having done all he could, withdrew.

Within a few minutes, CC Bty 5th RHA had kindly volunteered to support us throughout the day, brought down a heavy and extremely accurate stonk on the area, which was observed by 3Tp, who were in a good position to see all that was going on. This was repeated during the next hour, whenever curiosity or the love of English cigarettes induced the Germans to come out and examine the **Dingo**.

At 1141 hours 3Tp was fired upon by AP from 734849 and withdrew to a position of observation at 720834. 1Tp was withdrawn and 3Tp remained in observation. Further advance was out of the question, and D Sqn on our left had contacted the enemy in MAASBRACHT.

At 1300 hours D Sqn took over our patrols and the whole Sqn returned to SCHILBERG, 1 & 3Tps having done extremely well.

B Sqn.

The Sqn moved out to operate in the gap between the 7th Armd Div and 52 (L) Div and to advance in a NE direction. The front necessitated a three Tp front and 2, 3 and 4Tps went out at 0700 hours.

2Tp was in the centre and advanced to KLOOSTER LIBOSCH after making detours due to blown bridges and bad tracks. At KLOOSTER LIBOSCH he met up with a road block and was forced to detour. He then carried on to the X tracks at 758784 and was unable to proceed farther NE owing to mines. He made a large detour and advanced to X tracks at 766799 where his leading car was blown up on a mine.

Whilst in this position he was fired on by two 88mm guns from the area of POSTERHOLT and was forced to withdraw under cover where a posn of observation was taken until last light.

3Tp advanced to 754815 by devious ways owing to bad going and blown bridges. At this position he



	was shelled and MG'd and was forced to drop back. He engaged a number of Germans in the woods at 751806 and killed one German who was armed with a bazooka, and wounded another. He also picked up 2 airmen from a farm at 756806. They had been living with the farmer for a number of months. 4Tp was on the right and contacted friends of the 52 Div at 730762 where he remained for the day. On his way to this position his leading car was blown up on a mine. All Tps were called in at last light to SHQ which was set up at PEJ. D Sqn. At first light, Cpl Rivers began to work up the canal bank with his Scout sect and soon reported that he had reached the area of the lock but could detect no movement in MAASBRACHT or in the houses to the South. 1Tp Lt Alton confirmed the progress made by his Scout sect and using the track running parallel to the canal bank, reached the southern edge of the town without incident. 2Tp Lt Hunter was sent to the X roads 706840 to watch the rear and East flank of 1Tp who had now started to work his way up the road running North along the edge of the town. 2Tp nosed their way to the windmill at 710844. Cpl Chapman showed his dexterity in handling his Vickers K guns when he accounted for a German in the act of firing a bazooka at Lt Hunter's car at 10 yards range. One barn which the enemy were seen occupying was set on fire by tracer. 2Tp then withdrew to the X tracks and remained observing the southern edge of the town. From this position they could see 5Tp Lt Nation Tillery who had taken over from C Sqn Tp at 716830 on the main LINNE road. Remarkable was the enemy's failure to react, for 2Tp was in an entirely exposed position, overlooked from his North and NE, without a trace of cover on the ground to assist him. Half a dozen fairly accurate shells were the enemy's only response. Meanwhile Lt Alton had worked his way right into the town and reported that, in spite of odd parties of enemy Infantry, he had reached the church. A minor battle followed, in which Lt Alton, on foot with his Scout sect, worked round the back of some houses and engaged the enemy with grenades, Sten guns and revolvers. Cpl Chester in his Dingo showed remarkable coolness and gave great assistance to the skirmishers with his K guns. During this engagement every weapon in the Tp was used – and to great effect, for when Lt Alton was finally ordered to withdraw to the southern edge of town, they had accounted for 4 definitely killed, and several probably wounded out of a party estimated at 14 in strength. During this spirited action, the Tp Ldr reported he was outside a 'wonderful shop full of tomato ketchup' and hoped to make his trip worthwhile. Throughout, the party of enemy engaging 1Tp showed unusual spirit and under heavy fire did not hesitate to throw grenades and shoot automatic weapons at the cars at point blank range. Good fortune accompanied Lt Alton and his Tp, for they returned without a scratch, having undertaken an operation hardly deemed suitable for ACs. No less enterprising was 2Tp who had entered the town at 706844, and had succeeded in taking 4 PoW (2nd Coy, Para Regt HUBNER) with the aid of LCpl Rose and his Scout sect. With them was taken a spandau and 2 machine pistols. Both Tps remained without further incident on the edge of town and at last light withdrew to SHQ, 5Tp remaining out for the night to cover the main road.
23/ 1/ 45	RHQ. B Sqn reached 756806 and 767793 but could go no further for mortaring and shellfire. Enemy observed at 755814 and an OP and 300 Infantry at 769814. D Sqn in the morning observed into MAASBRACHT until Commandos passed through to capture the town. At midday, the Sqn withdrew patrols and concentrated in reserve in BRACHTERBEEK. C Sqn. Remained in Regt reserve in same area. B Sqn. 3Tp advanced to 756806 and was held up by heavy mortar fire from the NE and was unable to advance any further. He remained in observation during the day and reported snipers and an enemy OP at 755814. Also an enemy OP at 769814 with 300 Germans in the woods behind at 7781. 4Tp advanced to 767793 but was heavily mortared from the NE and was forced to withdraw. He also reported large numbers of Germans in the woods at AAN DEN BERG. All Tps returned to SHQ at last light at PEJ. D Sqn. At first light 4Tp moved to 706840 in his Dingo and reported no sign of life in the MAASBRACHT area. At 0830 hours a Sqn of 1st RTR moved up and took over from him, to support the Commandos who went in to clear the town. 5Tp worked forward to 730840 but were forced to withdraw by fire coming from the houses and undergrowth at 733843. Lt Campbell in his Dingo reached 727846 and engaged odd



	Germans in the area of the windmill. He contacted some Commandos near there who seemed uncertain as to their location or destination. At 1200 hours the Sqn was told to withdraw all patrols and return to BERKELAAR. Major Lawson came to say goodbye to the Sqn before going to take over command of the Inns of Court Regt.
24/1/45	RHQ. The only Sqn operating was B Sqn which sent Tps to 767803 where there was a road block and shelling and MG fire, which caused the Tp to withdraw to 768789 where MG fire was encountered and the Tp withdrew to 765795 in observation. In the afternoon, 1st RTR passed through the patrols which were withdrawn and the Sqn concentrated at PEIJ. C Sqn. Sqn moved to PAPENHOVEN. B Sqn. 1Tp advanced to 767803 where he was held up by a road block. He was forced to withdraw due to shelling and MG fire and remained in observation during the day. He reported 9 Germans at 773808. 5Tp advanced to 768789 and was fired upon from the woods and houses in AAN DEN BERG. He was also accurately shelled whilst picking up his Scout sect which had been doing a recce forward on foot. He extricated his Tp and withdrew to 765795 where he remained in observation. 2Tp advanced to 764787 where he was held up by a road block and unable to proceed. He took two PoW during the day. 4Tp advanced to 776779 and remained in observation. During the afternoon the Sqn was relieved by the 1st RTR and returned to PEIJ. D Sqn. The Sqn remained in reserve. 2Tp escorts a party of REs engaged in clearing mines and a road block.
25/1/45	RHQ. In the morning RHQ, C, A & B Sqn moved back into rest at PAPENHOVEN, leaving D Sqn under command of Div with a mission to recce forward of 131 Bde objective, the East edge of the woods 7881, to the road STODILIENBERG – POSTERHOLT. Operating with three Tps and much impeded by mines and demolitions over the VLOOTBEEK. The Tps enlisted civilian labour to repair a broken bridge. Clearing mines under the frozen snow as they went, they entered POSTERHOLT and reached 802823 where there was another road block, and 803818. The Div Commander personally expressed his appreciation of the progress made, in fact, some units expressed incredulity concerning the furthest points reached, and a full scale assault on the town was laid on for the following day. C Sqn. 25 – 30th. Still in PAPENHOVEN carrying out maintenance and a general clean-up. We shared a good Café with D Sqn, to act as a Canteen. A Sqn. 25 – 28th. Moved to PAPENHOVEN where we remained until the 29th, carrying out training and maintenance. B Sqn. Moved to PAPENHOVEN. D Sqn. At 1100 hours, the Sqn, having moved back to ECHT and taken over the RHQ billets, came under Div. 131 Bde was ordered to reach the East edge of the thick pine wood, MUNINGS BOSSETT, working through from the SW in conjunction with 1st RTR. D Sqn was allotted the role of recce forward of this line towards STODILIENBERG – POSTERHOLT. 1Tp lifted mines along the track and reached 786809 where they reported 4 men with a spandau in the woods to their West. When engaged these men were seen to go North. Shortly afterward 131 Bde reached the edge of the woods and dug in. 2Tp followed up behind 1Tp and turned NE at 786809; mines on the track delayed progress and at 797815, Lt Hunter reported that the bridge across the VLOOTBEEK was blown. Turning SE in an attempt to find another crossing, Cpl Chapman in a Dingo was blown up on an R mine, the 2 DAC having already crossed over it. 4Tp having failed to find a way round the South, due to blown bridges, was brought back and joined 2Tp in an abortive attempt to cross the stream. Meanwhile 1Tp had reached the bridge at 785821 and reported it blown. Having cleared mines in the immediate area of the bridge, 1Tp with the assistance of some 1/5th Queens and civilians (who were beginning to flood back from STODILIENBERG – POSTERHOLT) managed to repair the bridge sufficiently to get their Dingo across. Lt Alton with Cpl



	Rivers and his Scout sect then worked forward on foot and reached the southern outskirts of ST ODILIENBERG and reported themselves 200 yards away from an enemy MG post on the edge of the copse at 784838, the occupants seeming to be facing West. Lt Hunter with Cpl Rose and his scout sect, and Lt Nation Tellery with a Scout sect, together with an RE officer, crossed the blown bridge at 798815 and, clearing mines along the road and in the diversion around a road block of felled trees, reached POSTERHOLT, where they reported more mines, which were lifted, and another road block at 802823. Lt Nation Tellery turned South in the town and reached 808818. All Tps were then called back and returned to the billets in ECHT, the return trip being made just as it was getting dark. The day had been bitterly cold with a temperature throughout in the nature of 20° F. The Div Commander personally expressed his appreciation of the work done by the Sqn during the day. The numerous mines, covered by frozen snow, had made progress a hazardous undertaking. The Tps concerned had showed themselves to be inquisitive and thereby reached positions that the less ambitious would have deemed unattainable. In fact, a certain amount of incredulity was evident within the Div concerning the furthest point reached by the enterprising foot patrols of 1, 2 and 4Tp.
26/1/45	RHQ. D Sqn under command 131 Bde to recce forward to the river ROER in the direction VLODROP. After some delay owing to traffic congestion one Tp reached 813817 on the South edge of open ground SW of VLODROP, but movement across the open ground brought down shellfire and the Tp remained in observation in that position as VLODROP was held. Another Tp reached the outskirts of PAARLO, where enemy Infantry patrols were seen and engaged. The Tp remained in observation at 811838. Later the Tp, which was far ahead of our nearest friends, was pulled back to 799829 in observation. The first Tp OP'd fire of 5th RHA onto VLODROP and at last light all Tps withdrew into ECHT. B Sqn. 26 – 30th. Remained at PAPENHOVEN carrying out maintenance and training. During this period Capt Lockett MC embarked for the UK and Capt Ballingal MC took over 2i/c of the Sqn. D Sqn. From 0700 hours the Sqn came under command 131 Bde and was asked to recce forward towards the ROER in the direction of PAARLO and VLODROP. The 131 Bde with 1st RTR were given priority across the scissors bridge at 785821. It was not until 1030 hours that 3Tp and 5Tp managed to squeeze through the traffic jam and continue on through REUTJE. 4Tp was ordered to move up across the bridge and remain in reserve in the REUTJE area, with SHQ. 5Tp after having cleared several mined tracks, reached 813817 on the southern edge of open ground SW of VLODROP. In an attempt to reach VLODROP, 5Tp was compelled to cross the open ground overlooked by the church tower at VLODROP and also HARKENBOSCH on the North of the ROER. The Tp was heavily fired on when it had reached 817822 and was forced to withdraw to cover at 813817. So vicious was the stonk that it was impossible to assess accurately the number or location of the guns, but it was estimated to be four 88mm sited in the VLODROP area. This was certainly sufficient evidence that VLODROP was held by the enemy, which was the role allocated originally to 5Tp. Sgt Luke, later in the afternoon, inadvertently engaged a foot patrol of 52 Div in the area of HINGEN but succeeded in identifying them and making personal contact. 3Tp having encountered many small groups of mines on the way reached the outskirts of PAARLO where Lt Campbell reported enemy Infantry patrols in the immediate area, including men armed with bazookas. These he engaged and remained in observation in the area 811838. The visibility was limited but he could see across the ROER with difficulty. He reported no movement seen except for the stray Infantry in the area. Since 1/5th Queens had 'gone firm' in the area of the woods 795830 and did not intend pushing NE, it was considered advisable to withdraw 3Tp to area 799829 where they remained until withdrawn at 1530 hours and returned to ECHT. At last light 4Tp and 5Tp were called in and together with SHQ returned to ECHT for the night. Lt Hickman did excellent work during the day by recovering a DAC of B Sqn and Cpl Chapman's Dingo. It was an unpleasant undertaking as he had to take the RHQ Scammel along mined tracks to reach them. Both were returned to the LAD by last light.
27/1/45	RHQ. 27 – 30th. The whole Regt concentrated in rest and maintenance in PAPENHOVEN. On the 29th, A Sqn was asked to



	provide, at first, 20 dismounted men and later the whole Sqn to secure behind an advance of 1/5th Queens. Accordingly the Sqn spent an uncomfortable night under shellfire from the SEGFRIED line in that area, but the attack was called off on the 30th and the Sqn returned to PAPENHOVEN. D Sqn. Sqn came back under command of the Regt and at 1100 hours moved back to rest in PAPENHOVEN, where everyone was well billeted. Major Crankshaw MC returned from leave and resumed command of the Sqn.
28/1/45	D Sqn. The entire Sqn began the task of cleaning vehicles, checking kit etc, and an officers mess and Sgts mess came into being. The Sqn shared a good café to act as a canteen.
29/1/45	A Sqn. In the morning we were ordered to supply 20 dismounted men to help out the 1/5th Queens and to come under them. Lt Osborne with the complete Scout Tp was sent up and they were told to take over the defence of RENTJE from one of the Coys of the Queens. This was rather a tall order, but just as they were getting into position, the whole Sqn were ordered up to come under the Queens. The Sqn arrived at 1500 hours and we were ordered to defend the village with the whole Sqn. All five Tps were used and their Scout sections returned to them. Nothing happened during the night but it was not a very nice area, as it was right under the SEGFRIED LINE and the Germans did quite a lot of shelling. During the night we got orders to return to PAPENHOVEN the next morning. D Sqn. 29 – 30th. Still at PAPENHOVEN carrying out maintenance and cleaning vehicles etc.
30/1/45	A Sqn. Moved back to PAPENHOVEN to discover that the Regt had been put under command of 1st Corps who were in the North. Capt GV Churton also arrived back from leave in UK and took over 2i/c of the Sqn as Capt H Petch had gone to command B Sqn.
31/1/45	RHQ. The Regt moved to OUDENBOSCH, NW of BREDA and prepared to take over a 21 mile front of the lower MAAS from 18th Canadian Arm'd Car Regt (XII Manitoba Dragoons). C Sqn. Sqn moved with the Regt to OUDENBOSCH in readiness for taking over from the 18th Canadian AC Regt. A Sqn. Moved to HOEVEN with the Regt. B Sqn. The Sqn moved to OUDENBOSCH preparatory to taking over from XII Manitoba Dragoons on the river MAAS. D Sqn. Sqn moved with the Regt to OUDENBOSCH to take over from 18th Canadian AC Regt.
February 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Feb 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/2/45	RHQ. Regt took over from 18th Canadian AC Regt at 1400 hours. D Sqn were on the right based on MADE with five Tps out at 010494, 974494, 934473 and 2 at 904500. B Sqn based on KEVENHERGEN with 3 sub-units at 850494, 841479 and 807471. C Sqn at FIJNAART with 5 sub-units at 280471, 759471, 740479, 720490 and 690472. A Sqn remained in reserve at HOEVEN. RHQ Tac, B1, B2, B3, LAD and Tech at OUDENBOSCH. Each Sqn in the line had a number of Dutch and Belgian patriots holding positions along the front and our role was observation from the South side of the MAAS estuary from the canal



running North and South through GERTRUDENBURG to the river running SE at 690452.
B Sqn reported in the early evening a drifting barge in midstream fired on by the enemy from 855522.
At 2200 hours MG and sniper firing from 8351. General impression of the front was quiet apart from odd shelling and sniping with a few very lights during the night. The chief enemy activity came from V1's suspected launching area 7354.

C Sqn.

Sqn took over sector from 12th Manitoba Dragoons. A total front of about 14,000 yards with five Tps out. The river MAAS was on an average one mile wide between us and the enemy. We had a Battery of 90th Fd Regt in support. There was a Coy of Belgian Fusiliers under command also 100 OD. Capt Wingfield Digby MC and Lt Brett Smith were both on leave and Lt Gale was 2i/c. Very little could be seen of the enemy but many V1's were launched from across the river to the North. Some of the sites were pinpointed by cross-bearings when the machines could be heard starting up. Several crashed on take off, which was pretty to watch.

A Sqn. 1 – 4th.

Stayed in rest at HOEVEN carrying out maintenance.

B Sqn.

Sqn establishment of officers and Sgts was:-

Major H Petch MC	SSM Emery
DCM	

Capt JR Ballingal MC	SQM S Smith

1Tp	Lt ATR Nicholson	Sgt Wilkins
2Tp	Lt IG Troup	Sgt Rader
3Tp	Sgt McGuire	Cpl Evans
4Tp	Lt RA Flood	Sgt Truswell
5Tp	Lt RCT S vewright	Sgt Shakespeare
6Tp	Lt CB Gibson	Sgt Hughes
Gun Tp	Lt EAI Young	Sgt Richmond

The Sqn moved out to ZEVENBERGEN. Three patrols were used, 1Tp on the left at 806471, 2Tp centre at ROODEVAART and 3Tp right at MOERDIJK. The changeover was complete by 1400 hours. We had under command a Coy of Belgian Fusiliers who were responsible for manning the outposts at MOERDIJK. There were also 100 members of the Orange Bde (Home Guard) who were responsible for road checks and police duties.

D Sqn. 1 – 8th.

On Feb 1st Sqn took over from XII Manitoba Dragoons. Six patrols were out, 3Tp Lt Campbell at GERTRUDENBURG with 100 OD under command with 3 posts on the river BUND. 1Tp Lt Alton and 2Tp Sgt Lyon were at LAGE ZWALUWE with 100 OD under command. 5Tp Lt Hickman with 100 OD at DRIMMELN and 4Tp Lt Gurteen at HOOGE ZWALUWE. The only good OP was in the windmill between LAGE ZWALUWE and MOERDIJK bridge which was manned daily. Much of the land is badly flooded. No incidents occurred during the 8 days we were there except the arrival of Brig Hackett (ex 8th Hussars) 1st Airborne Div and Cpl Warwick of the same outfit. This was a pleasant surprise and they spent the rest of the night after their 13 mile canoe ride at SHQ at MADE. During this period Sgt Luke was instructing at the school in BRUSSELS. Capt Horsford MC went on leave.

2/2/45

RHQ.

At 1100 hours 8 to 10 men working at 834513. 1230 hours mortars firing from 895535 and 918533, shell landing area 905500. An 88mm plotted at 905547 shelling the same area. Ship on bridge at 857514. Enemy, estimated at platoon strength, seen digging at 709519.

At last light C Sqn reported considerable movement backwards and forwards in that area and also at 7153, 776514. During the night lights were seen and movement heard in area 723516 and C Sqn used the 90th Fd Bty in support.

C Sqn. 2 – 5th.

Position remained the same. No incidents to report. 12 – 20 flying bombs passed over (or failed to) daily. Occasional men seen on the far bank of the river especially opposite WILLEMSTADT and were engaged by artillery. Two small enemy patrols were seen on this bank at night but both made their



	escape. In the evening 5th Feb A Sqn took over and we moved to HOEVEN in reserve. B Sqn. The patrols remained unchanged and reported that 4 doodle-bugs were launched during the night from the North and flying in a southerly direction.
3/2/45	RHQ. At 0300 hours flares and MGs seen and heard from the North bank, also signalling lights. By cross bearings, two new V1 launching sites suspected at 648588 and 640582. During the morning, a boat moored at WILLEMSDORP the previous day, drifted and ran ashore at 849949. It was boarded and found empty. Throughout the day various groups of enemy were reported and intermittent shelling. B Sqn. During the day 2 doodle-bugs passed over having been launched from the North. During the evening there was some slight shelling in the area East of MOERDIJK and slight activity heard at WILLEMSDORP and a searchlight shining from North to South between the 2 bridges.
4/2/45	RHQ. Various groups of men reported throughout the day and shelling in the afternoon. During the night the usual flares and MG fire. B Sqn. The V1 launching during the night was between 15 and 20 from the North and NW. during the day little or no activity was reported from all patrols.
5/2/45	RHQ. At 0103 hours a small enemy patrol crossed the river at 964946 and was engaged and withdrew. The morning was quiet. In the afternoon mortar firing from 726545 was engaged by Shell Drake. During the night the usual very light and MG and 7 civilians (line crossers) arrived at D Sqn. A Sqn relieved C Sqn. C Sqn. 5 – 8th. Sqn remained in reserve. A Sqn. 5 – 19th. Moved up to RIJNAART and took over from C Sqn. We had 4 patrols out with a fifth consisting of 2 Scout sections under Lt Osborne. This went to Fort SABINA, 4Tp to WILLEMSTADT, 2Tp to BOVENSLUIS, 3Tp to TONNEKREEK and 5Tp to NOORD SCHANS. The Tp at Fort SABINA had a platoon of Belgian Fusiliers under command. 4Tp had a Coy of Belgians and some OB, 5Tp had some OB's. This front consisted of looking at a very few Germans across a wide expanse of the MAAS. There were no incidents during our stay on this sector except for one day when Cpl Wilson when out mending the 'phone lines got his DSC stuck in full view of the enemy who immediately started to shell it. The fire was very accurate and Cpl Wilson had to abandon ship and the DSC was left out until dusk when it was fetched in. The main trouble during the period were the civilians who kept on wanting to go where they were not allowed to. On Feb 19th B Sqn came up and took over from us and we moved back to HOEVEN. B Sqn. The V1 report during the night was that between 10 & 15 were launched from the North. During the day visibility was restricted to between 800 & 1000 yards and no movement was seen. Three V1's were launched between 1400 and 1630 hours, flying South.
6/2/45	RHQ. During the day the usual movements reported and MG and SA fire. During the night the usual flares and MG fire. B Sqn. The Belgian Fusiliers manning the outposts at MOERDIJK commenced a short training programme under Lt Gibson and Sgt Edwards. They were given practical instruction in small arms and mines. During the day a little activity was seen and the causeway leading to the bridge at 856517 – 6 men were seen digging and in the afternoon 2 small explosions were observed. They were engaged by 25pdrs but with little effect. Seven V1's were launched between 1600 & 1730 hours.
7/2/45	RHQ. At 0030 hours the 1st MF sent out a foot patrol North of D Sqn left Tp. They crossed the mud-flats and stayed out for 2 hours but saw and heard nothing. During the morning nothing to report from all fronts.



	In the afternoon from 1400 hours onwards a number of explosions between 625519 and 630513, possibly blowing up dykes. Civilians said that if this was done the island of OVERFLAKKEE would be flooded. A large hole was seen in the dyke at 627507. B Sqn. There were no V1 launches during the night.
8/2/45	RHQ. In the morning spandau and SA fire and 12 men seen on the dyke at 835518. More explosions heard suggesting the blowing of dykes and the flooding of the eastern end. B Sqn. During the night six V1's were launched from the area 7454 and nine were launched from area 8257. During the day 12 men were observed working in area 835518.
9/2/45	RHQ. Usual movement of men reported in the morning. During the afternoon at 726517, 8 Germans were seen walking East and an explosion was heard in the fort at 668478. We shelled the pillboxes at 835512 and flushed 12 men who disappeared behind the dyke. C Sqn relieved D Sqn at MADE. C Sqn. 9 – 23rd. In the evening of the 9th the Sqn took over from D Sqn at MADE. Again five Tps out on a front of about 12,000 yards. There were also 426 OD spread out along the front to thicken it up. The river was considerably narrower here being only 500 yards at the eastern end and enemy crossings were more frequent. Besides the enemy crossings, crossings by ex British PoW and civilians were frequent and care had to be taken not to shoot up the wrong party. V1's and V2's were also frequent over the area. On the 22nd Feb at 0730 hours the right hand OD post reported that a number of Germans were approaching their position. A foot patrol of 4 men was immediately sent out and saw 12 Germans approaching; they made their intentions of deserting quite clear by waving white handkerchiefs and carrying no arms. They consisted of 3 NCOs and 9 ORs of 1 Coy, MG Btn 30 – the entire garrison of the small island OUDER PLAAT 9950. They were browned off with the war, not having seen their Coy commander for 12 days. They all talked freely and gave useful information. Their arms had been left on the ground on landing. A foot patrol went out and recovered 2 spandau, a tommy gun and a very pistol. During this period of a fortnight in the line, just over 100 civilians came through our lines and also several ex PoW. B Sqn. During the night 12 V1's were launched, 3 from 7454, 5 from 8257 and 4 from 8061 and during the day 2 launched from 8257 and 1 from 7171. The working party in area 8351 were in evidence again and 4 pillboxes were seen occupied at 835512, 836512, 837512 and 838513. These targets were engaged by 37mm under Sgt Hornsby. Three direct hits were observed on an OP at 835512 and 12 men were seen to bail out of the pillboxes and withdraw North. During the afternoon 4 men were seen on the causeway at 857517. D Sqn. C Sqn took over and the Sqn moved into reserve at HOEVEN, 2 miles from RHQ.
10/2/45	RHQ. The night was quiet and nothing happened until 1120 hours, when Shell Drake registered with 2 direct hits on a suspected OP at 834515. A truck belonging to Corps Tps RE blew up on one of our mines at 844484. A dump was suspected at 742518. Shell Drake effectively engaged a party of 15 men in area 8351. We still hadn't got the sniper on the bridge at 858514. B Sqn. During the night 11 V1's were launched from 8257, 2 from 8062 and 4 from 7454. During the day 15 to 20 men were seen in the area of the pillboxes at 835512. They were engaged by Shell Drake and our mortars and 37mm successfully. Also 1 V1 launched from area 8256 and 1 V2 from area 7953. D Sqn. 10 – 13th. Still in reserve at HOEVEN.
11/2/45	RHQ. A quiet night. throughout the day, movements of small parties of men and HDT were reported. B Sqn.



	During the night 4 V1's launched from area 8051 as also were 20+ but launching sites not confirmed. Sight activity of men observed at 835518.
12/2/45	RHQ. Up till midday, 2 working parties were seen at 838523 and 827522 and both were engaged by Shell Drake with good results; only 2 men getting up out of a party of 15. The night was completely quiet. B Sqn. During the night 4 V1's from area 8257 and 1 from area 7454. Shell Drake engaged 15 men at 535522 and from observation it seemed to be very effective, only 2 men getting up after the shoot. Visibility was restricted to 800 yards from 1200 hours onwards.
13/2/45	RHQ. The usual movements of men reported throughout the day. Flares and lights were flashing on the other side of the river during the early hours of darkness. B Sqn. A quiet day with visibility restricted to 1000 yards from 1300 hours onwards.
14/2/45	RHQ. The morning was very misty. During the latter part of the day a few movements of men were reported. D Sqn relieved B Sqn at ZEVENBERGEN, the latter going into reserve at HOEVEN. B Sqn. During the night 10 V1's were launched and also 10 V2's from no known areas. During the afternoon D Sqn (Major Crankshaw) relieved us and we went into rest at HOEVEN. D Sqn. 14 – 28th. The Sqn took over from B Sqn at ZEVENBERGEN. There were 3 Tp positions. One near MOERDIJK with a coy of Belgian Fusiliers attached. Another at ROODE VAART with an OD post of 13 men 300 yards to the West on the BUND and the third in a farm 2500 yards East of NOORD CHANS with an OD post in the next farm 500 yards East of him. In the main Tps were out for 2 days and 1 day in SHQ, with 2 days in every 10 days. Very little was seen at all except a few men on the North ends of the bridges. In the main the weather was bad with rain and fog being prevalent. Large numbers of V1's and V2's were seen and reported, and their take-off positions worked out. Pilot Officers Nunn and Mitchell came to stay with us for 4 days. They were pilot and navigator of night operating Mosquitoes, 42 Sqn RAF. During this period Lt Hunter and Lt Nation Tillery went and stayed with the RAF. Capt Horsford returned on the 18th and went to hospital on the 27th with pneumonia, having been ill since the 22nd. Latterly the weather improved and much of the flood water disappeared. The river is about 2200 yards wide and visibility to the other side was only clear on really good days, which were few and far between. News came through that Lt Alton was awarded the MC and Cpl Rivers the MM for their hand-to-hand combat in MAASBRACHT. We handed over to C Sqn on 1st march and returned to 4 days reserve at HOEVEN. Sgt Lyon MM went to the School as SSM, Cpl Cairns went to the School as W/T Instructor and SQM SCarnes went to UK on leave.
15/2/45	RHQ. A large explosion was heard during the early hours of the morning almost due North, and a plane flew over OVERFLAKKEE dropping flares. The whole day was very quiet, visibility being 3-400 yards and up to 1800 hours only six V1's were reported. B Sqn. 15 – 18th. Remained at HOEVEN carrying out maintenance and inspections.
16/2/45	RHQ. The visibility was very bad but it improved after midday. After last light a motor boat was heard approaching the South side of the river, at 004500. Two hours later 3 men were seen at 005495, they were challenged, fired on and withdrew; the sound of a motor boat going away to the left was heard.



	later.
17/2/45	RHQ. The usual sniping and MG fire during the day and various small parties reported. The night was quiet.
18/2/45	RHQ. A very quiet day with visibility down to 200 yards. Four mortar bombs landed at the South end of the MOERDIJK bridge. There was nothing to report throughout the night.
19/2/45	RHQ. Visibility never more than 800 yards during the day. B Sqn took over from A Sqn and A Sqn went into reserve at HOEVEN. B Sqn. The Sqn moved out and relieved A Sqn, Major Turnbull. There were five patrol positions to occupy and beginning from the West they were: FORT SABINA 691472, WILLEMSTADT 7248, BOVENSLUIS 748477, TONNEKREEK 761472, NOORD CHANS 780472 with SHQ at FIJNAART. At Fort SABINA, 2 Scout sects under Sgt Hughes together with a platoon of Belgian Fusiliers were responsible for the observation of enemy movement on the island of OVERFLAKKEE. 1Tp went to WILLEMSTADT, 2Tp to BOVENSLUIS, 3Tp to TONNEKREEK and 4Tp to NOORD CHANS. Visibility was restricted to 800 yards due to mist and no movement seen. Five V1's were launched from area 6468.
20/2/45	RHQ. During the day we engaged the WILLEMSDORP area with mortar fire. Various small parties and explosions reported during the day. During the night very lights and possible track movement was heard in the area of STRIJEN. A Sqn. 20 – 23rd. Remained in rest at HOEVEN and got the LAD working on the cars. B Sqn. Tps remained in the same area and during the night 6 V1's were launched. Visibility was again restricted to 1000 yards and no movement seen.
21/2/45	RHQ. In the morning 7 explosions observed North of the river. A large 'brew' observed on a possible V2 site when attacked by our bombers. During the day 2Lt Wood joined the Regt. B Sqn. Four V1's launched during the night from area 8257 and 4 V2's from area 7368. Between 1600 and 1800 hours an enemy gun, presumably 105mm, fired 50 rounds into area of KLUNDERT.
22/2/45	RHQ. At about 0600 hours at 994498, 1 German and 11 Austrians gave themselves up. They were thoroughly 'browned-off' with the monotony of their isolated position, being only visited by the Coy runner. They disliked their CO intensely, and wishing only to see the end of the war, readily gave away all the information they could about Btn HQs and Coy HQs locations. We tried to get the artillery onto these positions but we were told by the Poles that they could not help within the next 36 hours. The mediums were no more obliging and the air tentacle we had been repeatedly told as being at our disposal, broke down under the heavy strain of a request for the support of 1 plane during the day. B Sqn. During the night 3 V1's and 3 V2's were launched. An appreciable number of explosions heard during the day in area NE of NUMANS DORP but it was impossible to determine whether it was demolition work or preparation of defences.
23/2/45	RHQ. During the morning 3 men were seen at 834519 and a spandau fired spasmodically from WILLEMSDORP. In the afternoon 2 HDT were seen at 662473. During the night odd rifle shots North of the river and the sound of a possible bulldozer was heard.



	B Sqn. During the night 42 V1's were launched. Other than 2 men and 2 HDT in area 660473 no movement seen.
24/2/45	RHQ. A working party of 5 men at 661479 observed in the morning. A Sqn took over from C Sqn at MADE, the latter going into reserve. In the night very lights seen North of the river. C Sqn. In the evening A Sqn took over and we went in rest at HOEVEN again. A Sqn. 24 – 28th. We moved up to MADE in the afternoon and took over from C Sqn. We had all five Tps out in this sector. 5Tp went to GERTRUDENBURG and this Tp had 100 OB under command and was ringed by 5 OB posts. 3Tp went to DRIMMELEN where it had 90 OB under command in posts all round. 1Tp went to HOOGE ZWALUWE and they had 30 OB under command. 2Tp and 4Tp went to LAGE ZWALUWE where they had 124 OB under command. On the night of the 25th a German patrol came across and fired at two of 3Tps OB posts but no damage done to either side. Except for a few mortar shells fired at DRIMMELEN and 10 shells fired at LAGE ZWALUWE on the 27th the front was very quiet. The whole area was a very good one for wild fowl which were shot at all day and every day. B Sqn. During the morning odd rifle shots heard in area 7553, and a working party of 5 men seen at 661479 on OVERFLAKKEE.
25/2/45	RHQ. In the afternoon 27 men were seen together, two of them wearing the khaki uniform of the Todt organisation. There were quite a few V1's during the day, 9 from the popular site at 6468. C Sqn. 25 – 28th. Remained in reserve at HOEVEN. B Sqn. During the night 17 V1's were launched, 2 from 8257, 7 from 6468, 7 from 6862 and 1 from 6873. During the day 5 V1's were launched, 2 from 8257, 1 from 7454 and 2 from 6468.
26/2/45	RHQ. We are beginning to wonder whether the objects of our reports are the industrious and ever watchful Wehrmacht or the casual movements of civilians. There were several explosions opposite B Sqn and throughout the day a number of V1's from 6468. During the night a small party of Germans probably came over as German voices were heard at 960505 and later at 958499. B Sqn. Nine V1 launchings from 6468 and 1 from 7454. During the day 6 men and 1 HDT seen in area 7551.
27/2/45	RHQ. In the afternoon there were the usual movements of small groups and 1 HDT seen on the North side of the river. During the night, there were some V1's, 9 coming from 6164 and 3 from the usual 6468. B Sqn. During the night 4 V1's launched and during the day another 8. Enemy activity was again very slight.
28/2/45	RHQ. A few leaflet shells were shot in to WILLEMSTADT, but they were neither paragraphic nor interesting. In the afternoon working parties were dispersed by Shell Drake and our mortar. During the night we saw a lot of very lights and torches on the northern side of the river. B Sqn. During the night 9 V1's from 6164, 3 from 6468 and 1 from 7454. Five were seen to be shot down. Propaganda leaflets were fired onto WILLEMSTADT. During the month a total of 251 V1's were reported and 18 V2's all of which were launched from an area South of ROTTERDAM. 2Lt Wood joined the Sqn on the 21st and was allotted to 4Tp for instruction in the art of Troop Leading.



March 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Mar 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/3/45	RHQ. During the morning 4 Germans were reported on the North end of the MOERDIJK bridge and at 835518 a working party of about 20 men, but unfortunately our supporting gunners had run out of ammunition. In the afternoon there was slight activity and a spandau fired from 964511 which was engaged by Shell Drake. During the night the OD saw a German patrol of 15 men which had crossed the river. They opened fire as did the Polish Shell Drake. C Sqn. 1 – 16th. Sqn moved to ZEVENBERGEN. Three Tps out, 1Tp at MOERDIJK, 2Tp at LOCHTENBERG and 3Tp at 807472. There was a Coy of Belgian Fusiliers under command at the ends of the MOERDIJK bridges and two sections of Dutch Infantry in between the centre and left patrols. The enemy could be seen on the far bank on clear days and on these occasions they were engaged either by mortar or by a Tp of 25pdrs who were in support. A few flying bombs came over – they were duly plotted and reported. A Sqn. 1 – 11th. In position at MADE and nothing happened except for a lot of crossers coming in and excellent duck shooting. B Sqn. During the night 11 V1's were launched, 6 were shot down and one exploded at source, also 11 V2's from ROTTERDAM area. During the day 5 V1's were launched from 6164, 7 from 6469 and 2 from 7468. D Sqn. 1 – 5th. At HOEVEN in reserve, maintenance and training.
2/3/45	RHQ. Our gunners engaged a house at 836521 where some movement was seen. In the afternoon we saw 55 cyclists moving East at 769527. A 50mm fired 10 rounds from the North end of the MOERDIJK bridge to the southern end. In the early morning a patrol of 3 men landed at 887508 and were immediately captured. They belonged to 30 MG Btn who were apparently thinning out and taking over the right hand commitment of 17th Para Regt. They gave all the information they knew about section and coy positions. B Sqn. The V1 launchings increased slightly during the night, 8 from 6468, 1 from 7161, 1 from 8255, 2 from 6164 and 16 V2's. 55 cyclists were observed moving East at 769527 and were seen to change direction towards STRIJEN before disappearing from sight. 2 V2's were launched during the day.
3/3/45	RHQ. In the morning there was a general increase in LMG fire and a working party was seen loading trolleys at 835511. In the afternoon there was another working party at 661483; we engaged them with our Polish gunners who also shelled the positions given to us by the PoW. During the night a few mortar shells landed at DRIMMELEN. B Sqn. During the night 12 V1's were launched. The working party at 661483 were 11 present today and finished work at 1300 hours, today being Saturday.
4/3/45	RHQ. Nothing was reported during the morning while in the afternoon activity was confined to some shelling by two 105's. KLUNDERT was shelled during the night. B Sqn. During the night 7 V1's were launched. V2's were also launched.
5/3/45	RHQ. In the afternoon a gun was heard firing from 868552. During the night there was spasmodic 20mm



	coming from the North end of the MOERDIJK bridge and a few flares from the BIESBOSCH area. B Sqn. 19 V1's and 1 V2 were launched during the night. A 105mm fired from 771560 and gunners answered with a few rounds. At 636506 20 men were seen working on the dykes.
6/3/45	RHQ. In the afternoon a 37mm shelled the church at WILLEMSTADT from 722516 and A Sqn on the right reported local spandau fire on their front. During the night Tpr Price of D Sqn fell off a wall at Fort SABINA and fractured his leg. We had 35 line crossers in the early hours. B Sqn. 4 V1's launched during the night. D Sqn took over our section and we returned to HOEVEN. D Sqn. 6 – 21st. At FJART, take over from B Sqn. Set up as follows:- WILLEMSTADT. 3Tp Lt Campbell. The Germans occasionally fired 37mm at the church. The town was shelled once ineffectively. The Tp harassed the far bank with 2pdr and Besa periodically. Had Belgian fusiliers under command. BOVENSLUIS. 5Tp Sgt Luke. Nothing occurred here. Duck shooting HQ. TONNEKREEK. 1Tp Sgt Cooper and 4Tp Lt Hunter took alternative 48 hour tours. Nothing happened here at all. NOORD CHANS. 2Tp Lt Tellery. The OD at the harbour entrance was shelled twice very lightly. A boat came in the creek and set off a grenade and booby. The occupants were unknown, presumably agent dropping. 18 OD under command. FORT SABENA. Lt Gurteen with Cpl Rivers White Sect (1Tp) and LCpl Thomas White Sect (4Tp). Unfortunately the first night, Tpr Price fell off the top of the Fort in the dark and had to be removed to hospital. The fort was shelled the next day without effect as a result of the ambulance coming up with headlights on. Otherwise it was quiet all the time. One Plt of Belgian Fusiliers under command. SHQ spent most of the time dealing with civilians, having got the Burgomaster M. van UFFORD well organised. He was most helpful. All civilians were evacuated from WILLEMSTADT due to telephone lines being cut. Major Gerrard Leigh C Sqn 1st HCR came up and took over from us and the Sqn moved to HEIJTHUIZEN.
7/3/45	RHQ. In the evening Fort SABINA was shelled and communications disrupted though no damage was caused. There were some ground flares on the northern bank. No incidents during the night. B Sqn. 7 – 10th. At HOEVEN carrying out maintenance.
8/3/45	RHQ. There was slight activity opposite B Sqn on the left and another spandau fired from 765504. Except for an explosion at STRIJENAS the night was quiet.
9/3/45	RHQ. A working party of about 40 men was observed in the morning and later stonked, with direct hits observed. During the night very lights were seen in the BIESBOSCH area. Later an LMG at 996504 fired a few bursts into GERTRUDENBURG.
10/3/45	RHQ. During the morning 2 large explosions were heard opposite C Sqn on the left. Two 75mm fired about 18 rounds which landed in the area 735484. The night was quiet.
11/3/45	RHQ. Nothing to report.



	A Sqn. Relieved by B Sqn and moved back to HOEVEN. B Sqn. Sqn moved and relieved A Sqn at MADE. All five Tps were employed which meant that they remained in the same patrol positions during all the period spent at MADE. A navigable creek at 8950 was used by the Dutch Underground for ferrying Dutch refugees from North Holland.
12/3/45	RHQ. Two brew-ups were seen soon after first light at 773523. A spandau fired at WILLEMSTADT from 711752. During the night about 50 MET were seen with their headlights on moving from 652592 to 644591 but were out of artillery range. A Sqn. 12 – 16th. In HOEVEN in rest. B Sqn. Sight mortar activity reported by 4Tp.
13/3/45	RHQ. A quiet day with slight mortaring on the front. Three haystacks were hotly engaged by the OD who succeeded in brewing one up. B Sqn. Sight mortar activity again in 4Tp area DRIMMELEN. At LAGE ZWALUWE 22 civilians and 4 Allied soldiers were ferried across during the night.
14/3/45	RHQ. Two 105's were active in the afternoon shelling DRIMMELEN and GERTRUDENBURG. There were 52 line crosses during the early morning. B Sqn. During the day two 105mm guns were active from area 982522 firing at the powerhouse at GERTRUDENBURG – little damage done. During the night 23 civilians came over and 1 German deserter and 2 Italians from a forced labour camp.
15/3/45	RHQ. Mortars were reported firing from 965517 during the early morning and MGs from 973511. During the night there were 85 line crosses including 2 Germans. B Sqn. In the early hours a German patrol were seen firing from a rowing boat. During the night 52 refugees came across. 3 V1's and 2 V2's launched during the night.
16/3/45	RHQ. In the early morning a German patrol crossed the river and captured 1 OD and a farmer who subsequently escaped. C Sqn. A Sqn relieved us in the evening and were went into Regtl reserve at HOEVEN. Very slight enemy activity during the fortnight. 1Tp salvaged and repaired an enemy 75mm gun together with ammunition and fired about 100 rounds with it at its former owners. Three Dutchmen and one American crossed the river and were intercepted by 3Tp. A flying bomb fell short and landed in the river just in front of the night position. Frequent canoe patrols were carried out by all officers along the river edge which abounded with geese and every type of duck. A Sqn. Moved to ZEVENBERGEN and took over from C Sqn. B Sqn. 11 refugees came over during the night. A German patrol landed at 951509 and spent the night at a farm 958499. They captured a member of the OD at first light and returned to their own side.
17/3/45	RHQ.



	One 75mm fired 25 rounds into WILLEMSTADT. C Sqn. 17 – 20th. Sqn remained in HOEVEN. A Sqn. 17 – 21st. Stayed in the line at ZEVENBERGEN with nothing happening at all. During this time some HSC came up to us as they were going to take over from us. B Sqn. 72 refugees came over during the night also 10 Allied military and 2 deserters.
18/3/45	RHQ. Recce parties of the first 1st HCR led by Colonel Gooch DSO visited the Regt, total casualties:- 3 bottles of Gin. An SP fired a few rounds into NOORD CHANS during the afternoon. B Sqn. 65 refugees and 10 members of Allied Military Forces ferried across during the night.
19/3/45	RHQ. The inevitable working parties were seen on the North bank. Six Typhoons caused brew-ups at 011599. B Sqn. 51 refugees ferried across during the night. At 0915 hours enemy fired 12 shells, presumed 88mm, into GERTRUDENBURG which killed 5 and wounded 2 civilians.
20/3/45	RHQ. A very quiet day during which the HCR completed handover arrangements. A few Germans were seen on the North bank.
21/3/45	RHQ. The HCR Sqn and RHQ moved in and doubled up for the night. The front was quiet. C Sqn and recce parties moved to HEIJTHUIZEN. C Sqn. At 0700 hours the Sqn left to rejoin 7th Armd Div. March of about 100 miles was without incident or accident. Arrived at HEIJTHUIZEN soon after 2300 hours. B Sqn. 22 refugees came across.
22/3/45	RHQ. At 0630 hours the 1st HCR assumed responsibility for the front. At 0900 hours the Regt moved to HEIJTHUIZEN coming under command of the 7th Armd Div and preparations were made for Operation Plunder. C Sqn. 22 – 24th. Spent preparing for mobile operations as opposed to static line of observation jobs or limited advances against comparatively organised resistance. Intelligence were promising us "Motoring after the first few days". Reorganisation of Echelon loads were undertaken, accordingly all vehicles had a good inspection. Some of them were feeling their age a bit having been operating since before D Day. 1Tp Lt Brett Smith 2Tp Sgt Davies (Lt Gale on leave) 3Tp Lt Markham 4Tp Sgt Berry 5Tp Lt McAdam (Lt Esch at Regt School) Scout Tp was allocated to Tps. Gun Tp had regrettably been disbanded owing to the inability of the Army to supply us with guns, the barrels of our original ones having worn out. A Sqn. Moved with the Regt to HEIJTHUIZEN. B Sqn. Handed over to HCR and moved to HEIJTHUIZEN in Div area.



23/3/45	RHQ. 23 – 24th. Regt remained at HEIJTHUIZEN, during which time RHQ officers were defeated by C Sqn by 3 goals to 1. On the 24th we heard that 21st Army Group had crossed the River RHINE! A Sqn. Stayed at HEIJTHUIZEN. B Sqn. 23 – 24th. Spent in HEIJTHUIZEN preparing for advance across the RHINE
25/3/45	RHQ. The Regt moved to a concentration area near GELDERN and officers were briefed for the forthcoming operation. 21st Army Group were to cross the RHINE on a 3 Army front, US 9th US Army on the right, British 2nd Army in the centre and the Canadian 1st Army on the left. British 2nd Army consisting of 12th Corps, 30th Corps left and 8th Corps in reserve. The 7th Armd Div under command 12th Corps. The 15th Scottish Div were to force the RHINE on the Corps front with 6th British Airborne Div and 17th US Airborne Div effecting landings behind enemy lines. The 7th Armd Div and 53rd Div were to pass through 15th Scottish Div when the high ground dominating the river IJSEL had been taken. The 7th Armd Div on the right directed on BRUNEN, RAESFELD, BORKEN, STADLOHN, AHAUS, RHEINE. The 11th Hussars to recce between the Corps boundaries. C Sqn. Sqn moved up to concentration area just West of the RHINE. A Sqn. Moved to concentration area 012257. B Sqn. Moved to staging area near XANTEN. D Sqn. The Colonel spoke to all officers and Sgts about the forthcoming operations and said that the RHINE had been crossed at 0200 hours and the show was going well. We moved via VENLO to GELDERN where we parked in the woods preparatory to moving over the RHINE.
26/3/45	RHQ. The colonel with the Sqn Ldrs of A & B Sqn left in order to cross the RHINE to find out the form. The recce parties of the Regt left GELDERN at 1445 hours, consisting of 19 Staghounds. After a very slow journey along roads packed with vehicles they met the Colonel in a wood in the middle of a torrential downpour. The wood clearings were littered with gliders and the numbers of destroyed guns and dead Germans gave evidence of the bitter fight and wonderful achievements of the Airborne forces. The Colonel had decided against staying the night in the wood (the area originally allotted us) and we pushed on about 2000 yards beyond on the way to BRUNEN. The bulk of the Regt, fighting a losing battle against Movement Control, were scheduled to leave at 1700 hours. After various postponements, A Sqn and Tac HQ got off at 0200 hours on the 27th, driving through the night to arrive at 0430 hours. It was a tragedy, as the back of the resistance had been broken by the Airborne landings and we all felt that had we had a Sqn on the 26th there would have been very little to stop it. C Sqn. Warning Orders and counter orders came in throughout the day and night until after midnight. Advance party left during the afternoon and crossed during the evening. A Sqn. Sqn moved across the RHINE in a night march which took nearly all night. We arrived at 305595 at 0500 hours on the 27th. B Sqn. 26 – 27th. Regt moved across the RHINE at XANTEN. We crossed at 1030 hours and moved straight up to BRUNEN arriving at 1200 hours. At 1300 hours the Sqn moved out on patrol. The centre, 1 Tp Lt Troup, advanced to 331518 where he was held up at the bridge which was covered by shellfire and SAA. 2 Tp the northern patrol was unable due to a blown bridge. 3 Tp the southern patrol advanced through the woods to the SE and reported the going as very sticky. Tps returned to SHQ at night at 305499. D Sqn. 26 – 28th.



	As is always the case we were ordered to move and it was cancelled. We finally moved at 0350 hours to XANTEN where we stopped for 2 hours and crossed at 1000 hours on the 27th, moving up to a farm at HAMMENICH where we parked. Next day we moved in stages to a few miles South of BORKEN. At 1830 hours 3, 4 and 5Tp went up to BORKEN to try and get through. This was impossible due to bombing and resulting rubble. The Sqn parked 1000 yards South of BORKEN only 1000 yards from an ammunition dump which exploded 2 hours after we arrived. No damage was caused. All the lorries were stuck in the mud South of RAESFELD and the Scammel was at work getting them out.
27/3/45	RHQ. Although A Sqn was not complete owing to breakdowns, by first light, 3 patrols set at 0600 hours to lead 22nd Armd Bde through HAMINKEN, BRUNEN and RAESFELD. After passing through 6th Airborne the leading patrol was able to report BRUNEN clear. Although meeting light opposition and a blown bridge they managed to push on slowly, finding a way round the blown bridge. They were finally held up before the X roads at 321508 where the enemy was dug in and two SP 88's and two 20mm Flak guns in the woods. The 2 other patrols trying to find track each side of the CL encountered very bad going, the one to the North getting stuck. Another Tp was sent to try and pull him out. He failed to do this and pushed on North but was halted at the X roads 315505 by small arms fire, a suspected tank and shelling and had to drop back. By the afternoon, the 5th DG's having battled their way through traffic jams, arrived in support and quickly cleared the pockets that had held up our Tps enabling them to push North a little, before last light. B Sqn got through the traffic jams by about lunch time and almost immediately relieved A Sqn of its right hand commitments including the CL, and one patrol running parallel North of it. However they were held up by the bridges over the IJSEL being blown. The right patrol worked up to the CL from the South, reported the bridges at 331496 and 335503 blown. Bag – 28 PoW, 2 half-tracks and 1 ambulance. C Sqn. 0330 hours – finally moved off towards the bridge. By 0530 hours we were within 1 mile of the bridge – held up in the world's record traffic jam watching staff officers' caravans etc crossing the river while we were not allowed to move. 1100 hours crossed the river without incident – rejoined advance party and later up to RHQ. A Sqn. By 0600 hours the Sqn was still not complete after the night march, 1Tp and 5Tp being missing having broken down. Our orders were to lead the 22nd Armd Bde along the centre line which ran through HAMINKEN, BRUNEN and RAESFELD. We started with 3 patrols, 3Tp under Lt Osborne going along the CL, 2Tp under Lt Morton went parallel to the CL on the North up a minor road to try and get on the high ground and 4Tp went North of him to try and get over at 250500. 3Tp after passing through 6th Airborne Div on the high ground found that BRUNEN was clear but he was held up a bit by rubble. 3Tp got into the high ground with no opposition but 4Tp found 50 stray enemy who were a little troublesome. 3Tp carried on past BRUNEN and the first enemy he bumped into was at 298493 where the road crossed the stream. The bridge was blown and there was an MG post covering it. He opened fire on the MG and drove them out, wounding 4 Germans who were picked up later. He found a way round the blown bridge and carried on down the main road. At this time 1Tp was sent NE along the track starting from 280487 to see what the track was like. After he had gone along it for about 2 miles he got badly stuck and had to remain there all day and that night which was not very pleasant as there was quite a bit of shelling in the area. 4Tp remained in his area all day as he could not find a good track to get up North and also there were a few enemy in his area which kept holding him up. 3Tp carried on down the main road and a little further on fired on a half-track which brewed up. A little further they ran into some dug in enemy round the X roads at 321508 who were supported by 2 guns and two 20mm flak guns. These forced him to pull back a little and he remained in observation. When 5Tp reached the X roads at 315505 he was fired on by small arms and a suspected tank and had to drop back rather hurriedly and in so doing got his Dingo ditched and had to abandon it. 2Tp was also fired on from the same area and in dropping back the same thing happened to his Dingo. By this time B Sqn had come up and taken over the main road from 3Tp and also the Skinshad arrived up behind 2Tp and 5Tp and began dealing with the enemy. They quickly cleared the enemy from the X roads in front of 3Tp and also the pocket in front of 2Tp and 5Tp and all Tps were able to carry on. 3Tp went down to the X roads that had given all the



	trouble and then went up North and the other two carried on North. By this time it was getting dark and the Tps were called in and the Sqn spent the night near BRUNEN with 1Tp still out having been unable to get anything to pull him out. Total bag for the day – 25 PoW, 1 ambulance and 2 half-tracks.
28/3/45	RHQ. B Sqn continued along the road to RAESFELD. After they had entered the town they had orders to continue North to BORKEN with patrols going NE and East. The patrol directed to BORKEN was accompanied by the 5th DG and good progress was made, the town being entered at last light. The others made little progress being held up by bad going and an enemy SP which KO'd two DAC at 393535, killing the Tp Ldr and wounding 6 others though fortunately, none critically. In the afternoon, the 1st RTR making easier going of the track advanced to HEIDEN which fell by last light. B Sqn followed them up there. C Sqn took over the left hand duties from A Sqn. They were held up by bad going, demolitions and considerable if unorganised enemy pockets operating under ideal conditions in the woods with bazookas and occasional SP A/Tk guns. In spite of these difficult conditions the Sqn got on well accomplishing their task of left hand flank protection, and nearly reached BORKEN from the West. Bag – 90 PoW. C Sqn. The Sqn role was to recce 4 roads running North from the Div CL, to give left flank protection. Tps left the Sqn at 0600 hours. 4Tp went as far as 545285 by which time the track had become impassable to wheels, so the tanks took over and carried on. A few enemy were seen in the woods on the sides of the tracks but no real contact was made. 5Tp went to 314535 which was reached by 0830 hours, contacting a Tp of 53rd Recce who were held up by a number of enemy in the woods, just to the North, with mortars and bazookas. 5Tp carried on slowly up this track to the North, encountering many enemy in the thick woods on both sides of the track. 1Tp went North as far as the bridge at 324537 which was blown. 3Tp went North as far as the track junction at 342533. Here he could see enemy through the trees about 500 yards to the NW and guns, probably self-propelled, 800 yards NNW and firing South. By 1030 hours Div CL at 352544 had been opened up as far as BRINK. 2Tp went out to track junction 375537 and from there NW. they got as far as the bridge at 363550 where they met a number of enemy. These they engaged and took 2 PoW. 2Tp were then ordered as far back as 368546 and North to junction 359559. They reached here OK and took PoW a German artillery officer who was trying to find out the situation. 3Tp were diverted up the same road as 2Tp as there were many enemy in the area who were not surrendering as easily as they might. 1Tp had meanwhile reached X roads 330544 together with a Tp of 5th RTR. Here they were held up by 4 SP guns which shelled them. 5th RTR were trying to open up the road to the NE from this X roads. They found it held for most of the way by Infantry in the wood with bazookas and supported by SP guns. 4Tp had made slow progress against numerous disorganised enemy as far as 303553 together with some tanks. At this time (approx 1300 hours) there appeared to be a general hold-up. 2Tp and 3Tp were ordered to advance NW to try and cut the road off in the 3556 square to get behind the enemy who were holding up 1Tp and the 5th RTR. They encountered a lot of enemy with bazookas on the way but dealt roughly with them and took 12 PoW and probably killed as many and burnt down the farm they were occupying. Meantime 2Tp continued to lead the tanks at 303553; tried to push North. The Dingo (Cpl Bell) which was leading had 3 very near misses from an SP at 304557. This was stonked by tanks. 5Tp then tried to make their way NE to THEBING but the going was very bad. 1Tp had meantime reached the road at 333577, the dingo with Lt Jaffray leading. The Tp Ldr came up to join him when a bazooka was fired at both cars and a brief withdrawal was required. The Dingo got ditched but was extricated with a tow rope. 2Tp had meanwhile got on well to the NE and had nearly reached BORKEN when he was shot at by an A/Tk gun, again near misses. 5Tp was still trying to get NE to THEBING. The Tp Ldr's car got stuck and whilst they were trying to get it out 2 very large shells arrived. Tpr Hastings was killed and Cpl Bell wounded in the forehead. Tpr Hastings had been with the Regt for many years, joining in 1935. It was now nearly dark so all Tps were recalled to join SHQ in area 3253 for the night. 5Tp could not get in due to bad going and rejoined the next day. It was a hard day – all Tps being fully employed. About 30 PoW were taken and many more by-passed who probably gave themselves up later. The country was thickly wooded and the tracks limited the cars to about 5 mph. Had the enemy shown



	determination any advance would have been extremely difficult; as it was there were several near misses. A Sqn. B Sqn took over our task and we remained doing maintenance. At 1940 hours the Sqn moved to 395604 and we were ordered at first light to send three Tps through BORKEN and then to GEMEN and then on to RAMSDORF where they would fan out North and NW. 4Tp was sent to spend the night at BORKEN so as to get a flying start in the morning. We also had to send a Tp SE from BORKEN to recon the tracks and see if the area was clear. B Sqn. At first light three Tps were despatched along the CL and on to capture RAESFELD. At approx 1130 hours RAESFELD was captured and the patrols were able to fan out. 4Tp took the northern route to BORKEN. Light A/Tk guns and Infantry were encountered but were dealt with by the Skins and at last light BORKEN was in our hands. 5Tp Lt Sivewright in the centre made little progress due to bad going and was recalled. 2Tp Lt Troup advanced to 393535 stopping up odd groups of Infantry on the way. At this point he ran into an 88mm A/Tk gun, possibly a Jagdpanther and unfortunately was put out of action. His car was brewed up and the Tp Sgt's car damaged. Casualties suffered were; Lt Troup killed, Cpl Mayes, Cpl Sykes, LCpl Oliver, Tpr Gray, Tpr Quantrill and LCpl Clarke wounded. 1Tp went out immediately to give assistance. He was soon on the spot and decided against taking his car across open ground and so went forward on foot with his Scout sect and succeeded in moving all the wounded who had been well controlled by Cpl Sykes. Lt young then went back to search for Lt Troup but found he was still in his car which was on fire. 1Tp then carried on with the patrol and made contact with 1st RTR who were also directed on HEDEN. At last light a night attack was staged by 1st RTR and the town was in our hands. During the day 60 PoW were taken. Tps were called in at last light to SHQ except 4Tp who remained with A Sqn for the night and rejoined the next morning.
29/3/45	RHQ. A Sqn took over again from B Sqn and was directed on RAMSDORF with patrols tapping to the NW down tracks. Progress was very slow as the opposition had stiffened with a number of enemy SPs proving very troublesome, and the tracks sooner or later were impassable to wheels. 1st RTR also directed on RAMSDORF succeeded in taking the town after a still battle by last light. D Sqn pushed on up the CL to WESEKE, which fell in the afternoon. Although the bomb damage was very bad we managed to get through and a patrol continued up the CL to SUDLOHN while another pushed out NE. The latter was soon held up by Infantry with bazookas and a lot of sniping. The 5th DG continued to advance through the late evening and passing through SUDLOHN advanced over half the distance to STADLOHN before stopping. RHQ leaguered the night with A & D Sqs about a mile West of WESEKE which was brewing well, helped by 37mm fired by the Colonel from Major Crankshaw's Staghound at some snipers in the town. Bag – 3 killed, 1 PoW. C Sqn. In the morning the Sqn moved up to BORKEN and remained same area all day. A Sqn. 4Tp moved up to GEMEN at first light and then went NE to RAMSDORF with a Tp of D Sqn. 1, 3 & 5Tp followed him up and 2Tp under Lt Williamson who had just returned from leave, went down SE. Soon after leaving GEMEN 4Tp ran into some enemy with bazookas which held him up and from then on progress was very slow. He was joined by the 1st RTR and went along with them all day against opposition. 2Tp going SE ran into a few enemy and had quite a good shoot but found the tracks rather hard to get along. He contacted 1st RTR and then called in as there was no future along the tracks in his area. 1Tp and 5Tp remained at GEMEN as 4Tp was getting on so slowly. 3Tp was sent to 409637 to have a look at the bridge there and to try to find a way to RAMSDORF via the tracks. He found the bridge OK but after crossing it ran up against a tank and some Infantry at 409643 and in trying to back out one of his cars got badly stuck. The crew had to bale out and he remained in observation of the area all day and recovered his car in the evening when the Infantry had cleared the area. During this 4Tp was getting on very slowly and had run up against a large road block just West of RAMSDORF which took a long time to clear and also friends were finding quite a lot of opposition in the town itself. 1Tp and 5Tp remained around GEMEN during the day and got involved in a stonk from 2 SPs. Tpr Corbett, Lt McLean's driver being wounded but luckily not badly. During the evening



	we moved up to 405675 and called in all Tpsexcept 4Tp who spent the night with the 1st RTR. Total bag – 1 PoW. B Sqn. 5Tp Lt Sivewright was sent at first light to VELEN but was recalled and the patrol taken over by the Inns of court. The Sqn was recalled into Regt reserve. D Sqn. 5Tp worked out West of BORKEN in a thick mist and had a car brewed up by a tank hull down by a stream – Tpr Timlin was slightly wounded. 3Tp and 4Tp pushed on up the CL to WESEKE and to the Y roads just South of SUDLOHN. 1Tp worked out to the right of the CL and killed 3 Germans in a house by the railway station in WESEKE. It rained all day.
30/3/45	RHQ. Late in the evening of the 29th there was a change in orders involving a far wider sweep to the left while all movement before 0900 hours was forbidden which gave the Sqn a well deserved rest before carrying on patrol. D Sqn followed the tanks up the CL and finding considerable fighting going on in STADLOHN were ordered to tap out to the East and try to find an alternative crossing over the river. They did and shot up the party that came down to try and mine it. The Tp Ldr reported it as a wooden bridge but probably Class 40. A RE officer sent to look at it classed it as 10 but it was decided to try and get the tanks across it. The Tp Ldr was justified as after 2 of our Tps got across, two Sqn of the 1st RTR followed. Our patrols pushed on about 2 miles but the tracks and darkness held up any further progress. A Sqn was ordered to patrol to the left and to attempt to get to WINTERSWIJK and VERDEN. The patrol going NE to VERDEN met only scattered opposition and reached the rail crossing. The patrol directed on WINTERSWIJK ran into trouble at 374751. In the farm was a 20mm A/Tk gun and Infantry. Lt Newnham had his car brewed up, but in spite of having his leg blown off below the knee, managed to extricate both himself and his driver. Later, having applied his own tourniquet, he crawled back to the Tp which had been sent up in support. Late in the evening we had orders that 5th RTR were to be switched to pass through VERDEN and our patrol in observation of the place would have to remain there until the tanks arrived. 5th RTR did not come up till midnight and then advanced towards the town and ran into a road block on the outskirts which held up activity for the night. Bag – 20 PoW. C Sqn. 0600 hours Sqn moved up to RHQ area 4067. 0915 hours SHQ, 3Tp and 4Tp moved up to just South of STADLOHN. Here there was still considerable fighting inside the town. 3Tp tried to bypass it to the left but the going was impossible. D Sqn found a bridge and crossed at 445782. 4Tp followed up but could not get back across country to the main road leading North. Sqn leaguered just South of STADLOHN which was practically clear by dark. A Sqn. At 0900 hours we were ordered to patrol out to WINTERSWIJK and up to VERDEN. 4Tp and 5Tp were sent to WINTERSWIJK and 1Tp and 2Tp to VERDEN. 3Tp were nearly off the road having to leave 1 DAC behind for the fitter to repair. 2Tp went up North but could not get through owing to the tracks and eventually got a car so badly stuck that he had to leave it. During this swan he collected 5 PoW. 1Tp eventually got a way through to 381741 and was followed by 4Tp and 5Tp. We had with us a Sqn of SAS who were going with 5Tp to help down the small tracks as they had Jeeps. 5Tp moving West ran into trouble almost immediately at 374751. He ran into an enemy position held by a 20mm and Infantry and Lt Newnham had his car brewed up almost straight away. Sgt Murray, his Tp Sgt, ditched his car trying to back out of it and had to bale out and it was hit and brewed up soon afterwards. The White and Dingo managed to get out of it; also Sgt Murray's crew got back except for the driver, Tpr Hunter. Lt Newnham's operator was wounded but brought back by Sgt Murray but Lt Newnham and his driver Tpr Toughill, failed to get back. 4Tp under Lt Woodhouse was immediately sent to assist and as soon as he got there he covered the area with fire and went up to the brewing car on foot but could see no sign of the men left out and had to get back owing to the enemy fire. For about 3 hours 4Tp remained in observation of the area, firing at any movement and sending his Dingo up twice to look for the missing men, each time it was driven back by fire. A new officer, Lt Sheepshanks, was in command of it. After about 3 hours one man was seen trying to crawl back to 4Tp from near one of the cars and the dingo went out to try and help him, supported by the SAS on foot each side of the track. The man turned out to be Lt Newnham who had had his leg



	blown off below the knee. He was put on the back of the Dingo and the SAS also found Tpr Toughill who had been badly wounded in the arm, and Tpr Hunter who was alright. All 3 were brought back and the 2 wounded were fixed up by the MO of the SAS and sent straight back. Lt Newnham had put on his own tourniquet. 4Tp remained in the area until dark and then drew back to cover the X roads at 380730. 1Tp and 2Tp dropped back to 385764 and SHQ went to 394734 for the night. Total bag – 14 PoW. B Sqn. Regt reserve at SUDLOHN. D Sqn. 4Tp found the bridge at STADLOHN not blown. Shot up enemy party coming to mine it and with 3Tp and a Sqn of 1st RTR pushed on 2 miles North. 1Tp was in area of main road bridge which was covered by the enemy and came under some mortar and artillery fire. Lt Nation Teller accidentally wounded by a shot in the arm, was evacuated. LCpl Nuttall wounded by rifle shot.
31/3/45	RHQ. The Regt was ordered to continue the advance opening up the CL to AHAUS and to advance from there to HEEK. C Sqn were to go up the CL to AHAUS and then to continue to HEEK. D Sqn were to send out patrols SE after AHAUS while B Sqn were to protect the left flank. C Sqn soon made good progress to AHAUS and then pushed a patrol to the North, but this had not gone far before being held up by a road block covered by Infantry, and remained in observation. D Sqn after reaching AHAUS sent out patrols SE but soon lost 2 cars on mines and finding the usual trouble with bad tracks made very little progress. B Sqn did left flank protection for the CL sending patrol towards WINTERSWIJK, OTTENSTEIN and WESSUM, all of which were held up by craters or Infantry. A Sqn continued towards VERDEN at first light but were soon held up by a blown bridge and a change in plan, and came back into rest. Bag – 1 staff car and 10 PoW. C Sqn. 0530 hours 3Tp and SHQ went to main bridge at STADLOHN which was completed by 0600 hours. The road was badly cratered just beyond and a bulldozer had to be got up to make the road passable. 3Tp went West from T roads at 461843 and almost immediately ran into a number of enemy Infantry, about Coy strength. There was a large road crater ahead and woods on either side. A considerable quantity of small arms ammunition was expended by both sides without loss to 3Tp. It is probable that a number of enemy were hit as they were completely surprised at first. Two cars from 2Tp came up to thicken the barrage. 3 PoW were taken. Soon after the 5th DG and a Tp of B Sqn came up and took over. 1Tp and 4Tp went into AHAUS which 1st RTR had entered the previous evening. 1Tp tried to go NE down the CL and 4Tp tried to go NW. 4Tp were held up early on by a covered road block and made no progress. 1Tp together with Recce Tp 1st RTR reached 523891 when the leading tank was KO'd by an A/Tk gun. 1Tp Ldr who was 30 yards behind had 3 near misses. It was not until 1800 hours that we could make any further progress down the road. In the meantime 1st RTR had done a difficult advance across country parallel to the road. Whole Sqn leaguered at 528885. A Sqn. At 0100 hours the 5th RTR came through us to try and get to VERDEN and capture the bridge. At first light the Sqn moved up to VERDEN but the bridge had been blown and we were just sending out patrol to the East and West to try and find a way across when the 5th RTR and us were ordered back. Lt Williamson as he was moving West suddenly saw a Mk VI tank about 100 yards from him and he withdrew. The 5th RTR got up a Firefly and brewed it up with the third shot. The Sqn then moved back to 402735 where we stayed for the rest of the day and that night. B Sqn. Sqn had to supply left flank protection to the CL. Three Tps were used and worked with the Skins and 5th RTR. 5Tp was sent to WINTERSWIJK but was held up by craters and remained at 432810 in observation. 1Tp was despatched on the road to OTTENSTEIN but was also held up by craters and remained in observation at 452852 where he took 5 PoW. 4Tp went along the road to WESSUM and met the enemy at 481865 in the form of 30 Infantry and 1 SP gun. Despite a prolonged argument the Tp was unable to make further progress. All Tps returned to SHQ at WULLEN at last light.



	D Sqn. 3Tp and 4Tp reached AHAUS, 3Tp had a DAC and a DSC blown up on Teller mines near the station, when trying to get out to the right. Tpr Smith, Tpr Morris and LCpl Jenner were wounded and evacuated. No progress, to speak of, was made. 1Tp captured a staff car and 8 Germans. Lt Hickman took over 2Tp. Sqn concentrated for the night at WULLEN where it rained.
April 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Apr 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/4/45	RHQ. After the hold up at AHAUS yesterday, we were not very optimistic of making much progress. C Sqn were directed along the CL, but although the 1st RTR had got into HEEK, they had done so across country. After HEEK, 5th DG, moving slightly off the road, led till they we caught up and passed by the C Sqn patrol, who however, were again halted by another road block short of METELEN around which the 5th DG found a way. Meanwhile the hitherto virgin CL was nearly cut by about 150 Germans who came upon C Sqn 'brewing-up' on the left of the road short of HEEK. The rear link car got its K gun into action to cover the retreat, the speed of which was proved later by a plaintive appeal to B Sqn to pick up some cooking equipment left by the side of the road. A Sqn caught in the usual chaos of the traffic jam managed to despatch two Tps to guard the CL. Later the Queens captured 6 officers and 113 men in the area of the attack. After the road block had been cleared in front to METELEN, the C Sqn Tp went rapidly ahead, meeting a Tp of the Inns of Court by the X roads 6898 who had come from the SW. After this it advanced another 10 miles through NEUENKIRCHEN very quickly before being held up by an A/Tk gun on the right of the road. After the leading Tp had gone through HEEK another Tp was directed left on the road to OCHTRUP. They were to go as far as 5897 from where they were to go right and then tap along the smaller roads parallel to the CL. However they were fired on by an A/Tk gun and lost a Dingo though fortunately had no casualties. When the advance had been halted on the outskirts of RHEINE, B Sqn had orders to investigate the bridge at MESUM and A Sqn to tap NW to try and gain information about the bridge in the area of SALZBERGEN. B Sqn before completing their task ran into friends of the 11th Armd Div who had already gained and crossed the bridge at MESUM. A Sqn on the left were held up by 20mm fire, a DAC being KO'd and the patrol towards the RHEINE airfield was held up by poor visibility caused by smoke from exploding bomb dumps. C Sqn were later put under command of the Devons who in conjunction with 5th DG took the port of RHEINE West of the EMS. B Sqn crossed by MESUM bridge and concentrated on the other side at ELTE. A Sqn kept their patrols out at night. Bag – 30 PoW and 1 Me109. C Sqn. At 0530 hours 2Tp and 3Tp advanced down the main road as far as the leading troops at 560917 where there was a large concrete and wood road block. A Sherman bulldozer destroyed and removed this within ½ an hour. Meanwhile 2Tp Dingo and 1 Scout sect tried to work round to the left down a very bad track. 2Tp passed through the road block and advanced to Y roads at 565921, where he met a tree across the road – which he removed – and a number of mines of a type not known to us and which an RE officer showed us how to remove. 2Tp followed by 3Tp went to STENBORG where they saw and engaged a number of enemy. 4Tp went to HEEK where they joined 5th DG who had got there across country. SHQ, 3 Scout cars, went to a schloss to have breakfast. The sudden appearance of number of Germans in the grounds of the schloss caused breakfast to be abandoned rather hastily. The Germans were engaged, but not it is thought, with conspicuous success. 4Tp together with the 5th DG got as far as half mile short of METELEN. Here the Tp was held up for a time by a large road block of 12 trees and some mines. The tanks got around it but were themselves held up by another block. Meanwhile 2Tp had gone NE as far as 586965 where he amongst a number of enemy which he engaged. 3Tp went as far as 585962 then SE to 620947 where he met a large road block and mines. 2Tp decided that the enemy might pack-up if boldly attacked. The Dingo commander, LCpl Garner



DCM led, followed by Sgt Davies MM. They got right amongst the enemy and, as was later found out, only 2 yards from some mines. The Dingo had 2 bazookas fired at it from about 10 yards range and went into the ditch. The DAC had 3 A/Tk gun shots from the flank which missed. The DAC reversed out of it and the Dingo crew got back on foot. LCpl Garner had been captured in 1940 with Lt Pitman. After several unsuccessful attempted escapes, which were very severely punished, he finally succeeded in getting back to our own lines in Italy in 1944. He rejoined C Sqn after just over 4 years absence.

By 1120 hours 4Tp got through METELEN just ahead of 5th DG and was then directed on RHEINE – a distance of about 12 miles. At 683980 there were some mines across the road which Sgt Berry removed, and then motored straight on without any halt to within 1 mile of the outskirts of RHEINE. Here a 75mm A/Tk gun opened up on him, but missed with 5 shots. Sgt Berry halted his Tp behind a house, which if he went either to the left or right of it, he got shot at. At this stage he noticed that the house was a pub so he went inside and had a well deserved glass of beer. 5th DG and the DLI came up shortly and took over.

In the afternoon 1Tp and 3Tp had to go out to 698022 and 713030 as left flank protection. They stayed there for the night.

A Sqn.

Moved off at 0615 hours up the CL to catch up with the rest of the Regt. We carried on up the CL until we reached NEUENKIRCHEN where C Sqn were held up about 1 mile North of it. 4Tp were sent to try and get to SALZBERGEN and 3Tp was sent to OHNE, Lt Morton in command as Lt Osborne had gone on leave to England.

4Tp got on well encountering only a few enemy with rifles until he got to an aerodrome in area 739112 and here he was held up by exploding bomb dumps. He found the Germans in process of blowing them up and a dump of incendiaries were exploding in the middle of the track, which prevented him from going any further. 1Tp was sent out to help him and protect his rear as there were quite a few enemy milling about in the area.

3Tp had not gone very far along his route before he ran into an enemy position consisting of two 20mm guns and Infantry. His leading car was hit and the driver wounded in the foot. Lt Morton had to drop back but the driver was got out OK and Lt Morton went back on foot to see if he could help the other two, Sgt Turner and Tpr Smith '91. The enemy kept firing at the car and pinned the 3 in a ditch for some time, and brewed up the car. 2Tp under Lt Williamson was sent to help and soon after he arrived, the 3 missing people turned up alright, except that Sgt Turner had a small bit of shrapnel in his forehead. The rest of 3Tp was sent back to SHQ and 2Tp remained in observation of the enemy position until dark.

Just before last light SHQ moved to 7408 and 1Tp and 4Tp came in, but 2Tp remained out all night with a Coy of Infantry who were protecting his left flank. 2Lt Svewright joined the Sqn and was put under Lt Williamson.

B Sqn.

From first light a small swan gathered momentum from AHAUS and was brought to a halt at RHEINE. The Sqn travelled along the CL in a good position for a sprint down the straight. There were two Tps at the head of the advance, with SHQ and the reserve Tp well placed a short way behind, with yet another Tp about 2 miles further behind. This Tp was called upon to deal with some Infantry who tried to snipe the thin-skinned kit moving behind the armour.

Incidentally, this enemy Infantry surprised C SHQ HQ at breakfast. Lt Flood dealt with the enemy Infantry and then finished off C Sqn's breakfast, which was still warm.

On reaching NEUENKIRCHEN three Tps swung East to recce the bridge over the river EMS at MESUM and then to fan out to the bridges over the DORTMUND – EMS canal at BIRGTE, REISENBECK and BEVERGERN. 3Tp Sgt McGuire was given the BIRGTE bridge, 5Tp Lt Svewright the REISENBECK bridge and 1Tp Lt Nicholson the BEVERGERN bridge.

At MESUM the leading Tp met up with friends from the 11th Armd Div which necessitated a change of orders. 11th Armd Div were over the bridge at BIRGTE and to prevent a duplication of tasks we were ordered to advance on RHEINE from the SE between the river and the canal. 5Tp were on the left and advanced to FIEDLER where he was held up by Infantry with bazookas in the woods at 8306. 3Tp in the centre and 1Tp on the right were unable to progress further than 907065, where they were bogged down on the soft tracks. All Tps returned to SHQ at last light at 874046, East of ELTE.

D Sqn.

Sqn in reserve and moved during the day from WULLEN via AHAUSHEEK METELEN WEETRINGEN and NEUENKIRCHEN to area 7703 where we stopped for the night.



2/4/45	RHQ. After the 11th Armd Div had crossed the river and canal, the 7th Armd Div were to follow with B Sqn leading. However there was unexpectedly heavy opposition from the other side of the canal and IBBENBUREN remained strongly held. Consequently the whole movement was held up. B Sqn watched the left flank between the river and the canal and C Sqn going under command 22nd Armd Bde guarded the CL. A & D Sqn were in reserve. Bag – 14 PoW. C Sqn. There was nothing to report during the morning. 2Tp and 5Tp relieved 1Tp & 3Tp. They were joined by a Sqn of 5th RTR at dusk as there was a flap on – nothing materialised. A Sqn. At first light 4Tp went back to the aerodrome where there were still a few Germans about, blowing up bomb dumps. 2Tp went back to the area of the enemy position but could not see any Germans and could not get down the track owing to the burnt out car blocking it. At 1000 hours the Sqn moved to 758035 and 2Tp and 4Tp were called in. At 1200 hours 1Tp was sent out back down the CL to a wood at 6998, where some Germans had smartened up Corps HQ the night before, to see if he could clear up the situation. When he got there the track into the woods was not passable to him, so he just sat there until our Infantry arrived and when they started clearing up the place he was brought back to SHQ. During the day 3Tp was broken up and another DAC came up so Lt Morton with his car, took over 5Tp, which had not been operating since it had its car knocked out. Sgt Murray, 5Tp Sgt, got a new car and crew, so we then only had four Tps, with a WSC and a Dingo making up a 5Tp for local protection. B Sqn. The situation remained unchanged, with stiff resistance being encountered in RHEINE, and three Tps were despatched to carry out the task which was abandoned on the 1st of April. 4Tp went to FIEDLER, 3Tp went to LOOSE and 1Tp to REISENBECK. No advance was made, but 13 PoW were taken during the day. D Sqn. Rained all day. Moved to NEUENKIRCHEN to join 131 Bde over 11th Armd Div bridge as RHEINE was still held by fanatics but owing to traffic congestion and opposition in the hills North of the canal we spent the whole day and night at NEUENKIRCHEN.
3/4/45	RHQ. The advance was again held up by enemy resistance in the heights above IBBENBUREN. B Sqn again sent out 3 patrols, the left hand advanced to the railway and contacted friends from 157 Bde. The bridge over the railway was mined and booby trapped and a job for the RE's. The patrol on the right attempted to go NW along the main road running alongside the canal but could not get beyond 914079 without being shelled from the high ground on the eastern side of the canal. About lunchtime B Sqn were ordered to send a further patrol across the canal and to work up Red Route on the left flank of the Div axis. It was soon held up by the bad condition of the tracks which became impassable at 946074. C Sqn spent a quiet day watching the CL West of NEUENKIRCHEN. C Sqn. A few shots from an enemy gun in the morning. 53 Div Recce came up during the evening and all Tps were withdrawn. A Sqn. We did maintenance in the morning and at about 1700 hours we moved up to MESUM behind RHQ where we spent the night in a very high class house with a good cellar. B Sqn. Tps were despatched to the same patrol positions with 4Tp left, 2Tp centre and 5Tp on the right. 4Tp advanced as far as the railway bridge at 812080 and reported the road mined and the bridge prepared for demolition. Lt Flood made a recce on foot with the Scout sect, to the North side of the bridge and captured 7 PoW and a 20mm A/Tk gun. 2Tp Lt Young was switched from his position to work on 4Tp immediate North but was held up by shellfire. 5Tp remained in position all day and had nothing to report. During the afternoon SHQ moved up to 131 Bde HQ with 1Tp at LOSSMANN on the North side of the canal. 1Tp were required to advance on the high ground which dominated the bridge at BIRGTE and was held by the enemy in some strength. Formations of enemy being mainly officer cadets and NCOs from a training school in HANNOVER. The Tp advanced on the left of the Devons who were



	engaging the enemy, and tried to work up through the wooded slopes. Owing to inclement weather, the tracks were so bad that no progress was made past the forward slopes at 946068. The project was given up and all Tps returned to SHQ at last light to our position near ELTE. D Sqn. Moved to a farm South of REISENBECK at 9404 with the purpose of being handy to get over the bridge. Came under command 131 Bde and spent the night there.
4/4/45	RHQ. It was decided we should use the CL of the 11th Armd Div and the day was spent in an exasperating traffic fight. In the afternoon A Sqn managed to get through and relieve the Inns of Court at WESTKAPPELN and the Xroads at 0809. In the late evening C Sqn emerged through the traffic, did a night march across the bridge at HALEN and on to the next bridge at VENNE where they relieved another Inns of Court patrol. C Sqn. Sqn moved with RHQ during the morning over the 11th Armd Div bridge on the DORTMUND – EMS canal, then carried on during the afternoon and evening to a bridge over the WESER – EMS canal held by the Inns of Court at 307220. Spent the night at the bridge. A Sqn. At 1245 hours the Sqn moved off with the following task. Going up the CL of the 11th Armd Div through TECKLENBURG to 085055 with the object of reporting on the state of traffic etc on the route. When we got to 085055 4Tp was sent to WESTKAPPELN and 1Tp went up behind him and remained at the Xroads at 088092 to block anything coming in from the West. On his way to WESTKAPPELN 4Tp was shelled by a gun which was not very effective. When he reached there he was told to patrol due East along the main road, but he could not get very far owing to bazookas so he took up a position covering the approaches to the town from the West and NW. 2Tp was sent up from 085055 to LOTTE and then to WERSEN and then on to look at the bridge at HALEN 143159. He got up there without seeing anything and found the bridge intact and fit for heavy traffic. From there he went North towards BRAMSCHE, reaching halfway, before being called in at last light. 5Tp was sent during the afternoon to WESTKAPPELN and told to work up NE along the main road towards BRAMSCHE. He did not get very far owing to heavy traffic on the CL. For the night 1Tp stayed with friends at the Xroads, 4Tp and 5Tp stayed with friends at WESTKAPPELN and 2Tp came back to SHQ. At 160165. B Sqn. 3Tp and 5Tp were operating on the left and right in the same area and at midday we were relieved by 52 Recce. The Regt was moving up towards OSNABRUCK and we remained in the ELTE area until the traffic thinned out a little on the CL on the North side of the canal. D Sqn. Late in the afternoon we moved over the bridge and went to LEDDE arriving in the dark. The SSM's SAC stuck on the only track to our farm and was pulled out by the 8th Hussars who went on passed us with the 1/5th Queens. However, they met enemy at the railway crossing 2 miles ahead and stayed the night in that position.
5/4/45	RHQ. C Sqn sent out 4 patrols, 1 directed on DIEPHOLZ, another on WAGENFELD and 2 to encircle the dominating high ground of the STEMMER wood. The last task was quickly completed. The southern patrol advanced up the CL and was halted in the area 4335 by two 88's which were subsequently destroyed by tanks of the 5th RTR. However the rest of the way was rather sticky and by last light, had not reached DIEPHOLZ. The other patrols were relieved by B Sqn who, rushing up from the IBBERBUREN had motored about 50 miles before taking over about midday. The day was marked by considerable, unopposed, activity by 2 or 3 Me109, who flew leisurely around strafing and bombing, clearing one traffic jam in record time. One Me109 dropped a bomb in our column landing between the water-bug and the petrol lorry, but fortunately only succeeded in wounding 2 German PoW who were sitting on the petrol cans. A Sqn again patrolled in the area of the bridge at HALEN and in spite of opposition eventually reached the bridge at BRAMSCHE which was blown. Bag – 43 PoW (ORs), 1 officer and 3 killed.



C Sqn.

At first light the Sqn advanced with 3Tp leading, NE. At HUNTEBURG 3Tp saw a few German soldiers but they went into houses and we moved through, the RBs following up, took 12 PoW here. 3Tp was next held up by a road block at RHEININGEN which was held. It was engaged and a tank brought up to help destroy the road block. Lt Markham went forward to inspect the block and took PoW 1 officer and 1 OR, 2 others were found wounded nearby. The advance continued to Xroads 437298, several military hospitals were overrun.

4Tp had meanwhile forked left to go South of STEMMER, a large commanding feature which overlooked the CL. 5Tp relieved 3Tp on the CL and advanced North through LEMFORDE to MARLE where he engaged and halted a staff car, the occupants escaped. 2Tp went East along the North side of STEMMER and soon took 2 PoW and engaged others. 3Tp again followed up 5Tp and forked right at 437348. He soon came amongst a number of Germans which he engaged and took PoW 1 Major and 3 ORs, the Major was wounded in the head.

Soon after that both 3Tp and 5Tp came under accurate A/Tk fire from the North. In 5Tp, the WSC had an 88mm shell burst only a yard from the front wheel, the driver Tpr Barr was seriously wounded in the head and later died in hospital, and all the crew were slightly wounded. A tank of the 5th RTR which was following up the Tp saw the gun and knocked it out, also killing all the crew. 3Tp had several near misses but no damage.

LEMBRUCH was definitely held by a number of Infantry and up to 4 A/Tk guns. 5th RTR smartened the town up with artillery and later pushed through. 4Tp contacted the Inns of Court at WESTRUP and then returned to SHQ. 3Tp pushed on East and engaged a number of Infantry at 4836. He took 7 PoW including another officer, his 3rd for the day.

1Tp was meanwhile leading the advance again up the CL. It was slow as the road was on an embankment with very occasional way off. It was lined by trees on both sides and there were periodical road blocks. German soldiers and civs were regularly seen on the road ahead. Beside this there was an airfield to the West apparently defended by 88's of which he could see 4, which he thought were abandoned. 1Tp passed these guns and our Infantry were asked to destroy them. The Infantry duly came up to do the job and were slightly sarcastic when they found the guns to be dummies! They agreed however, that they were very good dummies. On this road 1Tp took 7 PoW.

1Tp got as far as the rail crossing at 427435 by dark.

The Sqn leaguered just South of that area for the night. It had been a good day and we had led the Div for 16 miles; all against light opposition to LEMBRUCH when the 88's started showing up. The Luftwaffe made quite a good showing, continually over the area from 1400 hours till dark, straffing the roads. The first plane to attack caught his wing-tip in a tree and spread himself out over 300 yards of countryside. This considerably encouraged everyone who had a gun and a formidable SA barrage greeted all future attacks. There was no AA or RAF and the Sqn fired 10,000 rounds of SA ammunition. Bag for the day – 3 officers and 19 ORs and 1 staff car.

A Sqn.

At first light 2Tp moved out to BRAMSCHE. 1, 4 & 5Tps stayed in their night positions. When 2Tp was about 1000 yards South of BRAMSCHE he was joined by some of the 1st RTR and they found the bridge blown and held by four 20mm guns. The tanks started engaging these and while this was happening, 2Tp's **Dingo** was straffed by a FW190 without doing any damage. 2Tp remained in observation for the rest of the day.

At 1000 hours 5Tp was recalled to SHQ and 4Tp ordered to feel West along the main road. He was doing this when he ran into some bazookas and had to get back out of it. Lt Woodhouse was very lucky as one just missed his car, hit a nearby tree and wounded him in the hand. Shortly after this the Sqn came under command of the Div and we were ordered to recce the bridges at 075189 and 040185. 4Tp went to the first one and when he got to within 200 yards of it he saw some enemy on it, which he smartened up. The bridge was intact but he could not get on to it so remained in observation for the rest of the day.

5Tp was sent out to the second bridge but never reached it as the track was very bad. He got about halfway before it got dark and halted owing to bad visibility. At 1800 hours the Sqn came under command 1/5th Queens and we were told to leave our patrols out until we were given further orders. At 2030 hours we were ordered to call in all patrols and move to ENGTERR. Wireless was very bad this night and the patrols were not got in until 2300 hours and we did not start moving until 2400 hours to ENGTERR.

B Sqn.

Starting early in the morning we motored to join up with the Regt. After covering 55 miles we eventually fetched up at DIELINGEN. C Sqn was advance guard along the CL with Tps feeling out to the East. We were given the eastern commitment and 3 Tps were used, all directed on to



	WAGENFELD. 5Tp was on the left and advanced to WAGENFELD from the West, 3Tp in the centre was advancing from the South and 4Tp on the right advanced from the SE. 3Tp and 5Tp got into the village with a small amount of difficulty and 3Tp took 9 PoW. 1Tp with Tac SHQ had a brush with a small force of 50 oozlebahts and succeeded in brewing up a couple of houses. At night all roads leading into WAGENFELD were covered by various Tps and a peaceful night was spent. D Sqn. At first light 2Tp joined the leading Tp of the 8th Hussars at the railway crossing. 4Tp tried to work West and made about 3,000 yards. 1Tp tried all the tracks to the East and found them impassable. At 1000 hours we got orders to return to the Regt as quickly as possible. We pushed on madly via WERSEKE over HALEN bridge to WALLENHORST, ENGETER, VENNE, where we halted for 3 hours, and finished up with RHQ at BROCKEM. All afternoon we were harassed by Me109's, Fw190's and rain. No damage was caused and we had some good shooting.
6/4/45	RHQ. DIEPHOLZ was captured in the night and C Sqn resumed their flog along the CL, despatching 2 patrols to the NW and NE to look after the flank. One of these lost a DAC to a bazooka, though sustaining no severe casualties. The patrol along the CL made good progress before being held up at SOLINGEN by A/Tk fire. The village was eventually cleared and C Sqn turned left towards BESSUM and the CL having been edged left to make room for the 11th Arm Div. At last light they reported 2 Tigers in the area of the Xroads 7360. B Sqn approaching SOLINGEN from the South were similarly held up. However, 1st RTR were able to make use of a diversion and striking the CL about 2000 yards East of the village set off for HOYA. B Sqn had to wait until the place was cleared before being able to follow up 1st RTR who made excellent progress, reaching the Xroads 8859 before last light. Bag – 3 officers, 22 ORs PoW, 1 killed and 2 staff cars captured. C Sqn. Before first light the RBs went into DIEPHOLZ and more or less cleaned it up. 4Tp started along the CL to the East, 2Tp went NE and 1Tp to the North. 4Tp got as far as 450463 when he was held up by a road block. He reced forward on foot and found that the bridge was prepared for demolition with 2 large bombs. These took a bit of time to shift. 2Tp got as far as JAKOBIDREBBER where his leading DAC was hit by a bazooka. The missile struck the gun mantlet and just perforated the armour into the turret. The crew were a bit winded by blast but were otherwise OK. 4Tp continued to lead the advance as far as BARVER Xroads. Here he turned North and 3Tp took over the CL due East. SHQ moved to BARVER Xroad to meet the Colonel who had 'liberated' a road from the South. The Xroad was overlooked by a pub which contained 3 bottles of champagne which duly received the punishment they deserved. 3Tp continued to push East at a very fast pace – he met, head-on and put in the bag, an officer and staff car and pushed on as far as the rail crossing at 705525. Here he saw an AFV just SW of SOLINGEN with men on it. The tanks who were following up were asked to deal with it. This took a bit of time and the approach into SOLINGEN was slow and awkward. 3Tp set his scouts ahead on foot (4 men) into the town to recce the situation. They met a Volkswagen with 4 soldiers in it – they disabled it with Bren and the crew ran into a house and were later captured. The CL was now diverted NW for about 3 miles before going East again. 1Tp took the lead while 3Tp went up the road due North. They both reported enemy ahead and were both shot at. 1Tp Dingo (2Lt Jaffray) had a couple of near misses and fired his smoke which obscured his vision and he put his machine into the ditch. The Tp came back out and the Dingo was recovered that night. The Sqn leaguered just North of SOLINGEN. Another good day in which we had led for 20 miles – removed or bypassed quite a lot of opposition and taken several PoW. Sgt Berry had engaged a Me109 with K guns which were seen to hit, and it produced black smoke as it went down behind a hill. Bag for the day – 1 officer, 7 ORs, 1 staff car and a Volkswagen. A Sqn. Arrived at ENGETER at 0100 hours and all the Tps were put out blocking all the roads. When we arrived we found that the RBs were doing the job so there was really no need for us. At 0900 hours we were told to flick back to the Regt, and to move off to rejoin them as soon as possible. By this time they were miles ahead of us, so we moved off at 0930 hours straight up the CL until we could get into wireless contact with them and find out where to go. We eventually arrived at RHQ B1 at



	WAGENFELD where we picked up our Echelon and replenished. We then moved on to VARREL where 4Tp went NW to 7448 to make good the road to the main road. 2Tp went NE to 6750 to make that road good. When they had done that they were both called back to SHQ. At 2000 hours the Sqn moved to SOLINGEN with RHQ where we spent the night. B Sqn. A slight change in the CL. Instead of being directed onto NIENBURG the CL was switched NW to HOYA. 5Tp was directed on HOYA and reached 922646 which was 5 Kms South of the place. He took 30 PoW. 2Tp and 1Tp were directed onto ASENDORF from the South but made little progress after SIEDENBURG. 2Tp took 4 PoW. 3Tp felt his way along the main road towards NIENBURG but was held up by a blow in the road at BORSTEL. All Tps returned at last light to SHQ at SIEDENBURG. D Sqn. We moved at first light in a thick fog to WAGENBURG where we remained until 1500 hours. At 1500 hours the Sqn returned to under command 131 Bde who had orders to clear area DIEPHOLZ, BARNSTORF, SE to the CL. 1Tp went West to REHDEN and worked North making 2000 yards only, as an ammunition dump exploded and barred any further progress, it included gas shells. 3Tp worked North from 5747 to BORKEN which was clear, and reached 562491 where the bridge was blown and covered by the enemy. Four 88's fired on him during the evening.
7/4/45	RHQ. B Sqn continued the advance with the 1st RTR to HOYA where they found a bridge blown. From here they pushed North and NW. They made good progress passing through MARTFELD. The right was held up by Infantry with bazookas at 952746. In the afternoon Tac R reported that the bridge at 8889 was intact and all efforts were directed to gain it. B Sqn tried to work round to it but were held up at 890844 by 2 SPs, but made use of the enforced halt to rope in over 100 PoW. A Sqn reced at first light the roads from MAASEN to ASENDORF turning North to find Xroads at 8267 strongly held. The Xroads were eventually cleared with the help of 8th Hussars and they proceeded to VILSEC where they discovered a cellar full of Schnapps. From here they were directed on SYKE but when the report of the bridge at 8889 came through, priority was given to an eastern advance in conjunction with the 8th Hussars. By last light opposition from bazookas and Infantry was met at 8381 which held them up. C Sqn continued their recce North from SOLINGEN and reached NEUBRUCHHAUSEN to find it held by Infantry and a 37mm, losing 2 DAC without casualties. By last light they succeeded in entering the town where they consolidated for the night. D Sqn were under command 131 Bde working towards BASSUM. It was a very good day for PoW and we had a total bag of 254 including several officers, 4 staff cars, 1 HDT, 1 MC and a lorry. C Sqn. 2Tp and 4Tp started with the same roles. 2Tp was fired on early by A/Tk guns in the area South of SCHOLEN. 4Tp got into SCHWAFORDEN OK where there were a few snipers who soon packed up. 2 & 4Tp pushed on slowly – 2Tp to the North towards BASSUM and 4Tp to the East, where he got as far as ENGEIN where he met a Tp of B Sqn who had come in from the South. He remained in that area. 3Tp meanwhile went North from 772660 through SUDWALDE and as far as the northern edge of the wood at 714712. From here he could see the village of NEUBRUCHHAUSEN which appeared to be occupied by enemy. 3Tp Ldr entered a nearby house and telephoned the burgomaster. This gentleman said that the town was still occupied and that there were flak guns on both sides of the road. He also stated that he thought the occupants wished to surrender. 3Tp therefore advanced towards the village and had almost got into it when 2 of the flak guns (37mm or 20mm) opened up on the leading car, Sgt Howard, and scored several hits without serious damage. The 2 cars then endeavoured to get back along the road which was partially blocked by a road block. The leading car was hit again and through the smoke, crashed into the road block, completely blocking the road. Both crews had to bale out and were heavily fired on as they returned to the remainder of the Tp. SHQ followed by 1Tp came up immediately to 3Tp and covered the damaged cars from any further assault. Up to 40 Germans and several lorries and flak guns could be plainly seen. Artillery support was called for but NOT supplied. After about an hour the enemy started to withdraw and we recovered the cars – not seriously damaged and entered NEUBRUCHHAUSEN. 2Tp had meanwhile gone on slowly, being regularly shot at by A/Tk gun which used to have a couple of quick shots, then pull back. This was difficult to cope with but luckily the shots were not very accurate.



Sqn spent the night in NEUBRUCHHAUSEN.

A Sqn.

At 0545 hours 1Tp moved out East along the main road for 2 Kms and then up North to 818630 to recce the route for RHQ and the 8th Hussars who were going to use it. The rest of the Sqn, less 5Tp and the B1, moved off to follow 1Tp at 0630 hours. When 1Tp reached 818630, 4Tp was pushed on up to him and directed NW to 761760.

4Tp got on well to begin with and reached just short of 825692 without any opposition. 1Tp ran into some enemy with at least 1 A/Tk gun at 835681 but by that time the 8th Hussars were up behind him and they started to deal with it. From then on 1Tp worked with the leading tanks and got on very slowly, as VILSEN was held and had to be cleared by some Infantry and he only reached 859720 by the middle of the afternoon. After he had got through VILSEN he ran up against a tank which was hiding in the woods and he had to wait until the 8th Hussars had shifted it.

4Tp, as soon as the Xroads at 825693 were clear, started moving North but ran into an A/Tk gun and some men with bazookas who were covering the road. The gun did not fire but he drew back and remained in observation as he could not get round them. When it was seen that 4Tp were held up, 2Tp was sent out to just behind him and then up a side road to UNZEN and then on NW to bypass this road block.

At 1700 hours the 8th Hussars were ordered to move to THEDINGHAUSEN as quickly as possible and to try and bounce the bridge to the North across the river WESER. The Sqn was ordered to go with them and give them any help we could. The 8th Hussars route was from VILSEN then NE to THEDINGHAUSEN, with one Sqn going through 4Tp to clear up his little pocket. This they did without much trouble and flushed about 8 Germans.

2Tp was told to go along with the leading tanks and if they were held up to try and bypass the opposition and get onto the bridge. 4Tp were going along behind 2Tp once he had got through the road block. SHQ and the rest of the Sqn followed behind 8th Hussars RHQ.

At 790785 5Tp was sent along the road West to sit on it and act as a block. The leading tanks made good progress but were held up in the area 8281 by bazookas and Infantry. 2Tp tried to work round to the NE from 825805 but was held up, so 1Tp tried further East from the road junc 812800, but he was also held up, mostly from the fog of war as our tanks were firing all over the area. The enemy remained in position until last light and all Tps were withdrawn to SHQ at 820800.

B Sqn.

HOYA was entered by 1st RTR at night on the 6th and the bridge over the river WESER was blown. This meant that all river crossings northwards towards BREMEN were to be reced. 5Tp on the right advanced to WUHRDEN and was held up all day by a road block covered by Infantry. Shots were exchanged during the day and 1 German was killed. 2Tp advanced to BAHLM and joined up with the 8th Hussars with whom he spent the night. He captured 11 PoW, 2 staff cars and a MC.

1Tp was held up West of HOYA by a road block covered by Infantry. This was eventually cleared and he advanced onto BRUCKHAUSEN and NE to MARTFELD and then carried on NE to SUDSTEDT where he joined Tac SHQ and came into reserve.

3Tp advanced as far as BEPPEN and captured approx 150 PoW and 4 transports. In one instance he advanced so quickly that 50 enemy Infantry were so surprised that they had no time to seek cover in their prepared trenches and all were put in the bag. He was held up at BEPPEN by 2 SP guns one of which was destroyed and abandoned by the enemy, the other remaining to cover the road. Cpl Thacker and Tpr Ogden were wounded by shellfire.

D Sqn.

At first light we tried again but at 0830 hours the Brigadier decided that the capture of BASSUM and TWISTRINGEN would dominate the area and we dashed off to try and clear the route to give the 5th DG and DLI a good start.

2Tp left the CL at 700520 and worked NNW.

4Tp and 5Tp worked off at SOLINGEN and part of ANSTEDT 685595.

5Tp carried on North with 5th DG and 4Tp went to join 2Tp at EHRENBURG where a lorry was brewed up and 3 Germans killed.

2Tp then carried on towards TWISTRINGEN and reached the railway crossing just before last light, to find it held by 20 enemy. However, 5th DG and DLI got in from the East and cleared it up.

4Tp carried on North through WEDERHORN, found the railway crossing South of BASSUM not held, and at last light brewed up a house on the main road killing 6 Germans and burning an 88mm tractor.

5Tp reached the railway crossing with the 5th DG South of BASSUM and they KO'd an 88mm and a 50mm, but quite a lot of Infantry held the embankment and no further progress was made that night. We stopped at WEDERHORN.



8/4/45

RHQ.

During the night there was a change in orders. A Sqn were to continue their drive on the bridge while the rest of the Regt (D Sqn returning under command) were reverting under command of 7th Armd Div. We were to recce on the left flank. B Sqn reced North towards BREMEN but after passing through SYKE the patrols met considerable resistance from Infantry with bazookas. C Sqn reced West towards BASSUM and North to SYKE. BASSUM was clear by midday and entered after mines had been lifted. SYKE was also cleared in the morning by 5th RTR and a Tp went West to PESTINGHAUSEN, a good OP position from which much movement could be observed on the Xroads 1000 yards West. This was engaged by a gunner OP late in the day. D Sqn moved through BASSUM, directed NW and contacted enemy in DUMLAUSEN and ELLEKENHAUSEN, the Xroad to the North of which, was held by MG and Pzfaust.

C Sqn.

At first light 4Tp advanced West towards BASSUM and 1Tp went North to SYKE which was not quite clear and the 5th RTR and RBs were clearing it up. 4Tp got nearly as far as BASSUM and came amongst a number of enemy. They were engaging these when a bazooka was fired at the Tp Ldr's car; it missed but Sgt Berry was wounded though not seriously. He withdrew his Tp to reorganise and report. Sgt Berry had to be evacuated, much against his wishes, and Sgt Reid took over on the spot. 1Tp had meanwhile passed through SYKE and got as far as Xroads 700797. There he met a number of Germans which they shot up – killing one and scaring several others. They pushed on into PESTINGHAUSEN where they saw some transport coming up behind them on the left. They did a sharp 'about' and bagged 3 lorries and half a dozen Germans incl an MO. 1Tp then returned to PESTINGHAUSEN and took up an OP position in a house. 3Tp went out to look after their rear which was a bit exposed, and to evacuate the PoW.

SHQ endeavoured to liberate the road SW from SYKE. The first objective, 715796, was reached OK and a halt for breakfast was called. During this, 2 Germans with 5 horses appeared and were taken PoW. A further 2 were found hiding in a ditch soon afterwards.

1Tp had an excellent position of observation in PESTINGHAUSEN and reported two 88's, an SP gun or tank, several lorries, staff cars and many men in NORDWOHLDE only a mile away. The lack of our own 75mm guns (barrels worn out) was most keenly felt. Artillery support, or better still an OP to go to the spot was urgently requested. Finally we got an artillery tank with SHQ and Lt Brett Smith conducted a shoot on the Infantry positions just in front of him. The 88's had unfortunately moved away.

BASSUM was reported clear by midday and 4Tp was ordered to enter from the East. They lifted mines on the rail crossing and shortly afterwards took 22 PoW in the same area. SHQ advanced as far as 680750 and 4Tp came up to meet them. 1Tp noticed some movement in a house nearby and sent the Scout sect to investigate, they captured a Cpl.

SHQ and 4Tp returned to 7179 and met up with the B1 Echelon and also found a couple of deserters in a house nearby. 1Tp and 3Tp returned at dusk. Bag for the day – 38 PoW, incl 1 officer, 1 killed and 3 lorries, 1 MC captured. A dump of 47 staff or civ cars in various states of decomposition was overrun – some of them were in quite good condition.

A Sqn.

At first light 2Tp was sent North up to THEDINGHAUSEN, 1Tp was sent NE to REIDE and 5Tp was sent to DONNERSTEDT and then due West to have a look at REIDE from the East.

1Tp ran into a road block at 812848 and while they were looking around a German had a shot at them with a bazooka but missed. The Scout sect baled out and shot the bazooka man and then went for the house he had come from. In the general mix up they killed 2 more Germans but then had to withdraw. When the whole Tp had dropped back a bit they found that Cpl Ogden was missing. Lt McLean went back to look for him but had a grenade thrown at him so had to come back again. The Tp remained in observation of the road block for the rest of the day. At about midday, Lt McLean again went out to try and find Cpl Ogden and this time found him by a house dead, and was unable to bring him back.

After 2Tp had got through the road block he carried on to THEDINGHAUSEN with the 8th Hussars close behind him. He got through the town and when he was coming out of the NE end of it when 4 SPs opened up on him and the leading tanks. He then spent a very uncomfortable 2 hours unable to move as the SPs were only 200 yards away and every time anyone moved they fired. Luckily no damage was done to him and very little to the tanks. After 2 hours the SPs withdrew and he was brought back into the town.

During the morning 5Tp managed to get right up to REIDE without any trouble. His leading car went in and was just turning into the main street when the car commander, Sgt Murray, saw a tank turning with about 30 soldiers around it. He immediately backed down a side turning and the whole Tp dropped back to some high ground and sat in observation of the town. A troop of the 8th Hussars



	was sent to support him. At 1600 hours we came under command 22nd Armd Bde and our orders were to protect the right flank of the 8th Hussars as they moved NW through REIDE to SJD. 2Tp was called in, but 1Tp and 5Tp remained out as a Sqn of the 8th Hussars was going through each of them to attack REIDE. This attack took the rest of the day but they took it by last light and did not go any further so all Tps were called in to SHQ for the night at 830827. Lt Woodhouse was evacuated owing to his wound going septic and Lt Sheepshank took over his Tp. B Sqn. The Sqn moved West to HELIHENFELD and three Tps went West to SYKE ready to move out NE & NW once SYKE was ours. 1Tp advanced as far as the bocage at 7185 which was held by a Btn of SS. 5Tp did nothing because no openings were made. D Sqn. In the morning BASSUM was captured and 5Tp pushed out to the NW and reached 6475 where the bridge was blown and there were a few enemy. A sniper was shot. 3Tp worked out West and reached ELLECKENHAUSEN capturing 1 officer and 3 ORs. The Xroads in front was held by MG and Pzfaust. 4Tp worked out to the NW but was shelled if he advanced any further than the outskirts of the town. Spent the night at STELE.
9/4/45	RHQ. C Sqn sent out two Tps to the PESTINGHAUSEN OP. From 0730 hours onwards artillery was called for (in vain) onto large numbers of enemy, incl two 88's on the Xroads, and at 1128 hours a pincer attack developed from these directed on SYKE, with 50 – 60 men, supported by at least one 88mm SP, and from 7081 to the main road at 709801 with 100 men and 2 SPs. The whole Sqn had to pull back to positions screening SYKE, about 2000 yards from the town, but not before a spirited action in which SHQ allowed the attacking Infantry to come within 100 yards before they opened up on them with 6 MGs and 2 rifles. This created consternation in the enemy ranks who all fell down sharpish, but when the SP turned up SHQ had to withdraw. Artillery fire was brought down and the attack petered out, having at least achieved the object of denying us the OP position. A Sqn continued to protect the right flank of the 8th Hussars who were edging towards BREMEN from due South. At 1200 hours Sqn came under command Div to watch the river WESER from 8686 to 9182. This they did under command KOSB for the night, concentrating at 891815 with two Tps with a Coy at BLENDER. B Sqn again operating North and NW of SYKE sent one Tp to observe West from outskirts of BARRIEN to the woods at 7185, still strongly held, and with 8th Hussar towards 7288 in close touch with SS Infantry. Little progress against the stubborn flank guard. D Sqn working NW from TWISTRINGEN and BASSUM detached a Tp to contact C Sqn when the latter were attacked, and covered their left. Other Tps reached the road junction East of WILDESCHAUSEN from TWISTRINGEN and 1000 yards North of BECKELN where heavy opposition was met and no further progress made. C Sqn. 2Tp and 3Tp went to PESTINGHAUSEN to take up the same OP as 1Tp had done the previous day. Many enemy could be seen (more than 100) within a mile of their position. Artillery support or an OP was again demanded at 0730 hours. At 1100 hours increased movement among the enemy was observed and an officer was plainly seen issuing orders and pointing to the East. The OP had still not arrived, though promised and actually on his way. RHQ, and in turn Div, were warned of an impending counter-attack, and we laid the Adjutant a fiver at evens, that the counter-attack would arrive before the OP, but there were no takers. At 1128 hours a tank was heard to start up and advance towards 2 & 3Tp positions. At the same time the Infantry started to try and outflank their position. They were ordered to withdraw to SHQ who were at 700797, about 1000 yards back, at the Xroads. 3Tp was ordered to withdraw East if further withdrawal was necessary, whilst SHQ and 2Tp went South. We took up a position on the northern edge of a wood about 200 yards South of the Xroads. The Infantry, about 50 – 60 strong, continued to advance East from PESTINGHAUSEN, but the tank hung back a bit, so we allowed the Infantry to come within 100 yards before we opened up. We had 6 MGs (3 K guns, 1 Bren, 1 Besa, 1 Browning) and two good shots with rifles all lined up and we all opened up together. It was a nice barrage and the enemy did not appear to like it. The enemy all went down together but it was impossible to say who was hurt and who was frightened. The tank then came round the corner, almost certainly a Tiger, but could have been an SP with



	88mm. Anyway the gun got onto our position and a further withdrawal was indicated and carried out in good order. 3Tp meanwhile had reported the sound of more tracked vehicles to his North and approaching. He had to pull back fast to avoid being cut-off. A second column of 2 Tigers and about 100 men came down from LEERSSEN to the main road at 709801. The OP meanwhile had arrived with SHQ and put down several good stonks with 5.5's off the map onto the reported enemy positions. 3Tp had meanwhile contacted 2 tank destroyers of the Norfolk Yeomanry and directed them onto the Tigers. They also thickened up the barrage with 2pdr till a very near miss from an enemy 88mm HE damaged his car and forced him back. One Tiger was destroyed. 3Tp also saw a stonk from the 5.5's land well amongst the Infantry. The enemy Infantry and tanks were now only 1000 yards from the Sqn B Echelon and reserve Tps. We also lined the main road South of the forest to BASSUM to prevent infiltration South. The enemy had got to within 1000 yards of SYKE through which the Div CL ran. That was as far as he got. Enemy shelling by a troop of 88's and two troops of 105mm started on SYKE. We gave shell repson on their positions. Watching the woods in the afternoon we picked up 3 PoW, 1 of them aged 60 wearing bedroom slippers and carrying a walking stick – without which he would have definitely fallen down. He had NOT taken part in the attack in the morning. Nothing further occurred during the day and we spent the night in SYKE. A Sqn. We still had the same job of protecting the right flank of the 8th Hussars, so at first light 4Tp went to 833889 and sat in observation. 5Tp went to ASHAUSEN but had to wait until the 8th Hussars had cleared it before he could get in. When he did get in he sat in observation watching North. 1Tp came up through 5Tp and was going to DREYE to sit, but could not get any further than Xroads 782900 which the enemy was holding, and the road beyond there to DREYE. At 1200 hours we came under direct command of Div and the Sqn Ldr went there to receive orders. These were to watch the line of the river WESER from 8686 to 970820 where there was an unblown bridge held by the enemy. Capt Churton moved the Sqn to 891815 while the Sqn Ldr went to see a Btn of KOSB who were we taking over from at EINSTE. When he got down there he found we were taking over from an Armd Regt and a Btn of Infantry on a fairly active front, and into the bargain, had been given a larger area. However, soon after he got there our orders were changed slightly and we were put under the KOSB to give them any help they wanted. For the night 2Tp and 5Tp were sent to BLENDER to support a Coy that was in there. The rest of the Sqn remained at 891815. B Sqn. The same commitments were given with the addition of one Tp to move West from BARRIEN and take up a position of observation from which to observe West. 3Tp at the bocage made no progress. 5Tp got into SUD and joined up with the 8th Hussars and together they made their way west towards LEESTE, fighting all the way against SS troops. He took 7 SS PoW. A small counter attack took place West of SYKE and the B1 Echelon was moved out to the South for safety. The attack was held off and beaten back by C Sqn and the B1 returned to SYKE. All Tps returned to SYKE at last light. D Sqn. The same proceedings as before. C Sqn, on the right, were attacked from NORDEWALD and 4Tp was despatched North of BESSUM to link up with C Sqn left and then observe. Nothing however came our way and 4Tp was withdrawn. 5th DG came round through TWISTRINGEN and without 2Tp got on well, reaching the road junc East of WILDESSEN where stiff enemy resistance was encountered. 4Tp carried on North of BECKELN but only got 1000 yards and came under heavy mortar fire from KOHREN. Thus things remained for the night and we parked at HOBHINGHAUSEN.
10/4/45	RHQ. C Sqn at first light moved to BECKELN and RECKUM and thence to WILDESHAUSEN liberated that day, and sent three Tps a mile outside the town watching roads West, SW and South. Some parties of enemy were seen and a few MCs were ambushed during the day. B Sqn moved to BECKELN with the task of stopping the roads leading into the 131 Bde CL from the North. Four Tps converged on HARPESTEDT from which the enemy withdrew but on the road to the North the enemy were met 4000 yards from the village and progress was held up. C & B Sqns concentrated at last light near RHQ in area 5776. D Sqn was sent to clear a Div concentration area and completed the task by 2300 hours. They spent the night at BORSTEL. A Sqn was still under command Div and remained in support of the KOSB who were withdrawn during the morning into rest, leaving a Coy in BLENDER where a small enemy attack was seen off in the morning. C Sqn.



	At first light Sqn moved to BECKELN and later to RECKUM. From here 1, 2 & 3Tps went to WILDESHAUSEN, liberated that day, to watch the roads West, SW and South respectively. They all pulled out about 1 mile and hid up. The first arrival was to 1Tp and consisted of a Jerry RSM and one other, at 60 mph on a MC. He went so fast that he got past the Dingo in front but the AC pulled him up sharpish. Next, 2Tp saw a Coy of Infantry (about 70) marching from THOLSTEDT to DUNGSTRUP. Later all Tps advanced about a mile. 2Tp was approached by a MC who halted suspiciously and was fired on by LCpl Garner with the Dingo K guns and he immediately ran into a house. The Tp then advanced on the house which turned out to be a convalescent depot. The rider of the MC turned out to be an officer who made a further attempt to escape but was neatly bowled over by a Sten bullet in the cheek. Sgt Davies then organised a sick parade for the inmates and passed 10 of them fit which he evacuated, together with the officer as PoW. The remainder were either too old or too rough and were left. 1Tp was approached by a staff car which stopped suspiciously about 100 yards short. The car was shot up but the crew baled out and got back into the woods and away. 3Tp (Lt Pearson as Lt Markham had gone on leave) were held up by a road block, but their Scout car captured a staff car with 3 Germans. Bag for the day – 16 PoW, 2 staff cars and 2 MCs. Sqn joined RHQ for the night. A Sqn. At 0200 hours 2Tp who was with the forward Plt at BLENDER was attacked but drove the enemy off. They were again attacked at 0500 hours, but saw them off, making the enemy leave a lot of kit and 1 dead man. At first light 1Tp was sent down to look at the bridge at 960754 and found it intact, so sat on it for the rest of the morning. At 1400 hours we got orders to take over from the KOSB to let them concentrate and rest in that area. Their Colonel kindly left his Coy resting at BLENDER to help 2Tp. At about 2200 hours the Coy at BLENDER sent out a party to bring in 3 of their dead from the day before, supported by 2Tp Dingo. This party came under very accurate fire from about three 88's firing air-bursts. There were no casualties but they had to leave one of the dead still there. SHQ moved up to EINSTE for the night. B Sqn. Moved off West at first light to BECKELN and our job was to stop the roads leading into the 131 Bde CL from the North and if possible to advance North. All five Tps were used, four of which converged onto HARPSTEDT from the South and West. This was accomplished and three were ordered North, NE and NW from HARPSTEDT but very soon the enemy were encountered and further progress held up. 3Tp went NW to 5582 and encountered a road block covered by bazookas. 2Tp went North and ran into an SP which held him up. 5Tp went NE and was held up by mines and enemy Infantry. One of his cars was blown up on the mines. 1Tp advanced to KATENKAMP where he remained in observation. All Tps came in at last light to SHQ at GR. KOHREN. D Sqn. At dawn the Colonel arrived and the Sqn returned to the Regt in reserve. However, at 1500 hours the Sqn was ordered to move to NIENBURG. The plan was to clear the Div concentration area, which was mostly forest. The Sqn arrived at BORSTEL at 1800 hours and clearing began at once, 1 officer and 22 ORs being captured. 5Tp found a colossal underground factory in the forest North of STEYBURG, for powder and cordite. Needless to say no bomber had ever been near it. The clearing was completed by 2300 hours and we parked at BORSTEL.
11/4/45	RHQ. The Regt less A Sqn moved to LIEBENAU, contacting D Sqn in that area, preparatory to crossing the WESER at NIENBURG and advancing on the river ELBE. D Sqn was ordered to sweep across the WESER between 53rd Div and 11th Armd Div. RETHEM was found to be still strongly held and under assault by 53rd Div. The rest of the area was clear this side of the river ALLER, with some enemy to the East of the river. Meanwhile A Sqn had their Tps in position opposite the WESER, and one of their Tps in BLENDER was attacked closely for most of the day, and had to be replenished with ammunition by Dingo. In the end the Tp had to withdraw about 1000 yards but stood firm there. C Sqn. Regt moved to LIEBENAU area. A Sqn. 5Tp moved into BLENDER to protect the left of 2Tp as the KOSB moved out at 0700 hours. Everything was quiet until about 1245 hours when 2Tp was attacked by about 10 Germans who had crawled up to him along the hedgerows and got to within 20 yards of him. The Tp saw them off after about half an hour and forced them to leave behind quite a lot of their kit – 1 was definitely wounded and



	another believed killed. At 1600 hours 2Tp stood-to again as some Germans had got into a farm about 100 yards from his position. Soon after this all four Tps were airburst by about two 88's and 2Tp had some mortar shells fired at him. Soon after this 2Tp were again attacked and sniped at by rifle and MG fire from very close range. He could not tell how many there were as everytime anyone put his head up to look they were sniped. Their ammunition was beginning to run low so they could only shoot at definite movement. The Dingo had a bazooka fired at it from about 10 yards, but luckily it missed. They managed to beat them off and a Dingo was sent up with ammunition for them. At one point things were getting so hot, it looked as if he would have to pull out and his other DAC would not start. They eventually managed to get it going but did not need to pull out. During this action, Cpl Higginson and Tpr Searle were missing as they had been sent down to the town in search of a suspicious chap, but they returned alright in the end. At last light all Tps came back to SHQ at EINSTE where we went firm with a Coy of the Royal Scots who had been sent up to help us. B Sqn. The Regt moved to LIEBENAU preparatory to crossing the WESER at NIENBURG and advancing on the river ELBE. D Sqn. At first light the Tps went out to check on certain civreps of SS and collect guns etc from the villages. At 1330 hours the Sqn was ordered to cross the river WESER and sweep the area between 53 Div and 11th Armd Div. We swept most of it, all non-metalled tracks were impassable. RETHEN was strongly held and the area was full of Inns of Court, 23rd Hussars and RBs. No enemy were seen on this side of the river ALLER but a few were seen on the East bank. We spent the night at WOLPE – North of NIENBURG.
12/4/45	RHQ. At first light A Sqn found BLENDER and OISTE clear and at 1200 hours they were relieved by a Sqn of 3 Div Recce, and moved to join the Regt in the LIEBENAU area. D Sqn also rejoined the Regt and the whole Regt spent the time in rest, cleaning and maintenance. C Sqn. Remained in same area. A Sqn. At first light 5Tp moved to BLENDER and found it clear. 4Tp went to OISTE and found that clear also. At 1200 hours a Sqn of 3 Div Recce came up and relieved us and the Sqn moved down to the Regt at 909473. B Sqn. Remained at LIEBENAU. D Sqn. Returned at first light to MAINSHE to rejoin the Regt and reorganise the cars etc.
13/4/45	RHQ. RHQ, B & C Sqns moved across the WESER to area HASSBERGEN, preparatory to crossing the river ALLER at RETHEN. C Sqn. Crossed river WESER. A Sqn. Remained in same area doing cleaning and maintenance. B Sqn. 13 – 14th. Moved to HASSBERGEN and remained there until the 15th.
14/4/45	RHQ. A & D Sqns joined RHQ. C & B Sqns at HASSBERGEN. C Sqn. 14 – 15th. Remained in the same area. A Sqn. Moved at 0730 hours across the WESER and arrived at HASSBERGEN at 0930 hours where we stayed for the rest of the day. D Sqn. 14 – 15th.



	Moved over the NIENBURG bridge and joined RHQ at HASSBERGEN preparatory to crossing at RETHEM when the area had been cleared by 53 Div.
15/4/45	RHQ. B Sqn came under command 22nd Armd Bde and crossed RETHEM bridge and reced South of the CL. A bazooka team was at 201724 and FULDE was held. SHQ at WALSPRODE for the night. A Sqn. Stayed in the same area. B Sqn. Moved out at 1700 hours and came under 22nd Armd Bde. Crossed the river ALLER at RETHEM and reced to the South of the CL. 1Tp moved North from ALTENBOITZEN to CL and was held up by a bazooka team at 201724. 2Tp advanced North from HOOLLIGE to 219758 and took 3 PoW. 3Tp advanced North to FULDE which was held by Infantry. All Tps returned to SHQ at last light at WALSPRODE.
16/4/45	RHQ. After a delay caused by the destruction of the RETHEM bridge by hostile aircraft during the night, the Regt moved off over the river ALLER to recce the front and flanks of the Div advance on SOLTAU in the morning. D Sqn worked South and SE from WALSPRODE and cleared the right flank as far as the 11th Armd Div. B Sqn worked through FALLINGBOSTEL with 8th Hussars, to HARTEN. A large PoW Camp at FALLINGBOSTEL was freed, one of the inmates was Tpr Walker of C Sqn, captured in the first VILLERSBOCAGE battle. On the left A Sqn were to turn North after crossing the ALLER. A Tp reached FULDE but was unable to bypass the road block to IDSINGEN. Coming back and working through the woods he met a few enemy and contacted 4th Armd Bde. He remained in observation for the day at 215788. C Sqn working North from WALSPRODE with 1st RTR had much trouble with blown bridges. All attempts to work East over the WARNAU were frustrated until an intact bridge was found at 270805. At 1400 hours the Sqn was relieved of all commitments West of this stream and passed through DORFMARK, Xroads 309849, Xroads 382926 to the railway crossing 309849, engaging the enemy the whole way. These were all fighting advances, some of them far in front of the leading tanks of the Div. C Sqn. Sqn moved off at 0830 hours to cross river ALLER at RETHEM. At 1125 hours the Sqn halted at 230733 for orders. The 1st RTR were North of WALSPRODE which was clear, but where the bridge was blown. At 1200 hours all five Tps moved out. 5Tp went to blown bridge at 254778 to cross over as soon as the RE's had repaired it. 1Tp went through JARLINGEN which had just been taken by 1st RTR, with the intention of going East, but again the bridge was blown so he went North instead. 2Tp also went through JARLINGEN directed on VISSELHOVEDE, but was held up by large numbers of aggressive enemy in thick woods at 2685. 3Tp went up the main road as far as 238814 when he saw enemy ahead with bazookas. 4Tp tried to go NW to STELLICHTE but was held up by enemy at 238812. Every bridge over the WARNAU stream was blown with the exception of a small diversionary one at 270805 which was found soon after midday. 4Tp took 8 Marines PoW and 3Tp took another 4 PoW. 3Tp was then strafed in error by Typhoons which killed one PoW stone dead. At 1400 hours all Tps were relieved on the West side of the river WARNAU and the Sqn crossed over. From KROGE 3Tp went SE towards DORFMARK. 5Tp went to the Xroads at 309849 where there was no movement seen. 1Tp went North to rail crossing at 335903 and 2Tp went East with 1st RTR as far as Xroads 382926. 1Tp was in thick country and saw some Germans ahead so he sent his Scout sect forward of the Tp. They bumped into 2 SS – killed one and picked the other. Soon after they saw a German half-track with a flak gun on top. The ACs engaged this; the first shot caused the crew to bale out and the second brewed it up. 3Tp passed through DORFMARK and went NE but was without support. He took 1 PoW and spent the night at 374830. He was on the main Div axis far in advance of the tanks who were held up by blown bridges at WALSPRODE and FALLINGBOSTEL. The remainder of the Sqn leaguered at 362893 – quiet night. Bag for the day – 17 PoW, 1 killed and 1 half-track destroyed. A Sqn. Moved at 0900 hours across river ALLER at RETHEM to 223748. From there we had to send a patrol out through FULDE then up to IDSINGEN and then on to STELLICHTA. 1Tp moved out to do this. He



	reached FULDE and contacted some RBs and then moved on to IDSINGEN. At 191790 he ran into a road block which he could not get round so he came back to FULDE and tried to work NW through the wood to SIEVERDINGEN. The first thing he met in the woods were lots of German civilians who were camping there, having been evacuated from BERLIN. He ran into a few enemy just SE of SIEVERDINGEN, whom he smartened up and then saw some of the 4th Armd Bde sitting just SW of it. He contacted them and found out their form, and discovered that the road running NE from there was covered by some 88's so no one could get on. After this he dropped back to 215788 where he sat for the rest of the day. At about 1500 hours 5Tp was sent up to 238812 to relieve C Sqn and sit on the Y roads and block them. SHQ moved to 238788 for the night and all Tps came in except 5Tp who sat on the X roads at 239808. B Sqn. Advanced to FALLINGBOSTEL with 8th Hussars. 1Tp reced South to HARTEM and took 14 PoW. 3Tp reced NE to 4178 and took 29 PoW. 5Tp working with the 8th Hussars reached a point 1 mile East of DARFMARK. During the day a Stalag was liberated at FALLINGBOSTEL and one of the inmates was Tpr Walker of C Sqn who had been captured shortly after D Day. All Tps returned to SHQ at ORBKE. D Sqn. Left at 0900 hours and crossed the river at RETHEN and went to WALSDRODE. 3Tp 4Tp and 5Tp went South to DUSHORN after much difficulty due to blown bridges. Our immediate right flank as far as 11 Armd Div being clear, we moved at last light to KROGE for the night with RHQ.
17/4/45	RHQ. The Regt task remained the same but from SOLTAU the Div CL was switched from LUNEBURG to HARBURG. C Sqn sent a Tp to try and get into NEUENKIRCHEN, and three Tps working up very bad tracks on to the NEUENKIRCHEN – SOLTAU road. NEUENKIRCHEN had some 88's in it and was impossible to get into. Working with 1st RTR a track was discovered which became the 22nd Armd Bde axis and enabled a brilliant advance to be made right up to SCHULERN and thence to SCHNEVERDINGEN. From there one Tp went to the main road at 415047, one Tp West towards LUNZEN and a third over a weak bridge towards WELLE to within 100 yards of road junction at 376042 where a bazooka was encountered. Considerable numbers of enemy were spare all over this area. A large ammunition dump was found at 3405. Sqn leaguered at INSEL. Meanwhile on the left A Sqn was left behind in contact with enemy on the roads leading North and West from JARLINGEN towards OTTINGEN. At 237840 were 20 determined SS. Another Tp worked towards OTTINGEN from BOMMELSEN. In the evening about 30 SS infiltrated into the station area at JARLINGEN and neither our Tps nor the Devonshads evicted them by nightfall. D Sqn went to 377915 and operated SE to the outskirts of SOLTAU which was found strongly held, and East and NE to the main road where the enemy were in strong positions with a Panther which KO'd one of our cars before it was itself KO'd by 8th Hussars. Later, when 22nd Armd Bde broke through with C Sqn, a Tp joined the RBs at HEBERB Sqn took over positions covering the roads into NEUENKIRCHEN, in contact with the enemy 1 mile to the South, a similar distance to the East. Another Tp were in observation on the rail crossing West of SOLTAU, until the 160 Bde attack on the place passed through them at midday. C Sqn. At 0600 hours 1Tp went back to the rail crossing with the intention of going to NEUENKIRCHEN. 2, 4 & 5Tps went NE to try and find a route to the main NEUENKIRCHEN – SOLTAU road, which was difficult as the track was marked on the map and a bridge had been damaged by tanks. 4Tp got as far as 358943 where he was held up by Infantry ahead. He was approached by two MT both of which he destroyed. One was an ammunition lorry and went up well. 2Tp and 5Tp got stuck but 5Tp engaged a number of Germans – took 3 PoW and wounded another who hollered the house down. 3Tp was now far behind us but still waiting for tanks to come up the main road along which he continued to advance NE from the school at MITTELSTENDORF a bazooka was fired at his Dingo and narrowly missed. The school was set on fire with the 2pdr and 3 PoW taken – dirty little schoolboys in the Volksturm. At about 1300 hours 1, 4 & 5Tps were relieved and came on to SCHNEVERDINGEN. Soon afterwards 3Tp was relieved and finally rejoined us in the evening. From SCHNEVERDINGEN 2Tp went East to 415057, taking a staff car and 2 PoW (one a Capt). 1Tp went through SCHNEVERDINGEN to the West towards LUNZEN and 4Tp went North with the tanks as far as the bridge at 363130. This bridge was damaged but OK for our cars, but not for tanks. 4Tp carried on towards WELLE, through very thick woods with very considerable numbers of enemy in



them. He got as far as 100 yards short of the road junction at 376042 when a bazooka was fired at the leading **Dingo** – it is thought by a civ – possibly Volksturm. The bazooka struck the magazine of the K gun just in front of Cpl Hayward's face. It slightly damaged the gun enough to prevent it from firing and the man got away. 5Tp held the road junction at 362006 and took 1 lorry and 3 PoW. 1Tp found a very large ammunition dump at 3405 and took 6 PoW in that area. The Sqn B1 also took 21 PoW. The Sqn leaguered in the area INSEL Bag for the day – 37 PoW and 1 wounded, 2 lorries destroyed and 1 lorry and 1 staff car captured.

A Sqn.

At first light 5Tp pushed on up North along the main road. 4Tp went back along to SEVERDINGEN and then up to STELLICHTA and 2Tp went to JARLINGEN where there were some friends and then up North to OTTINGEN. 4Tp got to STELLICHTA without meeting anything but just North of STELLICHTA he came onto a road block which he could not get round.

5Tp ran into about 30 enemy at 237840. They were SS and he managed to capture 2 but the rest were very determined and he remained in that area all day, trying to deal with them – he was forced back a bit during the day as they were trying to get round him in the woods. There were also quite a few civilians around who were helping them.

2Tp got to JARLINGEN and contacted the Devons and pushed on up North. When he reached 271868 a gun opened very accurate fire on him and as the country was very thick and he saw a few enemy on each side of the road, he withdrew to an open patch and sat blocking the road. 4Tp was then brought back and sent round to BOMMELSEN and then NW to try and get into OTTINGEN that way. He worked up very slowly as the country was very thick. When he had reached 276671, having seen only the odd stray German, 2Tp was told to work up North again to support his left. When 2Tp reached where he had before he ran into some Germans lying in a ditch with bazookas who fired on him and forced him to withdraw again. 4Tp carried on for a bit longer when suddenly his leading car, Sgt Atkinson, was hit by a bazooka in the turret. The driver managed to get the car away and get it back to Lt Sheepshanks. There the driver and operator were got out but Sgt Atkinson had been killed instantly and while they were trying to get him out 3 pandaus opened up so they had to get back out of it, unfortunately leaving Sgt Atkinson's body in the car which by now had begun to brew. The rest of 4Tp withdrew just NW of BOMMELSEN. Tpr Winteringham was evacuated owing to a pierced eardrum but the operator was alright only having a slightly burnt hand. 1Tp went up and took over from 4Tp and sat with a Coy of Infantry, blocking the road.

At about 1700 hours 2Tp got a report that 30 SS were moving down South on his left. He saw no sign of them but dropped back a little to cover his left. He eventually saw them coming down the railway on his left but could not engage them. He dropped back to the northern end of JARLINGEN and saw the enemy get to the station, but still could not engage them and at last light they were still there.

1Tp stayed the night with a Coy of DLI who came up to him at last light. 5Tp dropped back to the Y roads but found some of the Guards Arm'd Div sitting on it so he went and spent the night with 2Tp at 267808. SHQ spent the night at BOMLITZE.

B Sqn.

Crossed the BOHME at FALLINGBOSTEL and moved up the CL and took over some positions from C Sqn whose communications were a little stretched. 1Tp was despatched towards NEUENKIRCHEN and was held up by Infantry in the woods a mile to the South. 2Tp was also held up 1 mile to the East of NEUENKIRCHEN. 5Tp was held up by Infantry at the railway crossing West of SOLTAU. 1Tp and 3Tp remained out for the night but the remainder returned to SHQ at 3795. Bag for the day – 4 PoW and 1 staff car.

D Sqn.

Moved at first light up to 377915 where 5Tp worked SE on the main road towards SOLTAU, reaching the outskirts and brewing a staff car and 4 Germans. He came under AP fire and withdrew, remaining in observation for the rest of the day. During this time he noticed 2 tanks firing from the SW end of the town.

2Tp moved East from WEIDINGEN. In the woods at 405927 Sgt Williams's car was destroyed by what later turned out to be a Panther (KO'd by 8th Hussars). The crew were killed, Tpr Glover and Tpr Roger. The 8th Hussars later turned up and burned the wood and reached the main road, destroying the Panther and an 88mm but could not maintain their position and withdrew to their start point. 2Tp remained in observation.

1Tp went East from ELLINGEN but found 20 enemy and 1 gun in the village at 4094 and could not get on. Late in the afternoon the Div had driven through the gap between SOLTAU and NEUENKIRCHEN and had opened out a bit. 3Tp went and joined the RBs at HEBER and stayed out for the night. The Sqn concentrated for the night with B Sqn at 377957.



18/4/45

RHQ.

C Sqn sent two Tps out to the ammunition dump area 3405 and to Xroads 355100. Two more tps passed through WELLE when it was clear at 1000 hours. A Sqn was relieved of its commitments in the South by 2nd HCR at first light and moved to rejoin the Regt at SCHNEVERDINGEN. From there they went to WELLE and HOLM. A Tp passed safely through HAMS DORF but were held up by bazookas at 425181.

B Sqn after being relieved round NEUENKIRCHEN sent out patrols NW, West and SW. The first was held up on the outskirts of GROSSENWADE by an SP. The second reached the bridge at LUNZEN and remained in observation, and the third at SPRENGEL took 60 PoW.

D Sqn sent a Tp East to 455015 where he found bazooka teams, later winkled out by 5th DG. The bridges at 485035 and 477039 were blown and there was no further progress by him. Another Tp went down the CL and East to DEMERN where a battle ensued. The Tp KO'd an 88mm gun, but LCpl Greensides was killed by a rifle bullet as he was firing his K guns. A third Tp worked SE through the forest from 407120 to 485055 then back to WILSEDE and NNE to UNDELON where he met the DLI. C Sqn.

At 0600 hours 3Tp moved to the ammunition dump area and 5Tp went to Xroads 355100. 2Tp and 4Tp went to WINTERMOOR to wait until WELLE was taken by the RBs. From there 2Tp was to go NE and 4Tp NW. WELLE was clear at 1000 hours and the Tps went through.

The woods NE of WELLE were very thick and strongly held and very little progress was made during the day. 4Tp pushed on slowly and was halted by the bridge at 330210 over the railway which was blown with a 60 foot gap. 3Tp went out to try a track between 2Tp and 4Tp and finally crossed the railway at 342222 and got into TODTGLUSINGEN. This was the only advance made by the Div for 3 hours so the tanks were diverted to follow him up. Unfortunately, as we forewarned them, the tanks made the track impassable for wheeled vehicles.

At 1705 hours 3Tp was on the northern edge of TODTGLUSINGEN and reported several men and an A/Tk gun at 337242. The tanks came up to 3Tp and engaged the A/Tk gun – probably a 50mm. There were also 3 88's firing from the NE and it was also thought that there a tank in the area of the A/Tk gun. No further advance was made.

At 1720 hours a shell struck 3Tp Ldr's car, probably from the suspected tank at 1200 yards range, and set the car on fire. The crew were all OK but the car was burnt out. All Tps were withdrawn at last light to WELLE. Bag for the day – 6 PoW.

A Sqn.

2Tp was relieved by the HCR at first light and also 1Tp. The Sqn moved at 0900 hours up the CL to catch up with the Regt again. We arrived with them at 1100 hours at SCHNEVERDINGEN where we met our Echelon and replenished.

2Tp moved out at 1230 hours directed on WESEL with 5Tp behind it to branch of NE to HOLM. They got through HAMS DORF but 2Tp's leading car, Cpl Dineen, was fired on by a bazooka from 5 yards range at 425181. This held them up for the rest of the day as they could not remove the bazooka boys.

All Tps were brought in for the night which the Sqn spent at WELLE. Lt Osborne arrived back from leave, Lt Hodgkinson – his knee having recovered – came back and Lt Woodhouse also arrived back, his wound in the hand having healed. Lt Woodhouse took over his old Tp, 4Tp, and Lt Sheepshank took over 5Tp from Lt Morton. Lt Osborne came back to SHQ and Lt Hodgkinson was sent back to B3 to await more cars and to get 3Tp back into operation again.

B Sqn.

1Tp and 2Tp took up positions of observation in the places they had reached on the 17th, until relieved by the HCR and were then called in. 3Tp advanced NW and reached the outskirts of GROSSENWADE and was held up by an SP and Infantry. 5Tp reached the be at LUNZEN and remained in observation. 4Tp reached SPRENGEL and took 60 PoW and 6 MET. All Tps returned to SHQ at last light at ZAHRESEN.

D Sqn.

We all moved at first light up to SCHNEVERDINGEN and 3Tp pushed East reaching Xroads 455015 where he found the usual bazooka teams. The RBs and a Tp of 5th DG came up and eliminated them later in the day. The bridge at 485035 was blown as was the one at 477039, 3Tp then returned. 5Tp went South down the CL and then worked East to DEMERN where a battle ensued where Cpl Rivers destroyed an 88mm and killed the crew of 2, while Sgt Luke and LCpl Greensides kept the remainder's heads down. LCpl Greensides however was shot in the heart by a rifle bullet while firing his guns and was killed instantly.

4Tp meanwhile went up the CL to 407120 and worked along SE through the forest as far as 485055, thence back and NE to WILSEDE, thence NNE to UNDELON where he met the DLI. He got lost



	coming home and spent the night with C Sqn. The remainder of the Sqn spent the night at 438114.
19/4/45	RHQ. The Regt's task, less C Sqn, was to protect the right flank of the Div advance on HARBURG and to contact the Inns of Court and 11th Armd Div on our right. C Sqn, far to the North, worked under command 22nd Armd Bde from TOSTEDT nearly to HOLLENSTEDT and so far East along the Autobahn with 8th Hussars. At 380325 the 8th Hussars turned North and our Tps carried on East, but on clearing a road block they were stonked by AA defences of HAMBURG – not a pleasant experience and they could go no further. A Sqn reported IMZUHLEN, HOLM and WESEL clear. Aided by 5th RTR HANSTEDT was cleared and BRACKEL found clear from the SW, the road leading South to MARXEN being under shell fire. A road block outside HANSTEDT was cleared and a Tp passed through NIENDORF to another block just short of GARLSTORF which held him up. The Sqn went firm in HANSTEDT for the night. B Sqn went to BEHRINGEN but Tps were held up on their way SE by enemy in BISPINGEN & TIMMERLON. The former was ultimately cleared, but progress was barred by enemy in the woods to the South of it. The Sqn went firm there for the night. D Sqn cleared the area of our right flank meeting little opposition except a pocket of marines at 557044, and contacted the Inns of Court at RAVEN and cleared the bridge at HUTZEL of charges. HORPEL, EVENDORF & EGESDORF also reported clear. C Sqn. Owing to the fact that the other three Sqns were far to the South dealing with large pockets of enemy, it was impossible to keep W/T contact and therefore the Sqn came under 22nd Armd Bde. At 0630 hours 8th Hussars advanced North from TOSTEDT nearly to HOLLENSTEDT and then turned East along the HAMBURG – BREMEN autobahn. 1Tp acted as left flank guard and 2Tp followed 8th Hussars to 360035 – went South to WENZENDORF. From here he could see enemy Infantry at 382300 and friendly tanks at 385285. At Xroads 380325 8th Hussars went North and 5Tp was ordered to carry on East. As soon as they started to remove a road block near the Xroads they were heavily stonked. The AA defences of HAMBURG – which were considerable – undertook a ground role and made it very nasty. 5Tp could not advance any further. A Sqn. At first light 2 patrols were sent out. 4Tp went to IMZUHLEN and then onto HOLM and 1Tp to WESEL. Both Tps got there without meeting anything and 1Tp contacted the 5th RTR in WESEL. From HOLM 4Tp was sent to SCHIERHORN then to ASENDORF and then on to MARXEN which was reached without any sign of the enemy except for a few in ASENDORF who were dealt with by some friends. 1Tp was sent on from WESEL to HANSTEDT but just South of there he ran into a few SS who held him up and he had to wait for 5th RTR to come up from the South before he could get into the place. He went in with 5th RTR and found that the bridge was intact and fit for heavy traffic. Meanwhile 4Tp had reached MARXEN and was then directed on BRACKEL. BRACKEL was found to be clear and he moved on to THIESHOPE which was also clear, and halted there. 1Tp when he got through HANSTEDT was directed on NIENDORF and then East to GARLSTORF where he contacted some Inns of Court. 5Tp was sent to TOPPERSTEDT but found the tracks very bad and had to be brought back. At last light all Tps came back to HANSTEDT where the Sqn went firm for the night. B Sqn. Moved out as a Sqn at first light to the East side of the CL to BEHRINGEN. From this place three Tps were to strike out SE into the forest of MUNSTER but all were held up by enemy in BISPINGEN and TIMMERLON. Eventually we managed to clear BISPINGEN and two Tps moved South but were again held up by Infantry in the forest. 45 PoW were taken on the clearing of BISPINGEN and the Sqn leaguered for the night in BISPINGEN and all Tps were positioned to guard the roads into it. D Sqn. 3Tp worked East from UNDERLON and reached EGESTORF by 1100 hours, capturing a few PoW. 2Tp went to WESEL and made 2000 yards NE before being withdrawn and sent to WILSEDE, thence SE working on to Xroads 5200044 where he met a Tp of B Sqn, thence East to Xroads 539039 then South to HUTZEL where the bridge was OK but mined, the mines were removed. From there he went NE up to STEINBECK where he discovered a radio station and some enemy holding a marine dump area at 557044. It was now dark so he returned to WILSEDE. 5Tp after lunch moved via VOLKWARDINGEN NE to HORPEL and EVENDORF where he met 3Tp coming South from EGESTORF. From here he moved East and reached RAVEN gathering 20 PoW and meeting the Inns of Court. All returned to WILSEDE for the night. Bag for the day was 98 PoW and 1



	lorry.
20/4/45	RHQ. During the day the Regt continued to operate on the right flank of the Div which was closing up to the strong enemy positions covering HARBURG and the HAMBURG bridges. C Sqn still under command 22nd Armd Bde had to recce the woods East of the road running North from 380325. This they did in very thick jungle country meeting a few stragglers but no serious opposition. A Sqn in HANSTEDT had a B1 Staghound stalked and loudly bazooked at dead of night. No trace of the culprit of this outrage was found, but a pretty girl who helped him to escape was arrested in the morning. At first light Tps from this Sqn went to MASCHEN, ASHAUSEN and STELLE. At MASCHEN four 88's engaged the leading tanks of the 5th RTR; STELLE was covered by a road block but was entered in the evening unopposed. D Sqn cleared most of yesterday's pocket of marines and drove through the area between STELLE and 11th Armd Div clearing up stragglers, B Sqn now being in Regt reserve. C Sqn. At 0615 hours 1Tp and 4Tp moved out to recce forest East of the road running North from 380325. It was a complete jungle with tracks running through. 1Tp went in at 372349 and emerged at EMSEN. He then went South to the autobahn and then East along it until he met SHQ at 391329. 4Tp went in at 368366 and managed to make a mile or so down a very bad track. He took 2 PoW and was called back. 4Tp went East into the woods at 390403 while 1Tp went North to VAHRENDORF then West to meet 4Tp. Again it was thick with bad tracks but they finally met – 1Tp taking 4 PoW on route. Bag for the day – 6 PoW. A Sqn. At 0330 hours everyone was woken by a loud explosion which turned out to be a German bazooking the B1 Staghound which immediately caught fire. The Sqn stood to but no sign of the person who did it was seen. At 0730 hours four Tps went out. 1Tp to NIENDORF then on to GARLSTORF and then up North to WULFSEN and ASHAUSEN. 2Tp followed 1Tp to GARLSTORF then North to THIESHOPE and on to STELLE. 4Tp went to MARXEN then to HORST and then to MASCHEN. 5Tp went to JESTERBURG and when he arrived he found that the 131 Bde were using his road as their CL so there was no need to go along it. 4Tp got on very well along his route and some of the 5th RTR were going along it with him. He reached MASCHEN without meeting any opposition, but there about four 88's started firing at the leading tanks. 4Tp could do no good in that area so he withdrew to HORST where he sat for the rest of the day. 2Tp got on well until he reached BRACKEL and just NE of it he ran into a few Germans and saw three 20mm guns covering the road. This delayed him for a bit until he managed to get near enough to see that the guns were not manned. After this he pushed on until he came to the outskirts of STELLE. Here he ran into a road block which was manned, so he withdrew a bit and sat in observation of it. At about 1700 hours some of the 5th RTR came into STELLE from the West so he pushed in from the South and got in without opposition. 1Tp made good headway, seeing only 6 stray Germans on his route, and managed to get into ASHAUSEN without opposition. He sat in there for the rest of the day. At last light all Tps returned to SHQ at BRACKEL. B Sqn. In Regt reserve at HANSTEDT approx 30 Kms South of HAMBURG. D Sqn. 5Tp moved to STEINBECK and cleared up a pocket of Marines, 1 officer and 27 ORs being bagged. Meanwhile 4Tp pushed on NE meeting the Inns of Court at SODERSDORF and then up to SALZHAUSEN. 3Tp to EGESTORF, North to GARLSTORF then East to SALZHAUSEN – where he met 4Tp, then South to EYENDORF then West to EGESTORF again, collecting 34 PoW at LUBBERSTEDT. 5Tp was then recalled and 4Tp carried on North and NW to STELLE, then back to PATTENSEN. He collected a number of PoW and the Sqn then returned to RHQ at HANSTEDT arriving at 1700 hours.
21/5/45	RHQ. A change of orders came for the Regt who now had the task of facing West and clearing the area West of the Div thrust to HAMBURG as for North as the Polder country and adjoining the river Elbe. C Sqn reverted to command of the Regt on our arrival and went into reserve. B Sqn moved to



	HOLLENSTEDT where three Tps moved West and NW to APENSEN which surrendered and thence to HARSEFELD which was held. D Sqn moved to OLLENBUTTEL from whence three Tps worked West to MOISBURG. The town was clear (the chief Nazi took poison on his arrest by Lt Hickman). The bridge to the South was blown but another route was found. Enemy was met just North of PEPPENSEN and another Tp was sent West to attack them from the rear, knocking out a 37mm A/Tk gun. There were enemy in BUXTEHUDE and a naval commando party was laid on to capture important papers from the town, when the chance arose. B & D Sqns went firm for the night in APENSEN. C Sqn. D Sqn came up and relieved us and the Sqn reverted to command of the Regt and went into reserve in the HOLLENSTEDT area. A Sqn. At 0730 hours the Sqn moved to DRESTEDT where we stayed until 1800 hours when we moved to RHQ at REGENSBOSTEL and stayed the night. B Sqn. Moved as a Sqn to HOLLENSTEDT from where three Tps moved to the West and NW. 5Tp advanced to APENSEN and negotiated the surrender of the place. He then advanced to HARSEFELD and reported it held by Infantry armed with Pzfaust. 3Tp advanced to WIEGERSEN from where he went North to RUSCHWEDEL and remained in observation of the main lateral road between HARSEFELD and BUXTEHUDE. 4Tp advanced through 2430 to 2229 when he was called in. 1Tp was ordered to tap in on the lateral HARSEFELD – BUXTEHUDE road at GRUNDOLDENDORF. He sat on the road at this point 2343 and effectively blocked any traffic of the enemy, capturing a MC, a staff car, 3 officers, 1 ATS girl. At night the Sqn was dispersed to guard all entrances on the North and East sides of APENSEN with D Sqn guarding the South and West sides. D Sqn. The whole Sqn moved at 0600 hours to OLLENBUTTEL 355355 from where 1Tp, 4Tp and 3Tp worked West to MOISBURG where the head Nazi took poison and died on his arrest by Lt Hickman (2Tp). The bridge was blown on the main road to the South but a way was found around it. 1Tp worked North to the main road at 334417 where he captured a lorry and trailer with a few PoW. 4Tp worked North reaching just North of PEPPENSEN and reported 25 enemy in the woods. 5Tp was despatched to IMMERBECK, worked West through EILENDORF and drew down South towards 4Tp, knocking out a 37mm A/Tk gun covering 4Tp. Enemy could be seen in BUXTEHUDE where it was thought there were valuable Naval papers. Commander Curtis DSC RN came and saw us about it. 3Tp moved NW to APENSEN the NE reaching 280424 reporting a road block held at the beginning of the woods. The Sqn spent the night at APENSEN. 4Tp captured a staff car with 12 new bazookas in it. PoW amounted to 20.
22/4/45	RHQ. A Sqn sent Tps to 255449, 237437 and 215427, all facing NW. A road block held by bazookas was found NW of 255427 and cleared with 5th DG in support. Civilians reported HORNEBURG held so no further advance was made. B Sqn sent Tps to WANGERSEN and AHLERSTEDT on our left to contact the 2nd HCR, another Tp went into HARSEFELD. No enemy were in the town, but the southern entrance was defended and enemy were in the woods to the NE. This Tp was later attacked by Infantry and bazookas and withdrew to the SE. D Sqn went up the two usual roads leading to BUXTEHUDE from APENSEN prior to a full scale assault to be launched by 5th DG and RBs. However, Lt Hunter accepted the surrender of Admiral Emerin with 450 ORs and 500 German Wrens. The Sqn, the Colonel and the Brigadier were all well involved in the Officers Mess of the German barracks by the time the leading elements of the assaulting troops gingerly made their way into town, where the 500 Wrens were kissing the 450 soldiers goodbye. This Sqn then reverted to Regt reserve at REGENSBOSTEL. C Sqn. In reserve. In the evening the Sqn moved up to SAUENSIEK. A Sqn. At first light three Tps moved out. 1Tp went to 255449 where he sat watching NW. 2Tp went to 237437 and sat watching NW, as did 5Tp at 215427.



	At 1200 hours 1Tp wastold to move up the road NW but after going for about half a mile he ran into a road block held by men with bazookas. A Sqn of the 5th DG went up to help him clear thisblock which they did, but after getting a civrep that HORNBURG was held, 1Tp came back to his original position, having blown up the road block and 5th DG returned to APENSEN. During the day 2Tp sent his Dingo into NOTTENDORF which he found clear. About 1700 hours both 1Tp and 2Tp heard track movement to their NW, which was very close, so both retired a little and the Sqn of 5th DG went up and sat just behind them to give any support that was needed, but nothing came of it. At last light all Tps came into SHQ for the night at APENSEN. B Sqn. Remained in the same area and three Tps were despatched to contact Tps of the HCR who were working up in the area. 3Tp went to WANGERSEN where he contacted the HCR. 4Tp contacted the HCR at AHLERSTEDT. 2Tp advanced into HARSEFELD and reported that there were no enemy in the town but that they were defending the southern entrance and also that there was a report of enemy in the woods to the North. He was attacked later by Infantry with bazookas and withdrew to the SE. All Tps were called in at 2000 hours and the Sqn spent the night at REGESBOSTEL. D Sqn. 1Tp pushed NE from APENSEN and 4Tp North from MOISBURG. After some general area machine gunning, the Commandant came out and surrendered to Lt Hunter, who took over command at 0805 hours, collecting for the bag – Admiral Emerin, 40 officers, 450 ORs and 500 Wrens. This was a considerable swipe in the eye for 22nd Armd Bde who had laid on a large attack with the RBs and 5th DG for its reduction. All the PoW were disposed of, Lt Newton got round the road block and the 5th DG arrived at 1000 hours. The Sqn returned to REGESBOSTEL.
23/4/45	RHQ. The gap between the 7th and 11th Armd Div was considered too great and B Sqn was ordered to come under command 131 Bde and sit in STELLE, sending patrols East to contact 11th Armd Div and West to contact 5th RTR. In this duty they remained for the rest of the month, during which period approx 150 PoW were picked up. It was clear that the enemy was holding a flank guard line behind which movement was still attempted along the road following the left bank of the ELBE to the HAMBURG ferries and bridges. C Sqn sent patrols to 180403, 142359 and 123315. A foot patrol saw Germans laying mines at the southern entrance to HARSEFELD on the rail crossing. Snipers shot 2 Germans in this area. The Burgomaster was threatened with the destruction of his town unless all enemy withdrew by 1400 hours, and accordingly the town was entered, a foot patrol leading and lifting the mines, and the town was cleared of arms and of 2 SS men who were arrested. A Sqn went back to their position of yesterday. A patrol of 2 Dingos was also sent on the road to JORK to see if it was clear, supported by an OP from 5th RHA and a Tp of 5th DG. Men with bazookas were seen at 286489 and were not shifted by a stonk. The patrol withdrew to NEUKLOSTER, where it was later stalked and a Dingo was brewed by a bazooka, and Tpt Fitch was shot dead by a spandau. The rest of the Tp withdrew 200 yards safely and the body of Tpr Fitch was later recovered and buried in NEUKLOSTER. C Sqn. 1, 2 & 3Tps moved out to 180403, 142359 and 125315. HARSEFELD just West of 1Tp had been entered by a B Sqn Tp the previous day and had been attacked with bazookas and had withdrawn. 1Tp was warned that HARSEFELD could be held. He therefore halted and made a careful recce on foot and saw Germans on the railway line at the entrance to the village. It was later found out that the Germans had laid a trap by planting Teller mines, carefully concealed in the cobbled road and were also laying up with bazookas. 1Tp halted short of the village and camouflaged his cars. He then sent a couple of snipers forward, 400 yards ahead of the Tp – hiding in a bomb crater. After about an hour 2 German soldiers wearing Iron Crosses and carrying bazookas on bicycles advanced toward the Tp. They halted 50 yards short of the snipers and looked for the Tp through 10 x 50 Zeiss glasses. As they remounted their bikes to continue the advance they were both bowled over. One was dead and the other severely wounded and was taken PoW and sent back to RHQ. Soon afterwards a civilian was contacted and sent to the Burgomaster with a message that if all German soldiers were not out of the town by 1400 hours, something very nasty would happen to the



	town. The Burgomaster sent back a message to say that they had all left. The Tp therefore entered the town – the Scouts first, removing 7 very skilfully laid Teller mines. A large store of rifles and shotguns was handed over, those not worth keeping were destroyed. A Belgian PoW, who had been detained in HARSEFELD, gave information and led us to the houses of 2 very bad men. One – the owner of a dairy – had stated he intended to kill 10 Americans before committing suicide. The other was a schoolmaster who had included in his syllabus, the use of the bazooka and the hand grenade. Both these gentlemen were arrested and sent back. Two Tps of the 5th DG had co-operated with us during the occupation of the village. Bag for the day – 1 killed, 1 PoW. A Sqn. At first light 2Tp went back to his yesterday's position as did 5Tp. 4Tp had the task of trying to work to JORK to see if it was clear. To do this he went as far as 265446 with his whole Tp, then carried on with his task in two Dingos, leaving the rest of the Tp at the Troads. He also had a Tp of 5th DG at the T roads to support him and an OP in NEUKLOSTER from G Bty 5th RHA who also to support him. Lt Woodhouse managed to get within 100 yards of the Xroads at 286489 when he saw men around it with bazookas, so he dropped back and the OP proceeded to stonk it. He then tried to go up again but the bazooka men were still there so he came back. The Tp of 5th DG then went up to him and tried to get to the Xroads with Lt Woodhouse behind. They were fired on by a bazooka so they had to get out of it fairly quickly. Lt Woodhouse then went back to 278469 where he sat watching, having called the rest of his Tp up to him there. 5th DG went back and sat in NEUKLOSTER. 4Tp was withdrawn to the railway at 265448 where they sat for the rest of the day with Lt Woodhouse in the OP with the 5th RHA OP. Suddenly at 1900 hours, one of 4Tp Dingo was hit by a bazooka and brewed up – a DAC was also fired on but missed. This appears to have been done by two parties who sneaked up along the railway, one each side of the Tp. Everyone got into their cars and opened fire but they could not see anyone as the country was so thick. The Tp then withdrew about 200 yards but left Tpr Fitch behind as he had run into a house away from the cars. After about half an hour Lt Woodhouse managed to get back to the burning Dingo and found Tpr Fitch in one of the houses dead. He appeared to have been killed by a spandau which had fired just as he reached the house. He was buried at NEUKLOSTER. At last light all Tps came in and the Sqn moved back to RHQ at REGENSBOSTEL where we stayed the night. When we got back there we found Lt Hodgkinson with some new cars and so 3Tp was on the road again giving us five Tps. B Sqn. Came under command 131 Bde and moved to STELLE. The gap between the right of 7th Armd Div and the left of 11th Armd Div was considered too great and we were required to fill it. This entailed patrols moving from STELLE to WINSEN to contact 11th Armd Div and patrols to the West to contact the 5th RTR. These patrols were despatched twice a day, at varying times, using alternate routes. At night all roads were stopped by Tps. A curfew was imposed on the civilians, from 1800 – 0900 hours and 1200 – 1600 hours daily. This job was more or less in the nature of a rest and all troops had baths and some good maintenance was carried out. D Sqn. 23 – 24th. Sqn reorganised and carried out maintenance. A German was encountered by the sentry at 0200 hours. The sentry, Tpr Bell, was himself shot in the arm, as was Cpl Lyon in the ensuing fracas. The German unfortunately escaped.
24/4/45	RHQ. The Regt continued to protect the Div left flank by observation. C Sqn had patrols in observation South of HARSEFELD and in HOLLENBECK. C Sqn. 1Tp went back to the same place, 2Tp went to HOLLENBECK and 5Tp went to 202427. SHQ went to REVENAHE. SHQ consisted of 3 Humberettes – Sqn Ldr, 2i/c and SSM. Stag hounds were no longer used as they so often get stuck on the narrow roads – they remained with the B1 Echelon which used to join us at nights. SHQ took PoW 3 deserters in civ clothes. 2Tp took 5 PoW, probably also deserters in HOLLENBECK and 1Tp took 1 PoW during the morning as did the B1. Total of 10. A Sqn. 24 – 25th Remained at REGENSBOSTEL resting. B Sqn. 24 – 27th. Remained in STELLE carrying out the same duties. Approx 20 PoW were taken during this period.



25/4/45	RHQ. We had orders to extend our area of observation, left as far as MALSTEDT – the HCR on our left being held up by fairly stubborn resistance. D Sqn crossed the river at KAKERBECK and sent Tp to WOHLERST – REITH – FARVEN which was clear. Another Tp went to WOHLERST, where 5 officers and 38 ORs were made PoW, and MALSTEDT which was clear. A third Tp went to APSE and took up position there with no opposition. However, at 1500 hours the Tp was surprised by a large bazooka squad and lost the DAC and WSC (only 1 DAC now in this Tp) and the Dingo was driven off and hidden. Only 5 men of the Tp returned, on foot or bicycle, to tell the tale. C Sqn, besides their usual patrols, sent a patrol through KAKERBECK and BREST, and East again to the level crossing 1000 yards West of BARGSTEDT. Here the leading Dingo came under heavy SA fire and LCpl Garner DCM was killed – a great loss. It became clear that the whole line of the railway from APSE to BARGSTEDT was held, and this Tp and the D Sqn right patrol sent to support the patrol lost in APSE, fell back to BREST where they stayed in observation – sniped if any movement was made forward of the village. C Sqn. 4Tp went to the right position, 5Tp to the centre and 2Tp to the left. 4Tp and 5Tp remained static – 5Tp staying just outside HARSEFELD. The village was too big for one or even two Tps to hold, with a hostile population and the telephones still operating. 2Tp tried to enter BARGSTEDT from the SE but the bridge at 145413 was blown. 2Tp then crossed the river at KAKERBECK and tried again from the South, but another bridge at 127397 was blown. In the afternoon 2Tp tried again, this time from the West. They soon encountered enemy about 1000 yards West of BARGSTEDT. The enemy were dug-in and had spandau, bazooka etc. 2Tp immediately engaged them with 2pdr and MG. They were well dug-in amongst the trees and showed no sign of surrender. LCpl Garner DCM took his Dingo down a narrow track to the right flank to try and get behind them. This he did and engaged them from very close range with K guns and grenades, killing 3 of them. LCpl Garner was just changing magazines on the K gun when he was hit by a burst of spandau – one bullet hitting him in the head and several in his left hand. LCpl Kensall, the driver, did very well to get the Dingo back to the Tp. The doctor came out very quickly and did all that possibly could be done, but he died without regaining consciousness. He had no sense of fear whatsoever and a genuine love of danger. A very great loss. Sniping increased from the area of the railway line to the North. Sgt Davies had a burst of spandau across the top of his turret, slightly grazing his hand and Cpl Jones was shot by a sniper – the bullet hitting his prismatic compass which he was carrying in a pouch on his belt. Though knocked over and winded, he found he was unhurt and the bullet was still in his compass. 2Tp were then ordered to withdraw to area BREST. The Sqn leaguered for the night at AHRENSWOLDE. D Sqn. Sqn moved at first light to AHLERSTADT where patrols went to KAKERBECK, meeting up with Major Daly's Sqn of the HCR. 3Tp (comd by Sgt Cooper as Sgt Luke had gone on leave) worked up to BREST found it clear and pushed on to APSE where he searched every house and found no one. However, at 1500 hours he went off the air and Sgt Walker, on his way up with his car repaired, reported that the civilians had said that the Tp had been bazooked. Shortly after this, 2Tp who had joined Sgt Walker picked up Sgt Cooper and Tpr Goulbourn. 15 bazookas had been let off unseen by anyone in the Tp, 6 of which were on guard. Spandau and Schmeizer fire raked the village. The DAC was burned out and the WSC was hit as far as they knew. LCpl Bell drove the DSC away and left it in a barn as his only escape route South was barred by the enemy – he returned by bicycle, and Cpl Rose, Tprs Williams, Hartnell, Page and Wycherley were still missing so the Burgomeister was sent up to find out what had become of them. The German Lt sent back word that 2 or 3 were killed and 1 taken PoW. It also transpired that they had made the WSC a runner and had found the DSC. 1Tp turned West at KAKERBECK then NW to REITH, thence FARVEN which was clear and the main road bridge intact but held. 3Tp went on SW to 0835 where he got 5 officers and 38 ORs, a staff car and a trailer, then NW to MALSTEDT which was clear. 4Tp cleared area ORSDORF – OTTENDORF – KLEITEN and lifted 10 Teller mines. The Burgomeister of KAKERBECK was made responsible for the bridge, under threat of the whole village being burnt, if it was mined or destroyed. The whole Sqn returned to AHLERSTADT.
26/4/45	RHQ. D Sqn fulfilling the same role as before. A report of 100 SS coming into MALSTEDT resulted in the village being burnt down except for 5 houses in dead ground. All the missing members of the APSE patrol were picked up except 1, reported OK but PoW. A German officer who had been present in



	the APSE ambush, was taken PoW by the Sqn. A Sqn relieved C Sqn and had patrols at 215427, 180104 and 147389 and just short of BREST. Here, there were bazooka men, and neither this patrol nor the one of D Sqn which relieved it, were able to enter the village. At 1900 hours some enemy tried to get at the right hand of A Sqn patrols, but he held them off till last light. C Sqn. A Sqn took over our area and Sqn went into reserve. A Sqn. We moved at first light to take over from C Sqn. 1Tp went to 215427, 4Tp to 180104, 2Tp to 147389 and 3Tp through KAKERBECK on towards BREST. 3Tp ran into bazookas just South of BREST, one of which he killed, but could not get into the village and at 1100 hours he was relieved by a Tp of D Sqn and he returned to the B1 at REVENAHE. The other patrols remained static during the day with 4Tp sending his Dingo into HARSEFELD once during the day and reporting it clear, but with enemy in the woods to the North. At about 1900 hours 1Tp had some enemy trying to get at him, but which he managed to keep off. At last light all Tps came into SHQ at REVENAHE. D Sqn. 2Tp moved to a position of observation at 103403. 1Tp to the windmill at 071400 and 4Tp to 033377. NMS all day. Civilians reported 100 SS coming into MALSTED, so Lt Hunter went down and burned 10 of the 15 houses in the village. All but Tpr Hartnell were picked up by 1Tp. Tpr Hartnell was reported PoW but OK. The Capt i/c bazookas was captured by A Sqn and had come from STETTIN with orders to fight with us against the Russians!!
27/4/45	RHQ. D Sqn adopted the same patrols as yesterday and recaptured the Dingo lost at APSE, when it was driven into Lt Newton's well camouflaged position, by an ex-AFRIKA KORPS officer who had reached to within 80 miles of Cairo, in an 8 wheeled AC, via the Depression. In the afternoon, the 1st HCR relieved this Sqn. A Sqn had patrols out at 215627, 180104 and 148390. This time there was sniping from the rail crossing on the South of HARSEFELD and at 1700 hours, under cover of a smoke screen, a bazooka party came out and attempted to stalk the centre patrol, supported by a mortar which followed him as he fell back. However, a 5th RHA OP put down a stonk and there was no more trouble. 1st HCR went up to look at the left and centre positions with a view to relief at first light on the 28th. A Sqn. At first light 5Tp went out to 215427, 1Tp went to 180104 and 3Tp to 148390. Immediately 1Tp got into position he was sniped at by a few enemy on the railway embankment. This died down and nothing more happened until about 1700 hours when a smoke screen was suddenly laid in front of him by a mortar. At that time visibility was very bad and he thought that Infantry were trying to work round him so he dropped back a bit, but the mortar kept following him back. He tried to smarten them up but he was not quite certain where they were. We had with us an OP from 5th RHA who put down a stonk at 180104 and after this there was no more trouble. During this the 1st HCR came up to take over from us and the Tp went out to look at 3Tp position and another went up to 1Tp with 2Tp from the Sqn. 2Tp was acting as a stop at 190385 and also as a link to 1Tp. The rest of Major Murray Smith's Sqn came into REVENAHE ready to take over next morning at first light. 1Tp worked back towards his old position but it got dark before he reached it and at last light all Tps came into SHQ. D Sqn. Same procedure except that 3Tp went out on the right and it rained all day. Lt Newton at the windmill saw our DSC bowling down the road to him, with black crosses on it, and put it in the bag, complete with the bazooka coy commander, a nice young chap late of the 21 Pz Recce and HIMMAT, MOGHRA VALE and ALAMEIN – an "8-wheeler" man! He said that Tpr Hartnell was with him and well. He liked the Dingo and said his recce outfit only had civvy cars and bazookas. In the afternoon 1st HCR came and took over, Major Foster's Sqn parking with us for the night.
28/4/45	RHQ. RHQ, C & D Sqn having been relieved by 1st HCR went back and concentrated for rest and



	maintenance round BECHDORF. A Sqn still had one patrol at 215427 from APENSEN. C Sqn. Sqn moved to BECHDORF. A Sqn. At first light 4Tp moved to 215427 and SHQ and the rest of the Sqn went to APENSEN. Nothing happened all day and 4Tp came in at last light. B Sqn. 28 – 30th. Remained at STELLE. Approx 30 PoW were taken during this period. BAG REPORT FOR APRIL Killed – 1, 3 officer PoW, 487 OR PoW, One 20mm A/Tk gun, 4 staff cars, 2 MCs, 4 HDT, 4 lorries. D Sqn. 28 – 30th. Moved to BECHDORF and got on with maintenance etc. D Sqn BAG FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL <table><tr><td>8th</td><td>1 officer</td><td>3 ORs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9th</td><td>1 officer</td><td>18 ORs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10th</td><td>1 officer</td><td>19 ORs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16th</td><td></td><td>22 ORs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17th</td><td></td><td>11 ORs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18th</td><td></td><td>14 ORs</td><td>1 88mm, 1 staff car and 4 killed</td></tr><tr><td>19th</td><td>2 officers</td><td>96 ORs</td><td>1 3 ton truck</td></tr><tr><td>20th</td><td>1 officer</td><td>84 ORs</td><td>1 3 ton truck</td></tr><tr><td>21st</td><td></td><td>11 ORs</td><td>1 staff car, 1 30cwt truck and 1 37mm KO'd</td></tr><tr><td>22nd</td><td>1 Admiral, 40 officers</td><td>450 ORs and 500 Wrens</td><td>1 staff car, 1 3 tonner.</td></tr><tr><td>25th</td><td>5 officers</td><td>39 ORs</td><td>1 staff car and a trailer</td></tr><tr><td>26th</td><td></td><td>9 ORs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>27th</td><td>1 officer</td><td>6 ORs</td><td>and our own DSC</td></tr></table> Total PoW – 53 officers, 782 ORs and 500 Wrens. CASUALTIES Sgt Williams KIA Tpr Glover KIA Tpr Roger KIA LCpl Greensides KIA Cpl Lyon Wounded LCpl Bell '43 Wounded Tpr Guest Wounded Tpr Hartnell Missing – believed PoW VEHICLES 3 Daimler AC destroyed 1 White Scout car captured	8th	1 officer	3 ORs		9th	1 officer	18 ORs		10th	1 officer	19 ORs		16th		22 ORs		17th		11 ORs		18th		14 ORs	1 88mm, 1 staff car and 4 killed	19th	2 officers	96 ORs	1 3 ton truck	20th	1 officer	84 ORs	1 3 ton truck	21st		11 ORs	1 staff car, 1 30cwt truck and 1 37mm KO'd	22nd	1 Admiral, 40 officers	450 ORs and 500 Wrens	1 staff car, 1 3 tonner.	25th	5 officers	39 ORs	1 staff car and a trailer	26th		9 ORs		27th	1 officer	6 ORs	and our own DSC
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29/4/45	A Sqn. At first light 3Tp went out to 215427 and no movement seen all day. He came in at last light.																																																				
30/4/45	RHQ. C Sqn relieved A Sqn in APENSEN and as HARSEFELD had been cleared by Guards Armd Div, made good the road between there and the patrol position at 215427. This patrol pushed off at 1100 hours and removed a road block at 206426 and met a patrol of 1st HCR at 190420. Our mission was then																																																				



	complete and the Sqn withdrew its remaining Tps. Thus at the end of the month, RHQ, C, A & D Sqn were out of the line and B Sqn was still doing its small role under 131 Bde in STELLE. C Sqn. Sqn moved to APENSEN and relieved A Sqn. 3Tp went to Troads 215427 at 0930 hours. At 1100 hours 1Tp went to the same area with a view to making good the road between that point and HARSEFELD. He encountered a road block at 206426 which he removed and continued to 190420 where he met ACs of the HCR. Our job in this area was then complete and both Tps returned to APENSEN at 1430 hours. A Sqn. At first light 2Tp went out to 215427 and at 1100 hours we were relieved by C Sqn. At 1700 hours the Sqn moved back to RHQ at BECKDORF.
May 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
May 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/5/45	RHQ. The whole Regt remained in rest at BECKDORF and APPENSEN, with the exception of D Sqn, which relieved B Sqn of their commitments in STELLE under 131 Bde. On this day, the German radio reported the death of Hitler. C Sqn. 1-2nd. Sqn remained at APPENSEN with no Tps out. Hitler's death was announced in the evening. Major WV Burden MC went to England for his months LILOP and Apr 30th and Lt RN Brett Smith left 1Tp to become 2i/c of the Sqn. 2Lt Jaffray who had been under instruction in 1Tp took over that Tp. A Sqn. 1-2nd. Stayed at BECKDORF doing maintenance. B Sqn. Relieved by D Sqn (Capt Horsford MC) and moved to the Regt at BECKDORF. D Sqn. The Sqn moved to STELLE and came under 131 Bde, taking over the area from B Sqn. Total commitment consisted of sending out daily patrols East to contact 53 Div at WINSEN, and West to the Autobahn to contact 5th RTR. Continual stream of deserters coming South across the ELBE. From an OP position in STELLE, shipping and trains could be seen operating in the HAMBURG area. German radio reported Hitler dead.
2/5/45	RHQ. Same form, Goebbels kaput. Negotiations were in progress for the surrender of HAMBURG, originating in the request of the enemy that we should NOT shell a hospital of theirs which also appeared to shelter a heavy gun. B Sqn. Remained at BECKDORF. D Sqn. Same patrols. Many line-crossers. Goebbels kaput. BERLIN surrendered. 11th Armd Div reached LUBECK and we were still negotiating for HAMBURG.
3/5/45	RHQ. HAMBURG surrendered and the Div, headed by the Colonel in his Dingo, entered the city unopposed in the afternoon. C Sqn moved to the northern outskirts. A Sqn to the western, B Sqn to the eastern and D Sqn to the NW. The city had suffered enormous damage and RHQ, with difficulty, found a smooth flat area near the Botanical Garden to spend the night. Prisoners were coming in in droves—conditions unparalleled since TUNIS. C Sqn. HAMBURG surrendered and the Regt moved in at 1900 hours. The Sqn moved straight to the HOTEL ATLANTIQUE—a former HQ of Himmler. This was a disappointing place and we pushed on out to the northern sector of the town. About 30 PoW gave themselves up and 3Tp patrolled to BRAMFELD without incident. There was an elaborate system of road blocks and defensive positions, none of



	which were manned. The town had suffered indescribable damage from the many visits it had received from our bombers, and in some areas, one could drive for a mile and see nothing but ruins. A Sqn. At 1630 hours we moved into HAMBURG with the rest of the Regt after it had surrendered. We moved through the town and out to the western edge, where we were responsible for seeing that nothing came in from that direction. There were no incidents and the Germans organised the surrender of the city amazingly well. B Sqn. HAMBURG was declared an open city and we entered into the place and all Tps were stationed on the main roads leading in from the East. Tps remained out for the night. D Sqn. The Sqn led 7th Armd Div into HAMBURG – a city completely devastated and made even more eerie by the strictly enforced curfew. The Sqn's allotted objectives – Post Office, Telephone Exchange, Police Barracks etc – just weren't there! The Sqn then went to the NW outskirts of the city. Half a million PoW on all fronts during the day. RANGOON captured by the 14th Army.
4/5/45	RHQ. The Regt was ordered to advance to the line WEDEL-PINNEBURG-QUICKBORN with 8th Hussars in support. With B Sqn in reserve this task was accomplished by A, C & D Sqs respectively. There was NO resistance, the Tps being more than occupied in the task of organising the never ending streams of prisoners walking into our lines. In the morning we were warned that a very important party of German emissaries would be passing through the D Sqn patrol at QUICKBORN. This turned out to be Gen Admiral FRIEDERBURG on his way to GHQ 21st Army Group to sign the general surrender of all enemy troops in NW Germany! The cease fire order, to take effect from 050800 hours May 1945 was received at 1900 hours, and this was followed by the expenditure of every available Verey light cartridge and incendiary grenade that we had. In Tac HQ there were 2 large bonfires lit by the Colonel and the Brigadier commanding the 22nd Armd Bde. C Sqn. 8th Hussars relieved the Sqn and we moved to RHQ in the West sector of the town. All Sqs were warned of the approach of high ranking German officers to our lines. At 1000 hours the Sqn, with a Tp of 8th Hussars and an OP from 3rd RHA, moved to PINNEBURG. German soldiers were giving themselves up in large numbers, marching unattended towards HAMBURG. It was obvious that the surrender of HAMBURG had had a far reaching effect on all soldiers in NW Germany. PINNEBURG was entered unopposed and 3Tp Lt Markham went to Xroads 362670, 1Tp to APPEN and 5Tp Lt Esch to PRISDORF. Owing to the large numbers of PoW, a cage was started in PINNEBURG and during the day over 3000 passed through it, mostly taken by 3Tp and incl quite a number of SS officers and soldiers. 1Tp found an aerodrome near APPEN, where he took 100 assorted PoW without opposition, and found a camp full of 150 German ATS girls which 4Tp Sgt Reid dealt with. An Allied PoW camp was liberated near PINNEBURG and several overjoyed RAF officers were let loose, some of whom had been PoW for 5 years. Throughout the afternoon PoW poured in, some on foot, some in their own transport, and it was obvious that big events were shaping. At 2100 hours it was announced that all German troops in NW Germany had capitulated. Our celebrations that night were greatly helped by the capture of a Brandy store by 2Tp in PINNEBURG. A Sqn. At 1100 hours we moved off as a Sqn to WEDEL where we stayed for the rest of the day. The whole time was spent trying to organise thousands of German PoW in a prison camp. They kept coming all day, some just walking in and others sent from other Sqs. Lt Hodgkinson and Lt Siewright had the unpleasant job of doing this. We also had a Tp of the 8th Hussars with us to help. At 2300 hours a Coy of DLI came to take over the PoW camp from us. At 2100 hours we heard the great news of the German surrender in NW Europe over the BBC and all went to bed very pleased with life. B Sqn. At first light the 8th Hussars relieved us and we came back into Regt reserve. We then moved as a Sqn to RELLINGEN. D Sqn.



	Sqn moved to a stop line at QUICKBORN. General Admiral von Friederburg, representing Admiral Doenitz (new fuhrer) entered British lines through 4Tp patrol, where he was retained until collected by 21st Army Group and taken to Field Marshall Montgomery's HQ to sign the unconditional surrender of all German land, naval and air forces in NW Europe. Indeed a historic and memorable day for D Sqn.
5/5/45	RHQ. 5 – 6th. The Regt remained in their area, prepared to move into DENMARK, a move that for very high political reasons never materialised. C Sqn were at PINNEBURG, A & B Sqns at RELLINGEN. On the 6th D Sqn joined C Sqn after Admiral Hoffman had passed through them on the way to surrender the German Navy. C Sqn. 5-6th. Remained in area PINNEBURG with patrols out at APPEN and PRISDORF. PoW came in the whole time and were despatched to PoW camps. All fighting had ceased and there was nothing to report. A Sqn. 5-6th. Moved back to the Regt at RELLINGEN and remained there until the 7th. B Sqn. 5-6th. Remained at RELLINGEN Sqn. Admiral Hoffman (C-in-C of the German Fleet) arrived to hand over the German Navy. "CEASE FIRE" at 0800 hours. More high ranking German officers passed through on their way to Field Marshall Montgomery's HQ (one inexplicable disappearance of a wrist watch caused certain consternation in the realm of Olympus!).
6/5/45	D Sqn. Sqn moved back under RHQ to PINNEBURG. "Loot season" closes!
7/5/45	RHQ. The Div moved to the line of the KIEL Canal, the Regt leading, clearing the country as far as possible of the large numbers of surrendering Wehrmacht on the way. C Sqn on the right went to the KAISER WILHELM bridge, B & D Sqns with RHQ to the BENDORF-ORSDORF area and A Sqn to BRUNSBUTTELKOOG, where they had a lot of shipping and naval units to take over. In the evening they moved to BENDORF. C Sqn. Sqn moved to KAISER WILHELM bridge over the Kiel Canal. The bridge was found intact and demolition charges removed. 1Tp guarded it until 1600 hours when he was relieved by a Sqn of 5th DG. The Sqn then moved to BENDORF where we remained until the 9th. A Sqn. Moved as a Sqn to BRUNSBUTTELKOOG on the KIEL Canal and stayed there until 1900 hours. When we arrived we found a lot of shipping incl destroyers and TBs which we did not know what to do with, so left them to themselves. The whole place was full of soldiers and sailors all trying to give themselves up at the same time. The naval commander wanted to surrender but would not do so to Lt Siewright as he thought he was too junior, so we left him and the GOC took his surrender the next day, escorted by 1Tp and 4Tp. At 1900 hours we moved to BENDORF. B Sqn. Moved to ORSDORF and cleared the area on the way, i.e. directed the German War Machine to PoW camps. D Sqn. Move with RHQ to BENDORF, South of the KIEL Canal.
8/5/45	RHQ. VEDAY! Celebrated by bonfires and the more usual forms of celebration. No change in locations. The Germans were being disarmed and collected into three peninsulas, where SS and similar undesirables were segregated onto an island of their own. A Sqn. 8-12th. Remained at BENDORF enjoying ourselves. B Sqn. At one minute past midnight hostilities ceased on the 21st Army Group front. At 2130 hours SSM Emery broadcast on the BBC from LUNEBURG. His speech was as follows:—"That way seemed very long ----



	when we were at ALAMEN, but once we saw the Germans crack in TUNIS--- in the last corner in Africa --- we knew we would see them crack again – as we have done in the northern corner of Europe. We knew the end was near last week, when German Generals drove through our lines. But for me it's not all over --- I'm a regular soldier. I've done my share out East, so I'll bring my wife out here and stay with the Army of Occupation. That's a job we've got to do well --- or everything we have done will be wasted." The speech was very well given by the Sgt Major and all the Sqn listened in to it. D Sqn. VE DAY!! The Sqn celebrated with rum punch, listened to the King's speech and the Colonel set fire to a vast bonfire surmounted by a Swatika flag. SQMS Barnes blew up the "Cease fire". The Nazi emblem perished in the blaze – visible for miles around.
9/5/45	RHQ. D Sqn moved under 131 Bde to FRIEDRICHSTADT on the northern peninsular and recced EIDERSTADT. C Sqn. 9-24th. Sqn moved to BRUNSBUTTEL. This place is a big naval base and a large force had surrendered to a Tp of A Sqn the previous day, incl many naval ships, personnel and shore establishments. In addition there were large numbers of German soldiers making their way to the peninsula which was to become a large PoW cage. The Sqn was to act as a garrison to the town, provide the necessary guards, and watch a stop line along the line of the canal. Very little policy was laid down and in conjunction with Lt Tottenham (22nd Armd Bde), the Sqn controlled the naval personnel, the army personnel and the civil affairs of the town. This continued uneventfully until 14th May when it was decided to make the canal itself the stop line. 30 Bn Royal Marines had arrived by then and as they were performing sitting on the East side of the canal to guard the ships, they did our job for us. We however provided a 24 hours guard on the vehicle ferry at BRUNSBUTTEL. B Sqn. 9-12th. ORS DORF carrying out maintenance. D Sqn. Sqn under 131 Bde moved to FRIEDRICHSTADT and recced EIDERSTADT peninsula.
10/5/45	RHQ. 10 – 12th. C Sqn who had moved to BRUNSBUTTEL on the 9th, were to provide a garrison on the various naval and military stores etc, and a stop line to prevent the soldiers in the southern peninsular from crossing the KIEL canal. D Sqn moved to TONNING, where they remained until the 24th in a broadly similar role. Apart from the great opportunity for recreation, riding, boating on borrowed fishing or naval small craft, there appeared to be little consistent policy for dealing with the innumerable problems associated with the administration of both civil and military affairs. The Sqns were very largely left to use their own initiative and common sense. D Sqn. 10-28th. The Sqn moved to TONNING – capital of the "Kingdom of EIDERSTADT" and set up totalitarian rule, the enviable position of which they retained until 29th May.
13/5/45	RHQ. 13 – 19th On the 13th the rest of the Regt (RHQ, & B Sqn) moved to ST MARGARETHEN where we remained for the rest of the month. B Sqn was placed under 4 days notice to form part of the British Force to accompany the British section of the Allied Control Commission in BERLIN, and much work was done in smartening up vehicles and equipment. The Sqn was inspected by the Div Commander, Major General LO Lyne on the 17th, who was favourably impressed by their turnout. A Sqn. Moved down to ECKLAK and had to watch a section of the KIEL Canal to prevent anyone crossing. To do this we had three Tps out, helped by searchlights at night. B Sqn. 13-19th. Major Petch left the Sqn to go on leave and Capt Ballingal took over. Early on the 13th RHQ, B & A Sqns moved to ST MARGARETHEN, 4 miles East of the entrance to the KIEL Canal. We began to prepare the Sqn, men and vehicles to go to BERLIN as part of a force escorting the Allied Control Commission. We were put on 4 days notice to join the force at HANNOVER, under command of



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	Major General Whistler. Everone worked very hard, so that when the GOC commanding the 7th Armd Div inspected on May 17th, the turnout was one of which all concerned could be proud.
14/5/45	A Sqn 14-21st. Remained at ECKLAK with three Tps out being relieved every 3 days. NTR. Each Tp had a motor-boat which we got for patrolling but was used for pleasure mostly.
20/5/45	RHQ. 20-30th. The rest of the month passed with C Sqn on the South side of the canal, and, from the 21st, A Sqn on the North jointly engaged in the maintenance of the stop line along the canal, and of a great part of the Civil as well as Military administration of the BRUNSBUTTEL area. A special Civil Affairs dept was set up in the Rathaus in the town under Lt Wheeler to relieve the Sqn of the considerable office and security work involved. RHQ & B Sqn were together in ST MARGARETHEN, (B Sqn trip to BERLIN never materialised) and on May 28th, D Sqn came down from TONNIN to BUTTEL, a village between RHQ and C Sqn. B Sqn. 20-28th. On Sunday May 20th the Regt Memorial and Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church at ST MARGARETHEN, the Regt being played into the church by the band. A week later on the 28th, a Sqn concert was held in the garden of the canteen. A stage was erected and the dance sect of the Regt Band played.
22/5/45	A Sqn. Moved down to BRUNSBUTTELKOOG where we relieved the 5th DG and found ourselves doing military government work entirely, with one Tp patrolling once every 48 hours.
23/5/45	A Sqn. 23-31st. Remained at BRUNSBUTTELKOOG. During the month it came through that Lts Woodhouse, Williamson and Newnham were awarded the Military Cross.
25/5/45	C sq. 25-31st. An additional guard was mounted on the West side of the canal to guard the Arsenal, a large ammo dump, a food store and a de-lousing shed. All these places had German guards and our duties were chiefly to supervise the guards. This continued until the 31st of May.
29/5/45	A Sqn. 29-30th. On May 29th General Lyne addressed the whole Regt in a hall in the C Sqn area at BRUNSBUTTEL, relating the tale of the campaign from the crossing, and explaining to some extent the present operations for disbanding the German forces. D Sqn. 29-31st. During this period the Sqn enjoyed the diverse amenities of their little kingdom, which included a small fleet (2 E Boats, 41 fishing smacks, and various motor boats etc), 2 railway trains and a good stable of horses. Meanwhile 233 Pz Div and 166 Infantry Div from DENMARK were marched into the peninsula, together with a multitude of stragglers, which in all finally totalled 88,000 German prisoners, in addition to 15,000 civilian inhabitants. Boating, bathing, horse riding and merciless photography on a diet of sole, fresh butter, cream and eggs was certainly a fitting end to the European War 1939-1945. On 28th May the Sqn returned to RHQ and installed themselves in BUTTEL on the ELBE estuary. Sgt Trendall with a caravan of 17 horses and 8 German (soldiers) made the journey by road, arriving at the Sqn area 30th May, all sound.
31/5/45	RHQ. B Sqn had the task of supervising the surrender of the German Army Group BLUMENTRITT at SCHONINGSTEDT. This task, rendered the more difficult by the mechanical inefficiency of the German vehicles which were constantly dropping out of convoy, was completed at 1900 hours, when the



	party was handed into the eastern peninsular past LUBECK at EUTIN for segregation and eventual de-mobilisation, and the Sqn returned to their billets. B Sqn. The Sqn moved at 0500 hours, taking 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Tps with 3 SHQ Humberettes. At 0830 hours we arrived at 6255 on the Autobahn, 6 miles East of HAMBURG, where at 1000 hours we met 2 MP officers who took us to SCHONINGSTEDT. Here was lined up the Army Group HQ of General BLUMENTRITT. The General and 3 of his Staff Officers went off to 21st Army Group HQ and the rest of the German vehicles were divided into 2 groups of 127 and 92. The first of these groups was escorted by 3, 4 & 5 Tps under Lt Preston while the second party was lead by Capt Ballingal. The first party proceeded by way of HAMBURG to the canal at 045160, where the Germans were handed over to be taken into one of the western peninsulas for de-mobilisation. The second party followed the HAMBURG – LUBECK autobahn past LUBECK to the BALTIC, thence up the coast to HAFENBURG, 5 miles further North, then inland to EUTIN where at 1930 hours this party was handed in to the western peninsula for segregation and de-mobilisation.
June 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Jun 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
1/6/45	RHQ. 1-11th. RHQ, B & D Sqns remained in rest at STMARGARETHEN and BUTTEL while A & C Sqns continued their role of civil and military administration on either side of the KIEL Canal at BRUNSBUTTEL. Just before the handing over of the area to 5th RTR, a Military Government arrived to take over the civil administration done by A Sqn. Also a new stop line was made on the East side of BRUNSBUTTEL which was used instead of the canal, thus removing the nightmare task of checking everyone who wanted to cross the ferry merely to shop or visit relatives. Major General LO Lyne gave a talk to all ranks on the surrender of HAMBURG and the closing stages of the campaign. On the 6th a general holiday was given for the anniversary of the landing in NORMANDY.
12/6/45	RHQ. 12-30th. On the 12th the Regt moved – RHQ, C & A Sqn to KELLINGHUSEN and B & D Sqn to BAD BRAMSTEDT. The Regt took over from 131 Bde and was responsible for the security of the area and the civil side, working under the military government at ITZEHOE and BAD SEGEBURG. It was now expected that the whole Regt would move to BERLIN and priority work was the painting and varnishing of all vehicles with the help of the German spray plants. After a fortnight, the vehicles were ready, together with pennants cut from Nazi flags and dyed and sewn by the local women. On the 18th, C Sqn, who were to lead the British Troops into BERLIN, moved to the staging area near BRANNSCHWEG. At one stage, it was uncertain whether the whole Regt or only C Sqn would go to BERLIN but at the end of the month it was established that everyone should go. Sport activities for the month included the usual inter-Sqn football matches. The Regt Hockey team defeated the 3rd RHA and the Div Signals. The Regt Swimming team won the Swimming Cup given by 1st RTR at GLUCKSTADT from a field including 5th RHA, 1st DG., 8th Hussars, 1st RTR, 5th RTR and HQ 22nd Armd Bde. All Sqns ran stables and had riding schools and B Sqn held a Gymkhana.
July 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Jul 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
Jul 45	RHQ. The beginning of the month and C Sqn, under command 131 Bde, were at the staging camp near BRUNSWICK waiting for the order to enter BERLIN, while the rest of the Regt remained at 48 hours notice at KELLINGHAUSEN and BAD BRAMSTEDT. D Sqn moved to HAMBURG on July 2nd to do escort duty to the C-in-C at an investiture of the Russian Marshalls, Zikov and Rokossovsky. This event which should have taken place on July 4th was postponed for 8 days. On the same day C Sqn led the entry of the British Troops into BERLIN, the Div commander taking the



	salute in the city. The Colonel and 2i/c also entered on that day. C Sqn moved into the Regtl billets at SECKT Barracks, which they found in the dirtiest possible condition and began the long process of cleaning up, helped by 200 civilians under the direction of Capt JR Ballingal MC. On the 6th C Sqn provided 6 ACs for the ceremony at GROSSER STERN at which the Union Jack was raised in BERLIN. RHQ, A & B Sqns entered BERLIN on the 7th, having moved up to the staging area on the 5th. Now the job of making the barracks inhabitable settled down in earnest. Everyone was occupied in cleaning up the buildings and the areas. Some of the buildings had been damaged by shellfire and few windows remained in any. There was no furniture, scarcely any electric light fittings left and the drainage and gas system in disrepair and everything had to be collected from outside. Meanwhile in HAMBURG the investiture was finally cancelled and D Sqn moved to BERLIN on the 11th. Early the following morning the Regt rehearsed for the GOC's parade in the CHARLOTTENBURG CHAUSSÉE. In the afternoon B Sqn provided ACs for the investiture by the C-in-C which had been cancelled in HAMBURG. On the 13th the GOC's parade took place and contingents from all British Troops in BERLIN marched past. The following afternoon General Lyne CB DSO addressed all British officers on conditions and future policy in BERLIN. On the 15th A Sqn provided ACs to line the route for the Prime Minister's journey from KLADOW airfield to POTSDAM. On the 23rd a whole holiday was given to the British by the Prime Minister. The next day a victory dinner was held in the Regtl Officers Mess, guests included Anthony Eden, Field Marshall Sir Harold Alexander GCB GSI DSO MC ADC. Towards the end of the month the Regt provided some curfew patrols and guards working in conjunction with the Military Government SPANDAU. Considerable work was done preparing sports grounds and by the end of the month Regtl sports activities included football, hockey, cricket, athletics, swimming and boating. The Regtl hockey team won against the 8th Hussars. Horses were brought from the last area and a school started.
August 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Aug 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
Aug 45	RHQ. The Regt remained in BERLIN throughout the month and settled down to the routine of peace, which became general with the end of the war with Japan, after waiting anxiously for nearly a week for definite news of the capitulation, it was finally confirmed and the troops in BERLIN celebrated by having a holiday on the 16th. Sport came to occupy an increasingly prominent position in the activities of the Regt. Although the weather was treacherous, cricket got well under way, while football and hockey continued unchecked. The Regt made full use of the good tennis courts at its disposal and the Yacht Club and riding remained popular. A Regtl Athletics meeting, preceded by the separate Sqn sports was held towards the end of the month under perfect conditions. RHQ Sqn finished as first, followed by D, B, C & A Sqns. On the 13th D Sqn assisted at a ceremonial parade in which we formally handed over a part of what had been previously the British Zone to the French. Awards continued to be announced during the month. Cpl Young received the BEM and Cpl Langmead a C-in-C Certificate.
September 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Sep 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
Sep 45	RHQ. The Regt remained in BERLIN during the month, occupied principally with providing guards for vulnerable points, and security patrols, which were called out on average every second night to



	deal with cases of looting, breaking and entering etc, usually by irresponsible individuals from Allied Forces. Brig John Coombe DSO Colonel of The Regt, paid us a 3 day visit from 7th – 10th and took the salute on a Regt Parade on the 8th. The weather was superb, and a most enjoyable cricket match between the officers and Sgts on the 9th was won (by a narrow margin) by the officers. Lt Colonel J Lawson DSO MC visited us at the same time. During the month the awards were announced of the MC to Capt John Sheehan, RAMC, and of a C-in-C Certificate to Lt JC Champion. At an investiture held on the 10th Field Marshall Montgomery presented the ribbons of their awards to the following:- Major JAN Crankshaw Bar to MC Lt AS Hunter MC Lt JDA Woodhouse MC Lt DAF Williamson MC Lt RCT Siewright MC Lt RA Flood MC Lt PF Chapman MC Cpl Young (R. Sgs) BEM Cpl Jones MM
October 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Oct 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
Oct 45	RHQ. Sport occupied a predominant position in the activities of the Regt. Under the seemingly imminent threat of snow the cricket league wound up with A Sqn the winner. A Sqn repeated their success in the football league, announced later in the month. At the beginning of the month Cpl Inkersole returned from the 8th Corps athletics match having won the javelin throwing event. Rugby football got underway. The Regt fielded a very strong side, defeating any team put against it. They beat 1st RTR in the first round of the BERLIN Rugby tournament. The Regt continued providing guards and patrols throughout the month. On the 26th it was relieved of most of these commitments to supply the escort for the convoys of lorries evacuating children from BERLIN, known as Operation STORK. In a convoy led by Lt Sutton a certain cogency was given to this title when a baby was born on route. Balaclava Day was celebrated on the 25th by a whole holiday. In the morning the Sgts narrowly defeated the officers at football, but the score would have probably been considerably larger had it not been for the former's exemplary tact. In the afternoon a Gymkhana, including both mounted and un-mounted events, was held, while in the evening a cabaret took place in the Canteen. Awards of MBE to RQMSPegg and the C-in-C certificate to SSM Drew came through during the month.
November 1945	CO: Lt Col W Wainman DSO MC
Nov 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
Nov 45	RHQ. November saw no startling change in the commitments or activities of the Regt. Two light falls of snow gave us very little idea of what we were told was to come, and STORK and sport were not affected. STORK ended, to everyone's relief, in the middle of the month – motoring on the autobahn



	in convoy is not thrilling even in midsummer; but we felt we were implementing an enlightened policy, and on the whole the Germans affected seemed pleased with the results. Relieved of STORK we were then required to provide guards for the trains carrying German prisoners from Russia into the British Zone. A squalid commitment which extends indefinitely into the future. It is not at present a luxurious duty, and cannot be while the guards live in "Huit chevaux Quarante hommes" trucks; but soon we hope that these will, for the guards at any rate, be made warm and comfortable. More groups were demobilised during the month and inevitably we lost old friends with them. In barracks individual training continued, and a PT period was instituted as the last 30 minute period of the afternoon. Two riding schools, for officers in the morning and OR in the afternoon were started by Major TI Pitman MC and are proving most popular and successful. It was a good month for sport, particularly for the Rugger XV, which won the Berlin Area Championship in a thrilling final against British Troops Berlin. Our XV also beat the French Garrison team at the MOMMSEN Stadium. The canteen provided entertainment almost every night. Activities ranged from Table Tennis to film shows. As the weather gets colder and we think more often before going out in the evenings, these facilities will be increasing in demand. The Regt paraded to observe the Two Minutes Silence on Armistice Day and a contingent attended the Remembrance Service where the lesson was read by the C-in-C of the Royal Navy in Europe. The Band returned to cheer us up towards the end of the month. Earlier a large part of the Regt attended a most impressive performance at the Olympic Stadium by the massed bands of the three Scottish Divisions. German spectators were puzzled, whether by the unusual music or by the mad Englishman's inexplicable delight in sitting in the snow for an hour watching men in skirts make these strange noises has not been divulged.
December 1945	CO: Lt Col P Payne Gallwey DSO
Dec 45	11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)
Dec 45	RHQ. Lt Colonel P Payne Gallwey DSO arrived to take command of the Regt on the 14th of the month. Throughout the month guard commitments remained heavy, though in the end we were only providing train guards for the ex-prisoners for three days a week instead of seven – a welcome reprieve as this acutely unpleasant duty was becoming cold and protracted. We started a new nightly patrol in the Tiergarten, which had so far met with no trouble, and continued to patrol our own area in Spandau, clearing up minor incidents from time to time. Sport was limited by snow and frost but a few fixtures were played. Rugby continued its run of success and won its only match in the Berlin League. Sailing came to an end at last and all the Regt's boats were removed from the water for the winter; but there had not yet been enough ice for the skaters to get going in earnest. The Table Tennis team won all its matches. Christmas and the new year were celebrated with a long string of whole holidays, under the strain of which Berlin's entertainment and welfare facilities bore up remarkably well. Sgt Cooper, Sgt Truswell, LCpl Pearce and Tpr Longlands were Mentioned in Despatches during the month.



Battle Casualties 11th Hussars PAO from 3/9/39			
Killed in Action			
Officers			
Rank	Name	Date	Remarks
Lt	WVH Gape	29-4-41	
2Lt	AL Jacobson	29-4-41	
Lt	JW Peacock	23-10-42	
Lt	PN St C Palin Evans	24-10-42	
2Lt	The Viscount DAN Stuart	10-11-42	
Lt	Cockbain	28-11-42	Died on Active Service
2Lt	AJ Smithers	25-11-41	Died of Wounds
Capt	Kellock RAMC	31-12-41	Died of Wounds
Other ranks			
Sgt	Whitehouse	26-7-40	
Tpr	Baker	13-9-40	
Tpr	Walsh	13-9-40	
LCpl	Panchen	16-9-40	
Sgt	Taber	9-12-40	
Tpr	Ralstein	9-12-40	
Cpl	Horton	9-12-40	
Tpr	Hunt	11-12-40	
SSM	Chapple	14-12-40	



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Tpr	Sutton	27-12-40	
Tpr	Watham	28-12-40	
Sgt	Holland	4-2-41	
Tpr	Froggatt	4-2-41	
LCpl	Sawyer	8-2-41	
Sgt	Lucy	14-2-41	
Tpr	Buckler	14-2-41	
Tpr	Vivier	14-2-41	
Tpr	Clarke	10-4-41	
Tpr	Worthington	16-6-41	
Tpr	Winslade	26-6-41	
Tpr	Coles	7-8-41	
Cpl	Grimsey	22-11-41	
LCpl	Hutchins	22-11-41	
Pte	Lillywhite (LAD)	22-11-41	
Tpr	Howells	23-11-41	
Tpr	Smpson	23-11-41	
Tpr	Howells	7-1-42	
Tpr	Shaw	7-1-42	
Tpr	Sadd	6-10-42	
Tpr	Blakey	15-12-42	
Sgt	Mines	26-7-40	Died of Wounds



Tpr	Muscettelli	1-7-40	Died of Wounds
TSM	Bowyer	15-10-40	Died of Wounds
Tpr	Pearson	14-12-40	Died of Wounds
Tpr	McVey	16-12-40	Died of Wounds
Missing – Believed Killed			
Tpr	Jones 70	21-6-40	[Alamein Memorial –no known grave]
LCpl	Hoppe	25-4-41	[Alamein Memorial –no known grave]
Tpr	Metton	25-4-41	[No entry Commonwealth War Graves]
Sgt	Woods	7-8-41	[No entry Commonwealth War Graves]
Tpr	Manning	7-8-41	[Halfaya Sollum Cemetery]
Tpr	Bambury	7-8-41	[Halfaya Sollum Cemetery]
Missing – Believed Wounded			
2Lt	TB Brewin	28-1-42	
Cpl	Graystone 31	26-7-40	
Tpr	Nightingale	26-7-40	
Tpr	Gay	26-7-40	
Wounded			
Officers			
Capt	DPJ Lloyd	11-12-40	
2Lt	A Reid Scott	14-12-40	
Capt	HSCayzer	23-11-41	
Lt	PF Stewart	17-12-41	
Major	JCAD Lawson	18-11-42	



Lt	J French	15-12-42	
Lt	RH Moore	16-12-42	
Other Ranks			
Tpr	Musslewhite	5-7-40	
Tpr	Robertson 22	10-7-40	
Tpr	Chisholm	26-7-40	
Tpr	Brown 70	26-7-40	
Tpr	Buckett	26-7-40	
LCpl	Parker	26-7-40	
LCpl	Gingell	13-9-40	
Cpl	Nash	15-9-40	
Tpr	Wright	15-9-40	
Tpr	Hill	15-9-40	
Tpr	Crowther	16-9-40	
LCpl	Petrie	7-10-40	
Tpr	Horton 26	7-10-40	
LCpl	Holdsworth	9-12-40	
Tpr	Hamilton	9-12-40	
Tpr	Leach	10-12-40	
SSM	McMahon	11-12-40	
TSM	Clarke	11-12-40	
LCpl	Loxley	11-12-40	
Sgt	Hay	11-12-40	



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Tpr	Winterbottom	11-12-40	
Cpl	Tappern	14-12-40	
Sgt	Galpin	14-12-40	
LCpl	Ward	14-12-40	
LCpl	Archer	14-12-40	
Tpr	Kean	16-12-40	
Cpl	Bailey	25-12-40	
Tpr	Firth 58	25-12-40	
Tpr	Webster	26-12-40	
Sgt	Cameron	27-12-40	
Cpl	Graystone	27-12-40	
LCpl	Jones	11-1-41	
Sgt	Whittaker	4-2-41	
Sgt	Lamb	24-4-41	
Tpr	Christie	24-4-41	
Tpr	Hastings	24-4-41	
Cpl	Early	24-4-41	
LCpl	Robinson	24-4-41	
LCpl	Greensides	24-4-41	
Tpr	Allen	24-4-41	
Tpr	Powell	24-4-41	
Cpl	Murphy	24-4-41	
Tpr	Riani	24-4-41	



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Tpr	Ferguson	24-4-41	
Tpr	Eacock	24-4-41	
Sgt	Hoyland	25-4-41	
Cpl	Oliver	25-4-41	
Tpr	Pollard	30-4-41	
Cpl	Cornish	12-5-41	
Sgt	Chambers	15-5-41	
Tpr	Strong	15-5-41	
Tpr	Fidler	15-5-41	
Tpr	Shrewsbury	15-5-41	
Cpl	Longmate	16-6-41	
LCpl	Ramshaw	16-6-41	
Tpr	Murphy	16-6-41	
Tpr	Shoals	16-6-41	
Cpl	Green	26-6-41	
Tpr	Blake	26-6-41	
Tpr	Myers	9-7-41	
Sgt	Parker	24-7-41	
Tpr	Wier	20-7-41	
Tpr	Shaw	28-7-41	
Tpr	Allen	28-7-41	
Pte	Chamberlain (LAD)	22-11-41	
Tpr	Clifton	23-11-41	



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LCpl	Hale	23-11-41	
Pte	Burfitt (LAD)	23-11-41	
Sgt	Merrick	22-11-41	
Tpr	Cunningham	22-11-41	
Tpr	Evans	33-11-41	
Tpr	Evans	25-11-41	
Tpr	Lenton	4-12-41	
Tpr	Murphy 28	6-12-41	
Tpr	Osborne 35	10-12-41	
Sgt	Chambers	17-12-41	
LCpl	Attwood	17-12-41	
Tpr	Smith	17-12-41	
LCpl	Like	1-1-42	
Sgt	Hutchinson	1-1-42	
L/Sgt	Sater	7-1-42	
Tpr	Paske	7-1-42	
Tpr	Cahill	12-1-42	
LCpl	Nottingham	28-1-42	
Tpr	Pinfold	2-9-42	
Sgt	Lovett	2-9-42	
Tpr	Cairns	2-9-42	
LCpl	Firth	18-9-42	
Cpl	Addis	11-10-42	



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Tpr	Rose	11-10-42	
Cpl	Stewart	14-10-42	
LCpl	Palmer	14-10-42	
Tpr	Whittingham	14-10-42	
LCpl	Peckett	16-10-42	
LCpl	Woodhead	15-10-42	
LCpl	Shuttleworth	15-10-42	
Tpr	Williams	3-11-42	
Tpr	Brown	5-11-42	
Tpr	Cahill	10-11-42	
LCpl	Horwood	17-11-42	
Tpr	Brown	18-11-42	
Tpr	Oakes	18-11-42	
Tpr	Shoals	18-11-42	
Tpr	Hawkins	26-11-42	
Tpr	Oliver	14-12-42	
Tpr	Stewart	14-12-42	Shell shock
Tpe	Whittard	15-12-42	
LCpl	Jee	16-12-42	
PoWs			
Officers			
Lt	Tl Pitman	26-7-40	Confirmed
2Lt	Jenson	26-7-40	Confirmed



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A/ Brigadier	JFB Coombe DSO	4-4-41	
Capt	CA Halliday	25-5-42	
Lt	JB Turner	30-12-42	
ORs			
TSM	Howarth	21-6-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Freeman	21-6-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Young	21-6-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Prewett	21-6-40	Confirmed
L/ Sgt	Kynes	26-7-40	Confirmed
Cpl	Dayman	26-7-40	Confirmed
LCpl	Gardiner	39 26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Rogers	13 26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Maddox	26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	House	26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Stone	26-7-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Kenny	26-7-40	Confirmed
Sgt	Rich	28-12-40	Confirmed
LCpl	Lowe	28-12-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Crack	28-12-40	Confirmed
LCpl	Ramsell	28-12-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Brown 75	28-12-40	Confirmed
Tpr	Smith 69	28-12-40	Confirmed



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Cpl	Salter	10-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Gibbons	10-4-41	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Stevens	25-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Burns 22	25-4-41	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Edwards	29-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Timmons	29-4-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Crowther	7-8-41	Not Confirmed
Cpl	Winterbottom	7-8-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Walburn	7-8-41	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Kimpton	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Pte	Linsey (LAD)	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Sgt	Howells	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Wesley	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Smith 03	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Randall	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Wells	23-11-41	Not Confirmed
Cpl	Robertson	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Neil	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Edwards	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Jones	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
LCpl	Parrott	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Baxter	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Robinson	23-1-42	Not Confirmed



Tpr	Carman	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Wright	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Briggs	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Vivian	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Howley	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Crampton	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
Tpr	Day	23-1-42	Not Confirmed
PoWs – Repatriated			
Tpr	Gay	26-7-40	
Tpr	Garner 30	26-7-40	
LCpl	Evans	28-12-40	
Tpr	Fenn	28-12-40	



D Squadron, 11th Hussars. Their concern over air attack inspired their use of an extra pair of light machine-guns mounted on the turret.