Second World War Unit War Diary – 3 Field Regt. Royal Artillery, June 1942 - Captain Stares

The following is from the National Archives WO 169/4574

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Place		Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices		
EL ADE	Jun 1-9		19th (Talavera) Fd Sty and 65/75 Fd Sty R.A. with R.H.Q. in the EL ADEM BOX. 62 Fd Sty R.A. under Cond 1 Worse R (See Sty War Diary - Apple "A")	Appdx "A" 62 Fd Bty War Diary		
			Troops from 18 and 65/75 Fd Stys sent out on columns in turn. Owing to these columns the LL ALM box was sensitimes reduced to a single troop. Some good work was however accomplished by them and the enemy prevented from recovering tanks immobilized by lack of petrol.			
EL ADEK	10		A To 18 Bty sent to a box at B 650 about 6 miles away. This box and the EL ADEN BOX were supposed to be mutually supporting, but in fact they were too far apart and were out of communication.			
	10		F Troop left on column at 0500 hrs, bumped superior enemy forces at first light and had all four guns knocked out. Light W. Nokli A.A. and q other rame, were killed (Appax "B" Names)	Appdx "B"		
	10	0800	E To engage enemy guns on the ridge to the East of the box and are themselves heavily engaged by tanks and guns from the North. Three guns are put out of action but the fourth continues to fire.	Names of Casualtie		
	10	1100	B Tp put down a smoke screen to enable E Tp to be withdrawn to an alternative position. Withdrawal successfully accomplished.			
EL ADEL	11		Little activity - enemy occupy positions all round EL ADE. B To position registered by 25 pdrs in the possession of the enemy. In the evening a column of about 500 enemy MT was engaged by nearly every gun, Field, A/Tk and A.A. in the box. 6 wehicles including a petrol lorry set on fire and in all about 20 vehicles impobilised. 3.7 A.A. sums fired throughout this period in a Field role with considerable success. They			
			o A.s. can't irred throughout this period in a risid role with considerable success. They were ranged in a variety of methods, but the most successful was when the target could be observed from the cum position. alternative B Tp occupy a position close to R.H.Q.			
L ADEK	12		No activity. News received that Lieut. B.A. BUCKWELL R.A. wounded and evacuated to TORREL from B. 650.			

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date			Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ADEM	13		B Ech come up. One or two survivors arrive from close wagon lines which had been over-run on 10 Jun. W.O. i/c L.A.D. evades capture and walked in with a small party.	
			Proposed evacuation.	
EL ADEM	14	-	Evacuation cancelled. EL ADEM Box invested at about 100 hrs. Box shelled from them on practically continuously until after dark. Communications cut by shell fire and relayed by Signal Section 3 times.	
	14	1730	B To position registered by enemy guns. B To shelled fairly heavily until dark. Three guns put out of action and communications continually cut. Major J.F. STAZ R.A., Lieut W.d.E. GADD Ramounded on the gun position 2 Other ranks Killed 3 Wounded. Enemy attack at dusk from East. Attack repelled.	
al adem	15		B Tp evacuated to alternative position. Guns in action again 0100 hrs. Quiet day. Bde Comdr issues orders that targets are only to be engaged if an attack appears imminent.	
EL ADEM	16		Rnemy shelling early fairly heavy. CO - Lieut Col P.H. TEESDALE M.C., R.A. wounded but refuses to IAM leave Regimental Headquarters.	
	16	1500	Plans to evacuate by night through the enemy lines. Cancelled by Army Commander. Brigade is to hold the box to the last man and the last round.	
		1900	E Tp and a section of B Tp engage energy guns and fire until dark. Light too bad to assess accurate result but infantry well satisfied and over 100 rds expended.	
		2130	Orders received to evacuate at 15 minutes hotice. No preparations had been made and transport is fatally short. About 60 men from 65/75 Fd Bty R.A. have to march out on foot. Infantry and marching gumners leave at 0030 hrs 17 Jun and remainder of regt at 0130.	
ENELS 17-	IY 21		Regiment re-assemble at KENNES East of Libyan Frontier, 5 guns only saved, 62 Fd Bty R.1.	Appdx B
			D. D. S. L. Carolin, E.C. (Accordin Wh) WhyseyProy 2000 on the Sach 35 PremoCarolini	Casualti

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Summary of I	Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Kemarks and references to Appendices
KENNELS	17-2	1	Captain C.R.D. STARES R.A. Lieut A. CEORGIADI R.A. believed killed. Lieut R.A. NOTLEY R.A. 2/Lieut P.E. GROVES R.A. 2/Lieut K.H.G. WILLIAMS R.A. 2/4-0.T. 36 and 14 CA missing believed P.O.W.	
KENNELS	22		Regt ordered to join 10 Ind Div at SOLLUM.	
SOLLUM	23		Party sent off to collect 6 guns. Lieut F.C. BULL R.A. assumed command of the regiment. SOLLUM BOX to be evacuated night 23/24 Jun.	
	24/25		Withdrawal to SIDI HAMEISH.	
SIDI HAMEISH	26/		Reorganisation into two 5 gun batteries and a depot.	
SIDI HAMESH	27		2 Batteries and Skeleton HQ leave to join 5 Div holding the escarpment SOUTH of MERSA MATRUH Regt sent to join rear Div.	
	28		With Rear Div. Orders received to withdraw 21 miles en route from MOGUH ABI DWIES. CO requests permission to go forward to join 29 Ede.	
		2300	Orders received to join 29 Bde on escarpment SUUTH of FUKA. Night march started at 0115 hrs.	
	29 .		Arrive in area between escarpgent and the sea at first light - Heavy mist - visibility less than 50 yds. Enemy encountered in possession of FUKA and country South as far as escarpment. Liout G.A.M. MCHATTIE R.A. and Liout F.Y., FERRUSON R. Sigs believed captured. One gun captured.	
	29-30		Remaining Officers and June proceed to NAGAT ABU DWIES. It transpired that 29 Bde had been over-run by enemy tanks on the evening 28th June, and orders NOT to proceed to join them never reached the regiment.	
			(NOTE. Original War Diary was destroyed on 16 Jun when the regiment evacuated EL ADEM) (NOTE. Original War Diary was destroyed on 16 Jun when the regiment evacuated EL ADEM) (NOTE. Original War Diary was destroyed on 16 Jun when the regiment evacuated EL ADEM) (NOTE. Original War Diary was destroyed on 16 Jun when the regiment evacuated EL ADEM) (NOTE. Original War Diary was destroyed on 16 Jun when the regiment evacuated EL ADEM)	