

LOG OF BATTAL - B COY
2-10-42

No 1 Battalion

- 23/24 Oct. Went into action in sp of B Coy, 2/15 bn. Near objective 0415 hrs. Dug in in minefield (French type mine) under spasmodic Spandau and shell fire. Uneventful day. Spasmodic MG and shellfire. MG fire ceased at 1400 hrs.
- 24/25 Oct. Quiet night. Shelling commenced 0600 and went on throughout the day. Pte SOBIEY shrapnel wound to chest 1000 hrs.
- 25/26 Oct. Moved into reserve area in sp A Coy 2/15 bn at 2100 hrs. Moved out at 2200 hrs in sp B Coy 2/15 bn. Guided to posn by Major DAWSON. Came under heavy Spandau fire in B Coy area 2400 hrs. Major DAWSON wounded whilst giving me my task. Dug in under spasmodic Spandau and shell fire. B Coy 2/17 bn on left and C Coy 2/17 bn on right. Spandau fire very troublesome during day.
- 26/27 Oct. Moderate Spandau fire during night. General stand-to 0400. Counter-attack on B Coy front. Moderate day. Another counter-attack on B Coy front 1630 hrs. All c/attacks unsuccessful. Withdrawn to 26 Bde area 2400 hrs 27 Oct.
- 27/29 Oct. Laying up and reorganising near junc main MATSUI RD and TOOMERANG track.
- 29/30 Oct. Moved out to sp A Tk Regt in command Major COOPERLAND. Posn to be taken up after 2/23 bn had reached objective. 2/23 bn failed to get right through. At 0530 hrs we withdrew to 26 Bde area as on 28/29 Oct.
- 30/31 Oct. Moved in sp A Coy 2/32 bn. Owing to attack of 2/3 Inf Bn and 2/48 and 2/24 Bns being only partially successful, infm and Coy dispositions were very confused. Made attempts to cross ry line west of RAI blockhouse, but were twice cut off by very heavy Spandau fire. A Tk portees with guns in tow made a dash through the Spandau fire. Impossible, as they had all the road blocked. Unable to get a guide from 2/32 Bn Comd Post to take Pl to A Coy. At 0600 hrs decided to withdraw 500 yds and dig in facing in general direction of enemy, from where Pl could attempt to repel any enemy break through. Came under heavy MG, mortar and shell fire from all sides. Enemy right, left and front, and down tanks in rear. Found we were in enemy strong post. Covered visible men with rifles, and ordered them to surrender - 48 enemy walked out of strongly fortified posns. 2 Italian offrs, 2 German ORs, and 44 Italian ORs. Weapons captured included 4 Spandaus, 1 by Kreds, and 1 schwartzelöse. At 0730 hrs found 2/24 bn lieut, who directed me to A Coy, 2/32, CAS 3-ton truck received direct hit and complete Sec stores lost. Dug in by 0900 hrs with 2 guns and A Coy (30 strong) of 2/32. Gap of 1,000 yds on left flank, and enemy on other three sides. Heavy Spandau fire all day. Arty very heavy, but no shells closer than 20 yards from guns. Pte MACKAY, C.E. evacuated with blast effects from shell. Several c/attacks during day, general stand-to during the whole of this time. Lost guns and stores replaced 1700 hrs.
- Night 31 Oct/1 Nov. 2/28bn filled in gap on left. General stand-to all night. Spandau and shelling very heavy during day 1 Nov.
- 1/2 Nov. Three counter-attacks lasting approx until 0230 hrs.
- Night 2/3 Nov. Relieved at 2300 hrs by No 1 Pl C Coy, and returned to posns previously occupied by that Pl.

*Mackay
10. 2/2 and m g Bn*

