

(O.G.)

FIELD EXERCISE:28 MAORI BATTALION:9 OCT. 1941:MERSA BAGGUSH:

9 Oct. 4I --(a) FIELD EXERCISE:- As per instructions (Appendix) the Battalion assembled at "CLAY MOUNDS" Square 77432I (Location Appendix) and at 1010 hrs. advanced on its objective in M.T., using a bearing of 175° 30" True. The distance to be traversed was 22 miles: COLUMN - in Desert Formation during MOVE was protected by A/TK., ARTY GUNS and Bren Carriers on all faces.

Direction was difficult to keep owing to the nature of ground which was undulating, and which prevented the picking up of any ~~points~~ like distant points to march on. When within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of what we determined was the OBJECTIVE the Bn. debussed, sending ALL VEHICLES excepting BREN CARRIERS and ARTY to the rear, under cover, and attacked with "C" and "B" Coys. FORWARD supported by 3" Mortars.

1220: After position was captured, consolidation then took place. This attack was launched at 1220 hrs. Soon after attack was launched it was discovered that the chosen OBJECTIVE was approx. 1 mile too far WEST; however the attack as planned was allowed to proceed.

Similarity of the ground brought about the choosing of wrong OBJECTIVE. In actual warfare the BREN CARRIERS would have run across the ENEMY with the result that attack would have been directed on to right spot.

1700:- (b) The Sealed Orders opened at 1700 hrs. contained the following:- "You will leave present position NOT before 2000 hrs. 9 Oct. 4I. and dislodge ENEMY from position which he has taken up between you and BAGGUSH at Trig. 125 Square 780312. Attack on ENEMY position to take place just prior to first ~~light~~ 10 Oct. 4I".

2000:- The Bn. in NIGHT DESERT FORMATION left to carry out its TASK at 2000 hrs. The distance to be traversed was 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles on a True Bearing of 6° 30". The Bn. proceeded in Square Formation with "D" and "C" Coys forward and Bn. Hqrs. and Hqrs. Coy in centre of Square.

There was a slight Southerly Breeze. A Point about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles short of OBJECTIVE was reached at 2230 hrs. - the going had been good. Two Patrols were sent out, one to join contact with WADI about one mile to our RIGHT and another to a Trig. Point to the LEFT to make certain we were in correct position. We were almost dead in line but half a mile in front of where we ~~were~~ expected; this meant that our OBJECTIVE was one mile away. Stars assisted in keeping such good direction.

At 0330 hrs. the Bn. debussed and went into attack with the "D" and "A" Coys forward and the Trig. Position was captured at approx. 0530 hrs. 15 minutes prior to first light.

(Owing to the noise being created by the BREN CARRIERS in front of column and also despatch riders they have been moved to rear of column before the Bn. reached the Point at which they debussed.) At 0630 hrs. after a visit from the Bde. Commander the Bn. embussed and returned to bivouac area in column of Route; it reached that area about 0830 hrs. The remainder of the day was spent in rest, maintenance of vehicles.

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Commanding Officer 28 (Maori) Bn

Assembly
Area.

1010 hrs 9 Oct 41
Advance Commenced.

Conspicuous
Yellow Clay
Mounds.

780
320

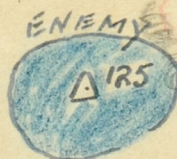
SKETCH
showing :-

EXERCISE 9/10 Oct 41.

(Extract :- Egypt 1:100,000
Ras EL Kanayis
Sheet D.

Undulating
Country

Night Attack here



Debussing
Point

0330 hrs
10 Oct 41.



Halted here
Bren/Catapults
B. Echelon
D.R.
2230 hrs.

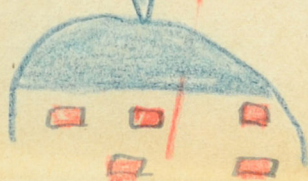
Daylight Attack
here.



B. Echelon.

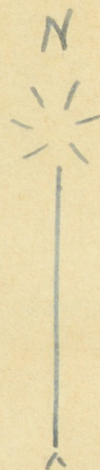
Debussing Point:

$\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Objective
1820 hrs.



D.C.
H.H.
H.H.

Consolidation here
Departure 2000 hrs
for final Objective



Archives New Zealand = Archives New Zealand = Te Rua
Mahara o te Kāwanatanga.

Ref: 28 NZ (Māori) Battalion Diary, WAI 1 1664 DA 68/1/22, pp.
60-61.