

Thursday 4.

In same area. Very warm day. Changed into shorts. Went round Coy. areas to put on map.

5:30 P.M. three M.E. 109s shot down by A.A. and our Spitfires.

To bed early. Slept like a top.

Friday 5.

In area. Walked round A and B. Coys. to resect A.T. guns for map.

Letters (2) from Edna & from Mum (27 Dec. 3 Jan) 1 from Helen Lister.

Saturday 6

Enemy attacked at dawn. Guns firing all day. More planes in the sky than ever seen before. Fighters & fighter bombers.

We were bombed about 3 P.M. by 4 M.Es. out of the sun. 4 wounded. Saw several bombing raids by Stukas and M.Es. Wrote to Mrs. Brock.

Many Spitfires about all day. Saw bombs drop like footballs from German bombers. One Tommy blown to pieces. Enemy have had 37 tanks knocked out today. Heard that Tripoli had heavy air raid a night or two ago. Benito Mussolini School (where our troops were) wrecked.

Our tanks and guns still firing at 6 P.M.

Sunday 7

Rained during night. Gunfire from time to time.

Sunny morning. Spitfires and M.Es overhead at breakfast time. 8:40 A.M. saw an M.E. 109 shot down near Medenine by our A/A.

Big cloud of smoke where it crashed.

Wrote to Mum. Just finishing when enemy bombers came screaming down. Leapt out of truck, ran to my slit trench just as bombs were falling. Bombs fell 100 yds. away. Sandy Powell and Johnny Legg (Sigs) wounded. B. Coy. Cookhouse destroyed. Saw many dog-fights overhead. Planes in sky all day. Bought chocolate, tobacco, milk & fruit from H.Q. canteen. Deepened my slit trench.

Monday 8

Much quieter today. Warm and overcast. Wrote to Mrs. Bullock. Took newsletters round Companies in Jeep. Rommel has withdrawn into the hills again after his unsuccessful attack yesterday. Wrote to Eileen in afternoon. Some reinforcements arrived. Met Bruce Guthrie. Ralph Newburgh back in Bn. also. Plumduff for tea. Fighter bombers over at 5:5 P.M. Dropped bombs a mile away. Not many planes about today.

Tuesday 9.

Frugal this morning. 1600 yds. advance on foot.

Read Digest in bivvy in afternoon.

Wrote to Edna after tea.

1900 hrs. Night exercise (as for morning). Mug of tea at A. Coy. on return.