

[Il linguaggio laconico e incolore del diario di guerra va confrontato con la descrizione personale del combattimento per il possesso di M. Malbe contenuta nelle memorie di Christopher Seton-Watson, ufficiale artigliere che vi prese parte, riprodotta nella sezione successiva di questo volume.]

Documento 9. La battaglia di M. Malbe*

War Diary [6 British Armoured Division]
Army Form C.2118

June 1944

[...]

17 [June] Main Div HQ stood by to move to Marsciano area at 1700 hours, but owing to the almost complete failure of the ford at Poppy** the move was deferred.

10 RB reverted to comd 61 Inf Bde, sent patrols to Montecastelli Umbro 6572 after Corps had passed warning that it was full of enemy but found nothing. An O.O. of 334 Div was found by Brig F.N. Mitchell, D.S.O., Comd 26 Armd Bde, which clarified the layout of the enemy and the respective lines of withdrawal of his divisions. It indicated that once again the Div was in contact with its most faithful opponent. 15 PG Div, which was fighting the rearguard action along the West bank of the Tiber.

17/18 The Div Comd's intention remained the capture of Perugia, but 1 Gds Bde was to come in on the right of 26 Armd Bde with 16/5 L under cmd, to adv on Perugia along the line of the rly. 26 Armd Bde remained with the task of approaching Perugia from the SW on CL S. Martino 6684 - 6288 - Route 75. 1 Derby Yeo took over protection and recce of left flank 26 Armd Bde from KDG who were ordered to make contact with 78 Div on extreme left in area South of lake.

18 Enemy withdrew from his posns during the night, withdrawing on to a close ring covering the perimeter of Perugia. A sqn 16/5 L was brought across the river from Route 3 and, working fwd with 3 Gren

* In PRO WO 170/437, 6 British Armoured Div War Diary, 17-24 June 1944.

** 'POPPY', 'BOSS' ecc. erano riferimenti in codice a particolari punti topografici (es. cime di colline, punti di guada dei fiumi) nel piano operativo.