

attacks were delivered with little dash and the enemy lost several PW in addition to casualties. The area was cleared up by 3 Gren Gds and 16/5 L and 2 SP guns were knocked out by a PIAT - the first success scored by a PIAT since the Div's adv began, and 2 Coldm Gds adv to reach the Southern suburbs of the town. 17/21 L approached the town from the SW on the line of the rly under intense AP and HE fire. The leading tp entered Fontivegge 6792 but were held up here by SP guns and Bazookas covering the Northern exits. The enemy again counter attacked 3 Gren Gds in the SE outskirts of the town at last light and forced the leading coy to withdraw 300 yds.

19/20 The Div Comd's intentions were to press on along Route 75 to reach Lake Trasimene with all speed. It was appreciated that the enemy would withdraw from Perugia during the night and 1 Gds Bde was directed to secure the town and the high ground to the NW. If the situation developed favourably a further bn was to pass through and secure M. Tezio W.6603. KDG was to mask the Div rt flank.

During a night of heavy rain, enemy evacuated Perugia and removed all cas. 7 RB leapfrogged through 10 RB and by first light was firmly est on M. Malbe 6194 which dominates Route 75 from Perugia to Maggione. This night move again took the enemy by surprise and 27 PW were taken. The enemy reacted strongly to this loss of his key posn and 577 GR launched two unsuccessful and expensive counter attacks during the day in an effort to regain M. Malbe. This feature had evidently formed an important corner-stone in his defences which followed the semi-circle of hills running from North to West round Perugia.

20 26 Armd Bde moved fwd after first light with 2 Lothians in the lead but were held up by A tk guns cover the defile West of M. Malbe and several tks were lost in 2 Lothians determined efforts to get through, which was pressed home to the extent of knocking out an A tk gun with a dismounted patrol.

1 Gds Bde entered Perugia without opposition shortly after first light. 3 WG advanced through the night to by-pass the town to the West and during the morning established themselves at S. Marco, 3 miles NW of the town astride the main approach to the town from the hills in that direction. 16/5 L reverted from 1 Gds Bde to comd 26 Armd Bde as from last light. KDG passed through to make contact with the enemy 2000-3000 yds on to the East and NE of Perugia. All brs over the Tiber in this area were found to be blown. This adv also appears to have upset the en-