

PERUGIA NELLA CAMPAGNA D'ITALIA

day but covered fwd coy posns with hy harassing fire from his mortars and arty of all calibres.

During the evening 3 H passed across the div front moving from 78 Div to join 8 Ind Div. This was the first unit to use the main Corps lateral from Città Della Pieve 3684 which was opened by Corps RE after recce by KDG.

17/21 L and 2 Lothians were withdrawn into Perugia for a rest and refit – the first since they crossed the GAR in sp of 4 Brit Div on 13/14 May – a distance of over 300 miles. 16/5 L remained under comd 1 Gds Bde with one sqn in sp 61 Inf Bde. Main Div HQ moved out of Perugia to 711905 – 2 miles East of the town among the gun lines of 2 Agra.

The intentions for 22 Jun were for 61 Inf Bde to exploit their salient in the enemy defences astride Route 75 by capturing the M. Rentella feature. Sqn 16/5 L was placed under comd 26 Armd Bde, which was ordered to take charge temporarily of the right flank and with KDG under comd to clear up the M. Santa Croce feature and set 8 Ind Div at rest. They were also to occupy M. Giogo W.7096 in order further to deny the enemy observation over the Eastern approaches to Perugia. Bty 12 RHA was placed under Comd KDGs for the operation.

21/22 During the night 10 RB passed through 2 RB and occupied the summit of M. Rentella on which the enemy had only left outposts. To the North of the rd a similar adv was made and the spur running North to the Church feature 606945 was occupied. 2 RB was pulled back into res. Two hours after first light the enemy launched a well planned counter attack in some strength which broke through between the coys on Rentella and the twin feature to the North. The coy on Rentella was forced to withdraw but the enemy succeeded in cutting off almost the whole of the right hand coy. Mk V tks were reported by 10 RB. 10 RB also took a PW who claimed that when the bn had surprised 104 PGR outposts during the night – the main body of which had withdrawn 3 - 4 miles – moved fwd again to regain the outpost line. KDG were joined by a sqn of 2 Lothians on the right flank where the enemy was holding the feature of M. Croce 7193 in greater strength than that with which KDG foot patrols was able to deal. The enemy's possession of this feature gave him observation over the ground on which 8 Ind Div was operating East of the Tiber and was consequently a source of some concern to the Indians. The tks however, were unable to make much progress up the terraced slopes of M. Croce and defiladed en-