

Reports on Reconnaissance's of area NE PODGORICA

19 - 20 DEC 44

1) Recce by Commander F Troop 43 (RM) Commando

Recce was carried out by Commander of F Troop with Sgt McGREGOR RE on 19 Dec 44 of main from bridge 001669 to Bridge at 041699.

a) Bridge at 001669 was blown and party crossed River MORASA by boat with difficulty.

b) Bridge at 141699 was blown. Size 80' by 20'

c) Germans shelled forward slopes of Pt. 275 (0369) and valley 1169 at 12:15hrs.

d) No enemy troops were encountered or seen during recce.

e) Three derelict guns were seen at approx. 041696 and civilians reported that the three crews had been annihilated by British shelling. (These guns were engaged by observed fire by Captain Cutress on 19 Dec when they shelled area Bailey Bridge 9374).

2) Recce by Lieutenant TUSTIN (British Military Mission)

a) Recce was carried out by Lieutenant TUSTIN along track from 000680 to bridge at 041699 on 20 December 44.

b) Bridge over stream at 003687 was still intact but has been prepared for demolition with bundles of shells with detonators, all bundles being linked together.

c) Ammunition dump at 005687 was almost completely destroyed. S-mines and Tellermines were lying about unused. Piles of automatic weapons and rifles, DZ'35 pressure igniter's and crates of incendiary bottles.

d) Road is good and wide enough for double traffic except at 030690 and 038697.

e) Main bridge at 041699 requires at least 120ft of bridging to repair.

f) Two guns were seen destroyed at 038694.

- g) All along the track there was considerable MT destroyed. 20 vehicles and one small tank were counted between 033694 and 045703.
 - h) Mule and transport lines at 045705 had been attacked, probably by fighter-bombers with great accuracy and there was a complete line of dead mules, killed as they stood in the stalls.
 - i) Officers' Mess at 025690 had received a direct hit from shell fire and was surrounded by shell holes. Six officers had been killed and one wounded and later relieved of further suffering by the Partisans.
 - j) All the ground along the track was pock-marked with shell holes and Partisans expressed their astonishment of indirect fire.
 - k) Seven graves at 045708 of Germans killed on 17 Dec.
- 3) Recce by Captain De MUTH 43 (RM) Commando of Podgorica airfield 20 Dec
- a) After a short inspection, the airfield appeared to be in working condition - control towers intact and lights OK. Much material. Airfield under Partisan guard.