

2/8th Battn. THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS.
WAR DIARY, SEPTEMBER 1917.
APPENDIX "A".

The Battalion moved off from the Old British Front Line about 11 p.m., 25th inst, to the Position of Assembly, just behind the Position of Assembly of the 2/7th Bn. Sherwood Foresters, i.e., West of SCHULER GALLERIES.

ZERO was 5.50 a.m. 26th inst, when the whole attack moved forward. The 2/7th Bn. Sherwood Foresters were detailed to take the ground as far East as FOKKER FARM. The 2/8th Bn. were then to pass through and take the ground as far East as RIVERSIDE. The Battalion Area was divided into three portions.

The Battalion formed up, "C" Coy in front, then "D" Coy, "A" Coy and then "B" Coy. "C" Coy. were detailed to go through and capture the second portion of the ground, their line being as far East as TORONTO. "D" Coy were to go through and capture the remainder of the ground. "A" Coy to follow the attack closely to give assistance where necessary. "B" Coy, consisting of one platoon, to remain west of the road running North and South just West of TORONTO and act as Local Reserve. The other two platoons acted as Carrying Parties.

The attack went entirely according to Programme, all objectives were taken to time.

About 7 o'clock in the evening a German Counter-attack developed, which forced a little back the Division of the left, also the Battalion on the right, on our front it was broken by the Artillery fire, and our men did not give at all.

Very heavy Officer casualties were suffered, and it was necessary to bring Captn. C.P.Elliott and 2/Lieut G.R.MacDonald from the Transport Lines. Captn C.P.Elliott took over command of the Front Line early morning of the 27th inst, he himself was twice buried and had to be relieved on the morning of the 28th, when the position of the Battalion was Lieut G.G.Elliott, Signalling Officer, and 120 men holding the Front Line just short of RIVERSIDE, the Adjutant (Captn A.H.Quibell, D.S.O.) in command of forward Headquarters at TORONTO FARM, 2/Lieut. G.R.MacDonald with the Reserve line 100 yards in rear, and the Regtl-Sgt-Major (W.H.King D.C.M.) acting as Adjutant with the Commanding Officer at Battalion Headquarters at CORN HILL. That night at 11 p.m. the 2/6th Bn. North Staffs took over and the Battalion was withdrawn into Reserve in CALL TRENCHES near WELTJE.

On the return journey the Boche dropped a number of Gas Shells and the men had to march back with Gas Helmets on. The Boche stopped about 12 o'clock and the men got down to rest. About 4 a.m. the Boche gas-shelled CALL TRENCHES and owing to the exhaustion of the men and the difficulty in waking them the Battalion had about 100 slight cases of gas.

At 11 a.m. the Battalion marched back to No: 2 Area VLAMERTINGHE.

In the attack on the Right the 2/5th and 2/6th Battns Sherwood Foresters attacked, the 2/5th going through the 2/6th to the furthest objective, on the left the 2/12th London Regt. and the 175th Brigade, 58th Division did the attack.

Our casualties were, Killed :- 2/Lieut J.G.Roe & 2/Lieut. H.A. HADDON, and 43 Other Ranks.

Wounded :- Capt. J.E.Broad, Captn. D.de B.Lipscomb, Capt. L.S.Bampton, Lieut W.H.Hayhoe, 2/Lieut F.Lewis, 2/Lieut A.I.Cook, 2/Lieut W.S.Jones, 2/Lieut L.Mellows, 2/Lieut B.N.Smith, 2/Lieut W.Charlesworth, 2/Lieut J.H.Hough. and 239 Other Ranks.

Died of Wounds :- 7 other Ranks. Missing :- 39 Other Ranks.

Gassed :- Lieut & Q.M. G.J.D.Schumacher, The Revd. G.A.W. WILKINSON C.F. (attached) and 89 Other Ranks.