

War Diary 7th Battalion Loyal Royal Lancashire Regiment
July 1916

23rd July 1916

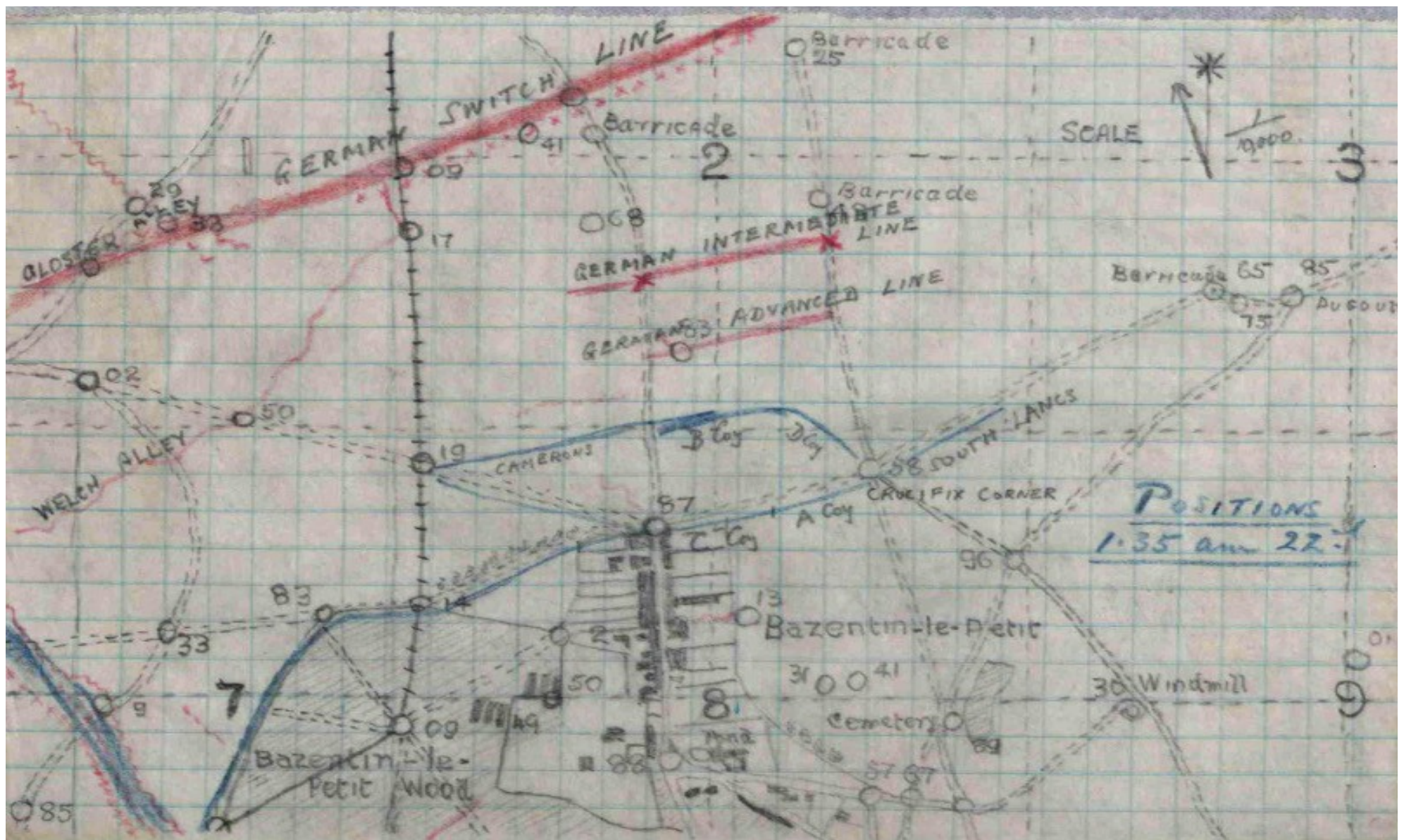
It had been arranged with Brigade that (1) Brigade Signals should take over station at Battn HQs 1 hour before zero. This had not been done by 12 midnight and was not done at all. (2) that a field ambulance should take over dressing station at Bttn HQ. This was not done. There was still no communication with Bde (telephone lines had been cut by enemy shelling on 22nd) except by orderly.

115-1220 hrs. CO spoke to OC "C" & "B" Coys on the way up. 1225 am "B" & "D" Coys attacked. No proper support on either flank at 1230 am. (zero). Our men reached the first objective but suffered very heavy casualties.

1245am. "C" Coy were sent up (only 45 strong) road on our left flank but were held up by M. Gun fire after passing crest of the hill. By this time several men of "B" Coy were back in our line; reported that the enemy held trench very strongly and that their M. Guns caused very heavy casualties. "A" Coy ordered to prepare to attack (A&C Coys had come into front line at zero). Lieut Porter OC "C" Coy returned and reported that his Coy had suffered heavily. They had got within 20 yards of German trench, but were then held up by M. gun fire. He was left alone with 2 men, one of whom was hit. He then managed to crawl down the road.

2.35am. "A" Coy ordered NOT to attack but to consolidate the front line and hold it against counter attack. It was clear by now that "B" ad "C" Coys had suffered heavy casualties and that although a few of our men had got into the German front Line, we had not got hold of all of the line. "D" Coy also had heavy casualties. Report received from 2Lt TOVANI that CAPT THOMPSON and 2Lt HOYLE were killed. The Coy had got to within a few yards of the German front line trench but was again held up by M. Guns. Being unable to get on 2 Lieut TOVANI withdrew the remainder of the Coy (about 50 men) from the front line. One Coy of 7th East Lancs Rgt detailed to maintain connection between our left. CAMERONS was sent for at 230am. They arrived and extended two platoons about 80 yards in front of our left.

342am. One section 81st field Coy RE ordered up to consolidate captured trenches. These were employed wiring our front line and digging communications trench back from our right towards CRUCIFIX CORNER.



6am. Reported to Brigade on situation. First objective not held by our troops. Medical Officer sent back to former Battn HQ as it was reported that dressing station there had no doctor and 200 cases.

730am. Battn HQ moved back to former position after "B" and "C" Coys had been withdrawn to Reserve Line. Lieut Prout ordered to take command of "D" Coy. Orders received that Battn would be relieved by 58th Infty Brigade. Relieved by 6th WILTS by 850pm. Moved back to dug-outs in MAMETZ WOOD. Casualties for the day 10 officers 213 other ranks.

