

78<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry August 6<sup>th</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup> inclusive. Operation Llandoverly Castle. Walter was wounded on the 9<sup>th</sup> August during the advance described below.

**REPORT OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY 78TH CANADIAN INFANTRY  
(WINNIPEG GRENADIERS) FROM 6TH TO 10TH AUGUST 1918 INCLUSIVE.**

1. The operations was designated LLANDOVERLY CASTLE, connecting it in this way with the atrocities committed by the enemy on our Hospital Staff on that vessel.
2. In accordance with Brigade L.C. Operation order of August 6th. The Battalion moved to BOVEY WOOD remaining there until the night 7th/8th when it moved from there to its assembly position E. of the B. de GENTELLES preparatory to carrying out the task assigned it in the operations which were to follow.

**TASK.** The task allotted to the unit was to move forward at the times and to the positions as mentioned in L.C. Instructions of August 7th which dealt with the first phase of the advance.

**NARRATIVE.** Sharp at 5.30 A.M. on the morning of the 8th the Battalion moved from its jumping off position E. of the B. de GENTELLES towards HANGARD Village where it was to make a crossing of the RIVER LUCE. This was accomplished by all Companies by 7.35 A.M. and with very slight casualties. The Battalion Headquarters crossed the river about half an hour later suffering a number of casualties N. of HANGARD WOOD during its advance.

The Advance of the Battalion was continued through DEMUIN Village to its forming up position without incidents, by 8.55 A.M. where it remained until ordered to advance at 12.10 p.m. with instructions to proceed to the BLUE LINE at E.99.a & b thence S. to A.97.b. following the old line system of trenches. The Battalion moved forward at the hour stated passing through the 49nd Battalion of the 7th Brigade. 3rd Division, which was then resting on its objective in front of ST.QUENTIN and PERONNE WOODS. After gaining the high ground in front of the 49nd Battalion's objective the Battalion was met with a heavy volume of machine gun fire from in front and to the right and was temporarily checked thereby. In order to permit of the main body of the Battalion continuing its objective, I ordered "C" Company under Lieut. Tait to attack in front of the strip of wood to the E. of BEAUCOURT & SANTERRE thus forming a right flank. This operation was successfully carried out resulting in many casualties to the enemy and upwards of twenty prisoners being sent back. Twelve machine guns were counted here. In the meantime stiff machine gun fire was being encountered from the direction of an Hospital out at the junction of the roads in D.18.d and also from a small wood to the N.W. in D.18.a & c. I had with me one 6" Newton which I ordered to open upon the Hospital position, three rounds being fired before the breaking of the plate prevented further firing. On the first round being fired a large number of the enemy came running out of the tent which clearly indicated that it was being used for other than legitimate medical purposes. (I have since personally verified my conclusion, that machine guns were being used in close proximity). The opposition from the small wood in D.18.a & c. was overcome with the assistance of a tank.

Some opposition was encountered from the S. of GAYEUX WOOD and casualties suffered, but the opposition from the front and flanks being ultimately overcome, and no further opposition being encountered, The Battalion moved on to and crossed its objective, finally halting in the wood at E.91.a & E.15.c. Patrols were sent forward from there towards the BLUE LINE and were withdrawn on the arrival of the 73rd Battalion, the 78th taking up a supporting position with one Coy ("A") and Battalion Headquarters in E.a and the remaining Companies extended in the open at E.91.a & c to the West of and Parallel to the LE QUESNEL-CAIK Road remaining in position there until the 5th & 8th Battalions of the 2nd Brigade 1st Division passed through on the afternoon of the 9th.

Map  
Ref.  
DEMUIN  
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The Battalion was ordered to take up a position on the night of the 9th in the Wood at E.15.c preparatory to the 2nd Phase of the Operation commencing on the 10TH. Previous to this a warning order was issued instructing the Battalion to take place in an attack for that position of the blue dotted line which had remained unoccupied on our right flank. This attack to be in co-operation with the 103rd Battalion of the 11th Brigade. This was afterwards cancelled.

A warning order B.M.14 of the 9th advising that the 19th Canadian Infantry Brigade would move at an early hour the following morning and take up a position with its left flank resting on the railway in a N. Easterly direction from immediately N. of ROSIERES and the right flank probably on the GRID LINE dividing Squares F and L was received about 3 A.M. on the morning of the 10th and conveyed to all ranks. This unit by that order was placed in Support of the 79nd Battalion which was to operate on the right of the Brigade. B.M.20 of the 10th definitely stated that the 19th Canadian Infantry Brigad would attack with its left resting on the railway running S.E. through E.4 Central and its right resting on a line drawn from cross Roads P.13.d.36½ Road Junction P.22.d.09.99. A.97.b.0.0. A.98.c.54.80. The order in which the Battalions were to attack remained the same as in the warning order B.M.14.