

SECRET

OPERATION ORDERS BY LT COL. N C MARTYN M C COMMANDING
2/7th FERRWOOD FORESTERSRef Map Sheet 23 N E 1/20000
Map attachedCopy No
24th Sept 1917

(1) On ZERO Day at ZERO hour the 175th Infantry Brigade will attack the system of enemy trenches, strong points and shell holes etc between D 14, 15, 16, 17 and D 18, 19, 20 and also present front line.

The 177th Inf Bde will attack on the right and the 175th Inf Bde (55th Div) will attack on the left.

(2) The Brigade will attack in two waves the areas, as per attached map, as under :-

1st Wave

On the right 2/5th S F will capture "E" Area
On the left 2/7th S F will capture "S" Area

2nd Wave

On the ~~right~~ ^{right} 2/5th S F will capture "T" Area
On the ^{left} 2/8 " " " " " " " U

These areas will be attacked and consolidated in depth.

(3) The 2/7th S F will relieve the 2/5th N Staffs in the present front line of this Sector to-night, as under :-

Letter "D" Coy will relieve a portion of Letter "C" Coy 2/5th N Staffs in and so far as 1st and 2nd line exists

Letter "C" Coy will relieve remainder of Letter "D" Coy N Staffs and Shutes Galleries

Letter "A" Coy will relieve part of Letter "B" Coy 2/5th N Staffs in the "Q" Area D 13 Central

Letter "E" Coy will relieve one platoon 2/5th N Staffs in Loos, with 1/2 platoons, and one platoon in Funder Cot by 1/2 Platoons

Guides for the relief will meet Coy at Dead End corner at 7.30 pm
Companies will parade in their lines ready to move off at 6.0 pm
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

(4) The Bttn will take up, under cover of darkness the day night before ZERO Day, its positions of assembly. The following instructions for the assembly will be strictly observed :-

(a) There will be no movement in the area during daylight on the 25th

(b) At dusk before assembly O C Coys will proceed to previously reconnoitred positions and will mark out positions for assembly of platoons with discs and tape

(c) On completion of (b) platoons will be guided to positions of assembly for attack and assembly will be completed by 3 am

(d) Assembly Discs will be taken down and tape rolled up. This will be completed by 4 am

(5) DISPOSITIONS OF ATTACK

(a) The Bttn will attack in two waves in depth

(b) Comps will attack in the following order from the

right :-

"A" Coy	"B" Coy	1st Wave
"C" Coy	"D" Coy	2nd Wave

(c) The first wave will capture and consolidate "G" area as far as Green Line

The second wave will capture and consolidate "G" area between the Green Line and Red Line

(d) The boundary between Companies passes through D 13, a 99, 30 - D 13, 459, 45 - D 14, a 40, 49

(e) All strong points, fortified shell holes etc will be mopped up and occupied by the Compy responsible for the area

(f) Certain strong points exist in Battn Area (Cross Cottages - Fokker Farm - Green House, etc)

For the capture of these points O C Coys will detail special Platoons or Sections Likewise, should it be considered that these, after capture, should be held, garrisons for the purpose should be told off beforehand

(g) The Valley of the HANESBEK will NOT be disregarded All positions on the South Bank will be accounted for by Companies on the left The 175th Brigade (58th Div) will account for all enemy positions N of the stream

(h) On night of 24/25 fighting patrols will be arranged for by 176th Inf Bde

Compy Commanders will send out "Ground Scouts" to thoroughly reconnoitre the ground to be fought over, and to act if necessary as guides to platoons

(i) BARRAGES

(a) A creeping Artillery Barrage will commence at ZERO hour 50 yards in front of forming up line and will proceed as under :-

To the Green Line 100 yards in 4 minutes

To the Red Line 100 yards in 5 minutes

After Red Line 100 yards in 3 minutes

The Artillery Barrage will pause as under :-

On the Green Line from plus 18 to plus 38

On the Red Line from plus 56 to plus 105

On the Blue Line from plus 145 to plus 165

On the Yellow Line from plus 205

The Artillery barrage will be N E with some smoke if possible

(b) A machine gun barrage from 40 guns organized in batteries will be placed on hostile strong points such as FOKKER FARM, TORONTO, OTTO FARM

It will lift from these points just before the Artillery barrage It will then fire on the HANESBEK VALLEY and will subsequently lift to a general line BORDEAUX FARM BONTHOEK - GRAVENSTAPPEL

(c) If possible an Artillery smoke barrage will be placed along the HANESBEK VALLEY from BORDEAUX FARM to RIVERSIDE

(d) The counter attack will be dealt with as under :-

(a) Artillery barrage fire called for by S O S Signal

(b) Machine Gun barrage fire called for by S O S

(c) Lewis Gun and Rifle Fire

(d) Direct machine gun fire from machine guns attached to the Battalion

(e) If necessary by supporting Battn, 2/5th N Staffs which will be pushed forward and will occupy the line "R" in DEEP TRENCH (C 14, d, 15, 75) - TORONTO

(10) MACHINE GUNS

One half section 173 N G Coy will co-operate with the Battalion in the attack

In the attack this half section will not move forward until the last wave of the Battalion has gone forward

(11) TRENCH MORTARS

Four guns will be in positions in or across SCHILLER GALLERIES in order to thicken up the Artillery barrage on CROSS COTTIS and the neighbouring fortified small holes. They will conform to lifts of Artillery barrage

On the capture of SCHILLER GALLERIES the guns will go forward to positions at the above place for defensive purposes

(12) TANKS

Provided the weather is fine 1 Section Tanks will be employed to assist in the capture of OTTO MARK. They will also if possible available, render any assistance required when called upon. They will only be diverted from their objective under specially urgent circumstances. The signal for "TANK REQUIRE" is a red helmet on rifle

(13) COMMUNICATIONS

O C Coys will be responsible for maintaining communications with troops on their flanks and also 2/8th Battalion. They will be prepared to render any assistance in the event of the unit on their flank being held up

The Signalling Officer (if not available the Signalling Sgt) will establish two forward stations - These should be as near the Company boundary as possible. He will select these positions immediately on going into the line and will inform Battalion Headquarters of the positions selected

RUNNERS

Messages will only be sent by runners if signals fail to maintain communication

Relay posts for runners will be established at ROAD HOUSE and CROSS COTTIS

CROSS COTTIS

O C Coys will each detail three additional runners to report to Battalion Headquarters at 8 pm on 25th inst. They will remain at Battalion Headquarters and will remain on duty during operations

After ZERO HOUR all messages will be sent to Advances Battalion H Q

PIGEONS

Coys will each be supplied with pigeons for message carrying. These will be utilized only when all other means of communication have failed

CONTACT AIRCRAFT

Contact Aircraft will assist in the operations and will call for flares by succession of A's on a Klaxon Horn. On this signal being given flares must be lit by advanced troops

(14) O C Coys are responsible for maintaining touch with the Battalion on the left at their post at G 7, d 1, 4

(15) PRISONERS

Prisoners will be collected and sent back in charge of the nearest possible escort to Battalion H Q where they will be handed over to the Provost Sgt

The latter will immediately send back the escort, if necessary to O C Companies

(16) SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES

Watches will be synchronized at Battalion H Q on the night before ZERO at 8 pm when one officer and one N G C from each Company will attend

(17) DUMPS

Brigade Dumps have been established at WINE HOUSE and POND FARM
Battn Dumps will be notified later

(18) R A P

The R A P will be at POND FARM until one hour before dawn on
ZERO DAY when it will move forward to HINDSCOTT

On C Coys will detail their four reserve Stretcher Bearers to
report to the H O at HINDSCOTT at ZERO HOUR without their rifles and
equipment

Additional Stretcher Bearers will be supplied by Brigade and
these, together with the Regimental Stretcher Bearers, will be
responsible for the clearing of the Battle Front as far back as the
R A P

(19) Brigade Headquarters will be in WINKLE

Battalion Headquarters will be at GARRICORN KEEP

Advanced Battn Headquarters will be established before ZERO HOUR
at SHULERS GALLERY

IN THE FIELD
24 Sept 1917

F PRAGNELL
Capt & Adjt

Issued at 9 am by runner

Distribution - Normal
plus

- (1) 178th Inf Hqs Headquarters
- (2) 2/5th S F
- (3) 2/4th S F
- (4) 2/3rd S F
- (5) 178th H Q Coy
- (6) 178th L T M S
- (7) 176 Inf Bde (38th Div)
- (8) War Diary
- (9) File

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS BY LT COL M G MARTYN M C
 COMMANDING 2/7th SHERWOOD FORESTERS

(1) PICKS AND SHOVELS

These necessary picks and shovels will be drawn by Companies as under :-

"A" and "D" Coys will draw from Batta Mobilization Tools

"B" and "C" Coys will draw their tools at C 22, d, 7, 3, on their way up to the line to-night

When Coys come out of the line, as many tools as possible should be brought back

(2) LEWIS GUN LIMBERS

These will leave camp under Lt Parry at 5 pm and guides will meet them at Salvation Corner at 6 pm They will proceed to Spruce Farm and their await arrival of Companies

Two men from each Coy will report to Lt Parry at 4,30 pm

(3) SANITATION

Strictest sanitary measures will be adopted in the line and after the advance has been made

(4) RATIONS AND WATER

All ranks must carry filled water bottled and no man is to be allowed to drink from the bottle or use it for any other purpose without orders from an Officer

A haversack ration will be carried as a supplement to the ration ordered under 59th Div Instructions for Offensive No 3

N C Os and men are to be warned to carefully conserve supply of water and rations carried, as these may be difficult to replenish

Captain Cooper will arrange for a supply of water in Petrol tins to be dumped at Batta Headquarters on the night of 25th inst

A tank for filling water bottles or Petrol Tins has been established on the ST JEAN - WIELTJE Road West of WIELTJE at C 23, b 25, 50

(5) RIFLES

Whilst in the line a rifle cleaning shop will be maintained at Batta H Q where a supply of six rifles will be maintained Men with rifles in bad condition and beyond cleaning in the line will hand them in and a clean rifle be given them at once

(6) BURIALS

Burials will take place at the following Cemeteries :-

WIELTJE C 23, a, 7, 5,

ST JEAN I 3, a, 3, 5,

BRIDGE HOUSE C 24, a, 3, 3,

If bodies are sent to any of the above places arrangements will be made to bury

(7) MACHINE GUNNERS

The Qar will arrange with O C M C Coy with regard to rations for the half section attached to this Batta

These rations will be sent up with Batta rations

(8) TRENCH STORES

All trench stores will be taken over and handed over on relief, and receipt given

(9) CARRYING PARTIES

Carrying parties will be found by the Coys who will submit indents to Batta H Q for the stores, materials etc which they require sending up

Yukon Packs will be taken up the line by Coys

(11) MARCH TO TRENCHES
During the march to the trenches distances of 100 yds
will be maintained between platoons

IN THE FIELD
24 9 17

F PRAGNEI. L.
Capt & Adjt

ADDENDUM TO OPERATION ORDERS BY LT COL M C MARTYN M C
COMMANDING 247th SHERWOOD FORESTERS

(1) PRISONERS OF WAR

Prisoners will be passed to the Divisional Cage by SPERE FARM -
WIELTJE - ST JEAN route or by track No 4, 5 or 6 to Junction Road and
thence to the Cage

(2) SEARCHING OF PRISONERS

All prisoners will be searched immediately captured to ensure
that they have no weapons concealed
No personal effects such as decorations, watches, trinkets etc
Identity Discs, Pay Books, Mess Tins, Water Bottles, Haversacks etc
will be taken from prisoners, nor will they be searched for papers
of tactical importance by the fighting troops, whose only duty in
this connection will be to see that papers are not done away with by
prisoners before they reach the Divisional Cage

(3) Escorts will take steps to ensure that prisoners do not converse with
with unauthorised persons

IN THE FIELD
24 9 17

F PRAGNELL
Capt & Adjt