

F.I.

SECRET.17th. SHERWOOD FORESTERS. OPERATION ORDER No.19.REFERENCE.

1.5,000 BEAUCOURT Trench Map 57.d.S.E. 1 and 2.  
1.20,000 Sheets 57.d.S.E.

Note.

In these Orders the day of Attack is referred to as "A Day" throughout.

1. INTENTION.

The Battalion will attack and hold the enemy's system of trenches from Q.17.b.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ .1 $\frac{1}{2}$ . inclusive to Q.17.b.1.3. inclusive.

2. OBJECTIVES.

(a) First Objective. "A" Company. Will attack the German Front Line from Point 41 exclusive to Point 13 inclusive.

Second Objective. "B" Company. Will attack the German Second Line from Point 43 exclusive to Point 36 inclusive.

Third Objective. "C" Company. Will attack the German Third Line from Point 66 exclusive to Point 68. inclusive.

Protective Flank. "D" Company. Will take up the Line Points 05. - 36. - 68. as follows:-

One Platoon with "A" Company Point 05.

One Platoon with "B" Company about Point 36.

One Platoon with "C" Company about Point 68.

One Platoon about Point 45 in Support.

(b) Machine Gun Company. 2 Guns will assemble with "A" Company and follow over in line with the Carrying Party and will take up a position about Point 05. 2 Guns will assemble with "B" Company and follow over in line with the Carrying Party and will take up a position about Point 36. In both cases to cover the Left Protective Flank.

(c) Light Trench Mortars. Will follow "C" Company and will assemble at the Junction of ROBERTS TRENCH - WORCESTER TRENCH as close to the Company as possible following them over. The actual position of the Mortars being left to O.C., T.M.B.

(d) Lewis Guns.

(1) Company Lewis Guns will accompany Companies.

(11) Battalion Lewis Guns. One with "B" Company and one with "C" Company. 2 in Battalion Reserve.

3. PLAN.

(a) The leading Company will deploy parallel to Objective as close as possible to barrage in 'NO MANS LAND'; each Company making good its objective. Companies in rear passing those in front 50 paces distance between each wave. On the Left Flank, Trenches will be blocked for at least 50 yards beyond the line taken up by the Left Protective Flank Company as each successive wave reaches its objective.

(b) Captured trenches will be immediately consolidated special attention being paid to the consolidation of the Second Line. Troops consolidating the Second Line will be reinforced, if necessary, for this purpose on information being received that its capture is complete.

(c) Strong points will be constructed in the neighbourhood of the following points:-

First Line, 13. - 05.

Second Line, 45, - 36.

Third Line, 68. --

A deep dug-out should be included in each strong point if possible. Regard must be paid to their existence when planning the strong point.

VICKERS GUN CREWS have prior claim to dug-out accommodation.

S H E E T 3.

- (d) Definite Clearing parties are being told off in each wave and not less than 2 Sentries placed on the door of each dug-out. "P" bombs should not be thrown into the dug-outs unless the enemy cannot be disposed of by other means.
- (e) Care must be taken that no communication trenches are left unblocked.
- (f) Companies will attack in the following formations:-
  - Front Line, 2 Platoons.
  - Second Line, 1 Platoon Support.
  - Third Line, 1 Platoon Carrying.

4. ASSEMBLY.

The Battalion will assemble in the following order:-  
 A. C. D. Companies, GORDON TRENCH from RECTOR STREET inclusive to WORCESTER STREET inclusive.  
 "B" Company, ROBERTS TRENCH Junction RECTOR STREET inclusive to Junction LONG SAP inclusive.  
 The Battalion will move to the position of assembly by the following Route.  
 PICADILLY - JAMES STREET - LONG ACRE and WORCESTER TRENCH.

5. ARTILLERY.

- (a) Artillery Barrages are shown on the attached Time Table, every Officer and N.C.O. should be in possession of a copy of this Time Table, which must be strictly adhered to.
- (b) The first barrage starts 50 yards short of the German First Line.
- (c) Only Percussion Shrapnel will be fired for the last minute prior to each lift.
- (d) A Liaison Officer will accompany the Battalion.
- (e) The S.O.S. Signal is THREE GREEN ROCKETS.

6. TRAFFIC.

A series of Traffic Control Posts will be established throughout Brigade Area under Assat. Staff Captain. (See Traffic Map and Appendix D) They will wear a Green Brassard. Up to half an hour before Zero upward movement will be allowed by all Trenches; after that no movement contrary to the arrows will be allowed from half an hour before Zero except Runners with the proper Armlet on, or a bona fide message. All other Stragglers will be turned into GORDON AND ROBERTS TRENCHES, where they will be collected by Officers of the 17th. K.R.R. Corps and forwarded to the German Trenches. Traffic Control Posts will shoot any straggler disobeying these orders. None but reliable men will be selected for the work. O.C. 16th. Notts & Derby Regiment will find one Officer and 54 men, with a proportion of N.C.Os. (See Appendix D). Date and Time of reporting will be communicated later.

7. PRISONERS.

Not more than 10 prisoners should be collected in one place. One man to each 10 will be detailed as Escort; it is however, to be noted, that each man so detailed is a fighting man lost. No prisoners are to be allowed in communication trenches; they must go over the top. Prisoners will be collected at Advanced Bde. H.Q., KNIGHTSBRIDGE BARRACKS, whence they will be escorted by the Provost Establishment of the 16th Sherwoods to Railway Crossing just West of MESNIL at Q.28.c.4.8.

8. COMMUNICATION.

Communication from front to rear will be for by the following means:-

- (a) Telephone. The Battalion Headquarters will be connected with the Brigade by unburied cable. These lines will be liable to break down. Two lines of D.I. Cable will be taken forward by the Battalion.

S H E E T 3.

- (b) Runners. All Battalion and Brigade Runners will wear a Brassard of Blue with a narrow White stripe on the Right arm above the elbow (this will be sewn on) Company Runners will wear the same on the Left arm above the elbow.  
4 Battalion Runners will report to Brigade Headquarters for duty at 8 p.m. on the day previous to the operations.  
4 Runners per Company will be sent to Battalion Headquarters at 5 p.m. tonight.
- (c) Visual. Should other means fail every effort will be made to establish Visual by flag, or disc, shutter or lamp.  
There will be two Divisional Visual Stations in 144 Brigade Area near SHAPTESBURY AVENUE.
- (d) Aeroplane. During the attack one Aeroplane (distinguishing mark, a broad black band continued on a Streamer on each bottom plane) will be employed as CONTACT PATROL, This Aeroplane will pick up positions of Battalion Headquarters and receive signals by panel from Battalion Headquarters. The signal code for Aeroplane Signalling is attached.
- (e) Pigeons. Four trained Pigeoners with one Basket of Pigeons each will accompany the Headquarters of the Battalion.
- Note. Men of Company for Third Objective will wear tin discs and carry vigilants and smoke candles on a ratio of one packet to every three men.  
Four selected N.C.Os. in each Platoon will carry one flare. They will be used to denote Platoons capture of each object.

9. DRESS AND EQUIPMENT.

Skeleton Marching Order, plus one bandolier extra, 4 Mills Grenades. 3 Sandbags per man. Each Company Bomber, 6 Mills Rifle Grenades in lieu of Mills bombs. Haversacks will be carried in the pack position. Ground Sheets rolled up on the back of the belt. Gas Helmets will be worn in the Alert position. One man in every two will carry a pick and shovel which is to be properly slung on the back. Rear rank only carry these.

No maps of any description showing our own trenches will be taken over but there is no objection to maps showing German system being taken.

10. CARRIAGE OF STORES.

Brigade Carrying Parties will carry forward stores from the Forward Brigade Dumps, to Dumps to be formed at Points 61 and 21 in German Trenches.  
Battalion and Company Carrying Parties which have already carried over a proportion of stores with assaulting waves will carry up from these points to their Companies.  
Stores to be carried by Carrying Parties with Assaulting Companies.

4 Shovels per man	1
6 Picks (two men)	3
30 Iron screw stakes (6 per man)	5
4 Coils of "B" Wire (1 per man)	4
6 Boxes of Bombs at 2 per man	3
3 Coils of Fr. Wire at 1 per man	3
	<u>18</u>

Green Rockets will be carried by each Company distributed among the men

S H E E T 4.

11. MEDICAL. An extra Medical Officer will be attached to each Assaulting Battalion. These Officers will cross NO MANS LAND with the Third Company of Assaulting Battalions and establish Regimental Aid Posts in Shelters in the German Front Line Trench. They will take with them and erect necessary sign posts to assist casualties to find these posts.
12. SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES. 2nd.Lt. W.N. Birkin will attend at Brigade Headquarters at KNIGHTSBRIDGE BARRACKS at 8.50 p.m. tonight and two hours before Zero. Company Commanders will attend at Battalion Headquarters at 9.30 p.m. tonight one hour before Zero. Too much stress cannot be laid on the greatest possible care being observed in getting correct synchronization.
13. DUMPS. O.C. Companies will arrange for Dumps at suitable places and when fixed, will at once inform Bn. H.Q.
14. REPORT CENTRE. Battalion H.Q. will be situated near Junction of POND and VICTORIA STREET at Q.17.c.4.8.
15. Hour of ZERO. The hour of Zero will be notified later.
16. TIME TABLE. Times of sequence of events attached.
17. NOTE. Absolute silence must be maintained during the Assembly and while in the Front Line Trenches.

30.8.1916.

(sd) T. Thornton. Capt & Adjt.  
17th. Sherwood Foresters.

## Copies issued to:-

117th Infantry Brigade.  
 117th Machine Gun Company.  
 117th T.M.B.  
 16th Rifle Brigade.  
 17th. K.R.R. Corps.  
 O.C. A. Company.  
 O.C. B. Company.  
 O.C. C. Company.  
 O.C. D. Company.  
 Lewis Gun Officer.  
 Signalling Officer.  
 Officer Commanding.  
 War Diary. (2)  
 Office Copy.

ADD Para 2.

(e) An R.E. Party of one Officer and 20 men will follow over with Third Company and construct 3 Strong Points at positions to be arranged with O.C. Party. This Party will assemble with "C" Company.

COPY.Appendix E.

To Accompany 117th Infantry Brigade Order No.50, dated 29.8.18.

Positions and Quantities of Dumps.1. S.A.A.

Distributed in front trenches.	100 boxes
Junction of CONSTITUTION HILL and KNIGHTSBRIDGE Barracks.	100 "
FORT JACKSON.	
Divl. Reserve. ACHEUX WOOD (P.S.d.S.S.)	100 "

2. Grenades.

Near junction POND St. - LONG SAF (Q.17.c.4.9.)	5000 "
Near junction LOUVERCY St. - SLOANE St (Q.17.d.2.2.)	5000 "
Divl. Depots. No. (1) Q.28.a.7.7. (2). Q.16.d.0.2.	

3. WATER.

Q.17.d.2.2.	400 galls.
Q.17.c.3.7.	400 galls.
Q.16.d.2.8.	1000 galls.

4. Very Lights.

FORT JACKSON.	10 boxes.
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5. STOKES MORTAR AMMUNITION.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.	1000 rds.
GIPSY HILL.	1000 "
Q.16.c.9.2.	2000 "
Divl. Reserve. (P.S.d.S.S.)	

6. Rations.

Near junction CONSTITUTION HILL & KNIGHTSBRIDGE (Q.16.d.3.7.)	4500.
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7. R.E. Stores.

Left Forward Dump (Q.17.c.3.7.)	Right Forward Dump (Q.17.c.4.4.)
Brigade Dump. (Q.16.c.9.1.)	Divisional Dump, ENGLEBELMER (Q.25.a.5.8.)

8. Stores.

The Reserve Brigade have a supply of the following at Pt. 18.c.B.O.

RATIONS.  
S.A.A.  
GRENADES.  
STOKES MORTAR AMMUNITION.