

REPORT on OPERATIONS on Sept. 3, 1918.

F.5.

The Assembly was complete by 10.12 p.m. 2nd. Sept. and the Assembly in NO MANS LAND was carried out correctly at ZERO hour. No Casualties occurred while in the position of assembly. A report was received by me from O.A. "A" Company (the leading Company) at 6 a.m. that the German Front line was taken.

At the same time another message was received stating that heavy casualties had occurred and that reinforcements were urgently needed. One Officer and about 30 men succeeded in getting into the German Second Line but being unsupported had to withdraw back to the German First Line. A rough estimate of the casualties which occurred by Companies during the Advance into the German Front Line was "A" Company, about 50%.

"B" Company, about 75%.

"C" Company, about 50%.

"D" Company was split up between different waves for the protective flank as previously arranged.

When the Front Line was occupied the right flank in addition to the left was exposed.

The following notes have been collected from N.C.Os. and men who went over.

1. The Dug-Outs and Front Line were all smashed in, and what appeared to have been Dug-outs were made with railwaylines and wood work.
2. The Handle Brush Bomb was used by them with timing mark $5\frac{1}{2}$ secs. it did not appear to outrange ours.
3. All or practically all carrying parties were knocked out.
4. They counter-attacked from both our right and left flanks with bombing parties of about 20-30 men and all in shirt sleeves and over the top.
5. Very little S.A.A. was used, but all the bombs were got rid of the two carrying parties sent up on different occasions with Bombs and S.A.A. did not reach them.
6. The Machine Guns could not be accurately located but fired from both flanks and front.

SHEET 3.

7. All our casualties were nearly all from bombs and shells fire and a certain amount machine gun.

Bombs were thrown at our first wave from their front line.

They barraged their own front line after we got in and NO MANS LAND with 6.9. and Trench Mortars.

8. Their Casualties appeared to be very heavy and the trenches in parts full of dead.

9. There were a good many men in their second line but the party did not stay long enough to see any dug-outs as they were outnumbered.

10. The wire opposite us was not very well out in places and several men got hung up.

He amused himself in the afternoon by sniping our wounded in NO MANS LAND, this I believe also occurred on my right.

The evacuation of the wounded appeared to me to be very bad. At 7.15 after reinforcements had been asked for 3 Companies K.R.R. were ordered to reinforce my front line, part of one of these I believe actually got up but I got back no information to that effect.

4.9.16.

(sd) H. Milward. Lt.Col.
17th. Sherwood Foresters.

117th INFANTRY BRIGADE.

F. 6

The following are the timings and sequence of events briefly as they occurred in the operations on 5.9.16. I had not time to send in this in the other report.

- 2nd. September. 10.12 p.m. Assembly reported complete.
- 3rd. September. 12.10 a.m. Lanes out in wire and fire steps completed.
- 5.10 a.m. Assembly and advance in NO MANS LAND.
- 6.0. a.m. German Front Line captured and reinforcements urgently needed received from O.C. "A" Company.
- 6.6. a.m. Reported that German Second Line full of Machine Guns and barrage asked to be put back on German Second Line.
- 7.12 a.m. Information received from Brigade that K.R.R. will reinforce with 2 Companies.
- 7.55 a.m. Two Battalions Reserve, L. Guns sent forward and carrying party of 16th. Sherwood Foresters with S.A.A. and Bombs.
- 8.0. a.m. 1 Company K.R.R. reinforced the Front Line.
- 9.52 a.m. Information received from Brigade that the Attack on our right had failed and ordered to hold on at all costs. 16. R.B. will again attack at 10.30 a.m.
- 11.35 a.m. Bgd. informed that unless I can receive reinforcements attack by 16. R.B. must fail.
- 1.30 p.m. 2/Lt. Collen sent to GORDON TRENCH to collect what men he could, he reported that he had got about 30.
- 1.50 p.m. All Detachments of Ourselves and 17th. K.R.R. ordered to withdraw to GORDON TRENCH. Information to this effect sent by runner to any Officer of ourselves or 17th. K.R.R. in German Front Line.
- 4.45 p.m. All men possible collected and sent down to KNIGHTSERIDGE.

5.9.16.

(sd) H. Milward. Lt. Col.
17th. Sherwood Foresters.