

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
N-Monday		9.30	Zeros will be at 1am. 2/5/17	
		11.47	Orders received that owing to the wind being unpropitious the RE will not fire the Live & S Projectors	
		11.54	As the wind suddenly changed the projectors were fired the enemy immediately Barraged the whole of the Sector	
"	2.5.17.		Casualties 4 Officers (Capt Skeg) wounded 2 OR Killed Enemy to the enemy's Barrage & some of the gas drifting back from German's lines the attack had to be cancelled.	
		2pm	Orders were received that the Batt ⁿ would take part in a General Attack along the line on the early morning of the 3rd inst. The following Orders were issued by Lt. Col. N.B. Elliott Cope	
			1. The Batt ⁿ will attack the Brown Line & Yellow Line as already explained (the Brown line was from I 256 56 to I 254 83 the Yellow line from I 270 54 to about I 270 54)	
			2. C. Coy will be on the Left - B. Coy on the right in the front line. D. Coy will detain 2 Platoons to mop up Scabbard Trench and 1 Platoon to deal with Pelvic Lane and the Nullahs in I 25. This Platoon will protect the left flank of the Batt ⁿ in the attack will make a strong point at junction of Road in I 256 70. If this position should be a tactically strong one. A Coy will be in Reserve and during the halt on the Brown Line will take over in the Nullahs in I 25. When the advance is resumed to the Yellow Line A Coy will attack this line	
			3. The 9 R S will attack on the right of the Batt ⁿ and a Batt ⁿ of the 17 th Corps on the left. The boundary between the Batt ⁿ will be the line I 266 2.1. The front wave will keep as close to the Barrage as possible. After reaching the Barrage the Batt ⁿ will take the Barrage remains 200 yards over the Brown Line. No advance	

Step

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			<p>will be made from the Brown Line until orders are received from Divisional H.Q. On receipt of orders from Div. H.Q. that the advance be made from the Brown Line the C.R.A. will order the Artillery barrage to be brought intense for 2 minutes at a certain time 200 yds in front of the Brown Line. This will be the warning for the Infantry to get ready to advance again: green rockets will also be fired by the S.O.C. 3rd Infantry Brigade from H 23 at about 10.15 as an additional signal and this will be looked for from the trenches after the two minute intense fire; 27 minutes after the intense barrage has ceased the Artillery Barrage will again come down intense 200 yards in front of the Brown Line for 3 minutes. On this occasion the Infantry will get up close to it; The Barrage will then (i.e. half an hour after the intense barrage of 2 minutes has ceased) advance to the yellow line; the barrage will move at the rate of 100 yards in 3 mins.</p> <p>5. If the wind is favourable 3 Special Coy R.E. will place a smoke barrage down the valley of the River Scarpe commencing at Zero hour. On Zero day No 12 Squadron R.F.C. will provide 2 Contact machines to be over the front line as soon as light is sufficient for observation. After 7 a.m. one machine only will be maintained for the line. Flares will be called for at dawn by contact aeroplanes by sounding Claxon horns and by firing white lights. Flares will not be lit until called for.</p> <p>6. Messengers will be sent to Batt^y H.Q. in Rifle Trench: Intelligence & Requirements on Flanks and in rear and as to state of Roads in front etc must be extracted from them and sent down to Batt^y H.Q. immediately.</p> <p>7. At Zero-1 hour the Batt will be pinned up as follows. 2 Coys north of the junction of Bayonet Rifle Trench on Bayonet Trench. 2 Coys in trench in rear of Bayonet Trench.</p>	

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			<p>8. Immediately on capture of Brown Line it will be consolidated in a series of strong points. D Coy. will consolidate Scabbard Trench in strong points. In this work of consolidation the valley of the River Scarpe will be covered by Lewis Guns so as to prevent the enemy from concentrating in the Valley and advancing from the woods thicket in the Valley.</p> <p>9. Equipment as arranged in previous attack</p> <p>10. Reports will be sent to Bats H.Q. in Ryfel Trench</p> <p>11. After the capture of the Brown Line Bats H.Q. will move to the Nullah in I 25d.</p> <p>12. Some of the enemy will probably be in shell holes; these must be effectually dealt with. This refers particularly to machine guns.</p> <p>13. Each man will have his water bottle filled and will also carry one day's rations in addition to water</p> <p>Zero will be at 3.45 am tomorrow</p> <p>Casualties for 24 hours ending next 8 O.R. wounded.</p>	
	3.5.17	3.45 am	<p>The Bats attacked as directed - the front wave went over Scabbard Trench but owing to the heavy machine gun fire from Rouex the 2nd wave stopped up and was badly cut up before reaching Scabbard Trench, with the result that only a small proportion of these got into the Trench & upon their doing so they endeavoured to drive the enemy out of the Trench the enemy at once started bombing this party & receiving reinforcement gradually pressed on and down the Trench going Southward; we were successful however in having erected a bombing stop by junction of New & Scabbard Trenches & held the enemy at 13 by this immediately started consolidating our gains; in the meantime it is feared our front wave went on & the Brown Line never passed the point.</p>	

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			<p>Two Coy's of the 7th R. Sussex Regt. were sent up to capture the part of Bayonet Trench & our Barrage was brought back on to this part. This operation proved successful though it is known our front was who had got passed this point suffered many casualties by some. The enemy put up an extremely heavy Barrage on Rifle & Bayonet Trenches from now till 2pm.</p> <p>The Drums were taken by the Battⁿ in the attack at 3.45 am when 1 Coy & 44 other Ranks</p> <p>9.45pm The Battⁿ which had not been joined into 1 Coy and the 9 R. S. who were not attached to this Battⁿ under the command of Lt. Col. H. B. Bellis. Coops were ordered to again attack the Brown Line, this they did but were unable to push gain their objective owing to heavy enemy machine gun fire from this point & again from Rover they however consolidated a line just in front of Brown Line.</p> <p>11.30pm The Battⁿ (8th & 9th R. S. combined) were ordered by the G.O.C 36 Brigade to return to Scabbard Trench owing to the Battⁿ on the flank being unable to progress.</p> <p>Midnight The Casualties of the 8th Battⁿ during the day were <u>Killed</u>: <u>Lieut Barklake</u>, <u>2nd Lt. Pride</u>. <u>OR 40</u> <u>Wounded</u> <u>2nd Lt. Coleman</u>, <u>Rivison</u>, <u>Hunter</u> + <u>144 OR</u> <u>Wounded</u> <u>Missing</u> <u>Lieut Ladbidge</u> <u>Missing</u> <u>92 OR</u>.</p> <p>3pm Enemy's Artillery again very active also Snipers.</p> <p>9.45pm The Battⁿ (8th & 9th R. S.) were relieved in the Front Line by the 11th Middlesex Regt. & moved back to the line in Harness Lane. Casualties <u>40 R</u> <u>Killed</u> <u>80 R</u> <u>Wounded</u></p>	<p>Step</p> <p>Step</p>
Scabbard Trench	5/17	9.45pm		