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etd.

across the Battalion front about 200 yards in front of the present front line. Captn. NEWINGTON of No 2 Company was left behind being stopped as No 2 Company passed Battalion Headquarters after Relief, to show the Officer Commanding the relieving Company the site of the proposed trench, and 100 men of the Royal Warwick Regiment were detailed for the working party and their task was to break into the ground on a frontage of 400 yards. This was a most difficult task for all concerned and would have been very much simplified if a few hours warning had been given to enable Captn. NEWINGTON to look at the ground by daylight with a view to the work to be done, and to get into touch with the Battalion on the Right who occupied a Strong Point in the Valley on which the Right of the new trench was to rest. After the Relief Companies moved back independently to Bivouacs at OXFORD COPSE A 15 c where the transport had come on the 19th. Officers and most of the men had cover.

OXFORD COPSE A 15 c.

23rd.

Weather fine.
Battalion rested all day. In the afternoon the Commanding Officer Lt. Col. E. M. WOULFE-FLANAGAN attended a Conference at Brigade Headquarters at which the Operations for the 25th were discussed.

OXFORD COPSE A 15 c - TRENCHES
ABOUT T 15 c 05/40.

24th.

Weather very fine with autumnal mist in the morning.
Services for C. of E, R.C. and Non-Conformists in the morning.
Battalion Commanders were asked to report on the condition of the men and all spoke strongly maintaining that in view of the very trying conditions and heavy losses from which their Units had suffered that they were not really fit to take part in important operations. As a result the 2/K.O.S.B's. were ordered to carry out the task originally set the 1/D.C.L.I. who this morning had 200 sick. The

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remainder of the Brigade were asked to do their best. Various Operation Orders poured in during the course of the day dealing with the Relief and the next day's Attack extracts from which are as follows:-

Warning Order. "An Attack in" "which the 14th and Reserve" "Armies and two French Corps" "are taking part will be" "carried out on the 21st inst:" "The 56th, 5th, and Guards" "Division of the 14th Corps." "will capture MORVAL and LES-" "BOUFS, and form a protective" "Right flank facing COMBLES" "The 5th Division will capture" "MORVAL, the Guards Division" "will capture LESBOUFS, the" "protective flank will be formed" "by the 56th Division. The" "20th Division will be in Corps" "Reserve. As regards the 5th" "Division the attack will be" "carried out by the 95th and" "15th Infantry Brigades in line" "the former on the Right. The" "13th Infantry Brigade will be" "in Divisional Reserve."

95th Infantry Brigade Operation Order No. 169. (Reference Trench Map 1/20,000 GUILLEMONT) Reference Warning Order dated 19th September 1916.

This Operation Order ordered Assembly Trenches and Communication Trenches to be dug on the Brigade front also Battle Headquarters for the two Assaulting Battalions and Support Battalion.

"The Attack will be carried out as under:-

"Right Assaulting Battalion 1st East Surrey Regiment.

"Left Assaulting Battalion 1st Devon Regiment.

"Supporting Battalion do. 1st D.G.L.I.

"Reserve Battalion do. 12th Gloucester Regiment."

"Sites for forward dumps will be" "selected for S.A.A. Grenades, food" "and water, R.E. Stores and tools" "and aid posts. Packs will be" "dumped the day before the Assault"

95th Infantry Brigade Operation Order No 170. dated 20/9/16.

This order announced that the Attack had been postponed for 24 hours. and would now take place on the 22nd. This Order also gave the frontages of the Divisional & Brigade.

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otd.95th Infantry Brigade Operation
Order No 171 dated 21st September
1916.This dealt with the Relief of
the 1/D.C.L.I. and by the 1/East
Surrey Regiment on the night of
the 21/22nd.95th Infantry Brigade Operation
Order No 172 dated 22nd September
1916.

"the Brigade, less Gloucesters,"
 "will be relieved by the 13th "
 "Infantry Brigade on the night "
 "of the 22/23rd. The 1/R.W.Kent"
 "Regiment will relieve the 1/East"
 "Surrey Regiment. The Battalions"
 "will probably return to present"
 "position after 48 hours rest."

Notes at Divisional Conference
dated 20th September 1916.

"An extra Division, the 6th, "
 "has been brought into the line"
 "to attack. The Attack will "
 "therefore be carried out from "
 "Right to Left as follows:- "
 "The 56th Division, 5th Division,"
 "6th Division, Guards Division,"
 "The Eight Tanks may be availa-"
 "ble for the Corps. In view of"
 "present weather conditions the"
 "question of feet must receive "
 "very careful attention by all "
 "Commanding Officers."

95th Infantry Brigade Operation Order
No.173 dated 23rd September 1916.Reference 16/20,000 French Map
57 s.s.w. Sheets 3 and 4, 1/10,000
and attached to Sketch Map.

- (1) "The Fourth Army will renew "
 "the attack on September 25th"
 "in combination with the attacks"
 "of the French to the South "
 "and of the Reserve Army to "
 "the North."
- (2) "The Objectives of the 14th "
 "Corps are the villages of "
 "MORVAL and LESBOEUF and those"
 "of the 15th Corps. GUEUDECOURT"
 "and of the French SAILLY- "
 "SAILLISSEL. The task allotted"
 "to the 56th Division is to "
 "protect the Right flank of "
 "the 5th Division by obtain-"
 "ing fire positions from which"
 "to sweep the Valley running"
 "North from COMBLES and by ob-"
 "taining a junction with the"
 "5th Division about T 16 c 45/70."
- (4) "The 95th Brigade will attack "
 "as under."
- (a) "Assault. 1st Objective: GREEN"
 "LINE Right 1/East Surrey "
 "Regiment. Left 1/Devon "
 "Regiment."

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- (b) "Assault. 2nd Objective BROWN"
"LINE 1st Devon Regiment. "
- (c) "Assault. 3rd. Objective BLUE"
"LINE 1st D.C.L.I."
- (d) "In support. 1/D.C.L.I. and"
"12/gloucester Regiment."
- (5) "BOUNDARIES are shown on the"
"attached Map."
- (6) "1st Objective 1/East Surrey"
"Regiment NEW TRENCH from T "
"16 c 35/85 to T 16 a 70/65 "
"to establish a block in "
"Trench running N.E. from 16 "
"a 5/2. 1st Devons. CROSS "
"ROADS at T 16 a 8/6 inclusive "
"to T 10 c 5/0 to establish "
"a block in MINCE TRENCH at "
"T 16 a 80/56 where MINCE "
"TRENCH crosses SUNKEN ROAD."
2nd Objective 1/East Surrey "
"Regiment to bomb up from T "
"16 a 5/2 to T 16 b 0/5 and "
"join on Devons."
"1st Devons. from CROSS ROADS "
"to T 10 c 8/1 to bomb up "
"MINCE TRENCH to T 16 b 0/5 "
"obtaining junction with Surreys "
"there."
- (9) "The Attack will be carried "
"out in accordance with the "
"Time Table at the time given "
"for each Assault. Troops must "
"leave their trenches and get "
"as close up to the CREEPING "
"BARRAGE as they can. The "
"D.C.L.I. will go through the "
"VILLAGE in three bounds followed "
"by Artillery Barrage, vide "
"Time Table."
- (10) "Each Battalion will attack "
"on a two Company front. Each "
"Company on a front of two "
"Platoons which will form the "
"first wave. The distance "
"between the 1st and 2nd wave "
"50 yards."
"The distance between the 2nd "
"and 3rd wave 50 yards."
"The distance between the 3rd "
"and 4th wave 100 yards - if "
"Assembly Trenches permit."
- (13) "A contact patrol will be in "
"the air from Zero to 6.30 pm."
"Flares will be lit on reaching "
"each Objective and also at "
"6 pm. on September 25th."
- (14) "DRESS. Fighting Order. Two "
"grenades, four Sandbags, full "
"water bottle, waterproof sheets,"
"unconsumed portion of rations "
"of 25th and rations for 26th "
"plus iron rations, 120 rounds"

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"S.A.A. per man, every third"
 "man to carry a shovel and "
 "six picks in each Platoon."
 (17) "BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS will "
 "open on RAILWAY at T 20 a "
 "30/25 at 7 pm, on the 24th. "
 95th Infantry Brigade Operation
 Order No 173-(b) dated 24th September
 1916.

- (1) "Battalion Headquarters will "
 "not move forward to any cap-"
 "tured line until it has been"
 "properly established and con-"
 "solidated."
 (5) "Three "Tanks" will be at the"
 "disposal of the Division and"
 "will assemble at T 19 d 5/7 "
 "by daylight of the 25th. "
 "They will probably be directed"
 "against MORVAL". (Issued with
 O.O.173 Administrative Orders).
 Orders for two Sections for
 59th Field Company R.E.
 Orders for Pioneer Company
 1/6th Argyle & Sutherland
 Highlanders.
 Orders for 95th Trench Mortar
 Battery.
 Orders for 95th Brigade Machine
 Gun Company.

The Battalion - 19 Officers & 437 O.R.
 moved off at 5 pm. VIA MARICOURT,
 the BRIQUETTERIE road, 1st Cavalry
 Division Track to N.W. corner of
 FAVIERE WOOD. where Stores were
 drawn - tools, bombs, sandbags,
 rockets; thence up CHIMPANZEE VALLEY,
 turning to the LEFT along track
 crossing head of VALLEY and striking
 MONTAUBAN - GUILLEMONT ROAD at S.E.
 edge of TRONES WOOD; through GUILLEMONT
 to CROSS ROADS, EAST of the VILLAGE
 (T 20 a 2/4) where guides were picked
 up, who took Companies up GUINCHY
 ROAD then EASTWARDS along tramway
 to their Assembly Trenches. The
 Battalion relieved the Right two
 Companies of the 1/R.W.Kent Regiment
 the Left two Companies being relieved
 by the 1/Devons. Nos 1 and 3
 Companies were the relieving Companies,
 while Nos 2 and 4 Companies went into
 the NEW TRENCH dug in the VALLEY
 the two previous nights. This trench
 had to be deepened in many places.
 Battalion Headquarters were in a
 dug-out on the SUNKEN ROAD. at T 15 c
 05/40. During Relief the Enemy
 put up a Barrage in front of the

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QUADRILATERAL which caused 27 casualties in No 3 Company. The Brigade Major, Capt. McLEOD visited Battalion Headquarters and gave us the last details viz:- Zero time 12.35 pm, and synchronised watches. All final arrangements with the front Companies 2 and 4, had to be completed before daylight as it was most difficult to communicate by day if the telephone broke down, which it did 10 minutes before the Assault as well as temporarily at other times. Even if the Enemy had allowed orderlies to pass across the open it was of great importance that the Enemy should not discover that the new advanced position was occupied. Fortunately no orderlies had to be sent to these front Companies before the Attack.

TRENCHES ABOUT T 15 a 05/40.

25th.

Weather fine. Heavy bombardment during the morning with little reply. During the course of the morning the following message from the EARL of CAVAN to the 5th Division was received and circulated by Brigade.

"Special wishes of good luck to
 "5th Division who have already
 "won highest honours on the SOMME.
 "Relief soon as possible faithfully
 "promised."

At 12.15 pm Artillery Brigade ask for a Report on condition of Enemy's wire an absurd request when every man's nerves are strung up to the highest pitch and the Officers are actually passing down the order "Prepare to Advance". In any case it was impossible to communicate with Companies in time. At 12.35 pm., Zero hour, the whole line went forward. 12.50 pm. Observers reported that 1st Objective appeared to be in our hands. Owing to the slope of the ground our own men however could not be seen. About 1 pm. a few wounded passed back who reported favourably. Enemy's barrage was not very intense. Messages came through from the 1/Devons that they had got their 1st Objective except CROSS ROADS T 16 a 7/6. Apparently they had worked too much to the left in trying to avoid the worst of the