

Narrative of Operations carried out by 1/7th Battalion "The King's"
(Liverpool Regiment) T.F. on the 31st July 1917.

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The Battalion formed up in 4 waves - the first wave between OXFORD TRENCH and WARWICK TRENCH, the second wave in OXFORD TRENCH, and the third and fourth waves each 100 Yards in rear of this trench. All ranks immediately dug-in.

The Battalion was in position at 11.30 p.m. 30.7.17.
Hot cocoa and rum were served at 2.30 a.m. 31.7.17.

At ZERO plus 30 minutes i.e. at 4.20 a.m. the Battalion left the assembly trenches.

Formation:- "A" Company in 2 waves on Right.
"D" Company in 2 waves on Left.
"C" Company with 3 Platoons as moppers up for PLUM REDOUBT with first waves of leading Coys,
1 Platoon with 3rd and 4th waves on Right.
"B" Company in 3rd and 4th waves on Left.

'No mans land' was crossed with scarcely any casualties, enemy barrage being slight.

The crossing of the German Front Line System was difficult owing to the result of our bombardment, which had broken up the ground, and some of the enemy had to be accounted for who had been overlooked by leading Battalions.

The Battalion formed up on the BLUE LINE and waited for the barrages to lift.

At 5.15 a.m. the advance was commenced from the BLUE LINE.

The Right Company ("A") was held up by party of enemy and M.G. in SQUARE FARM which was dealt with effectively and the Right continued the Advance.

"C" Company Moppers up meanwhile had occupied PLUM REDOUBT and took up positions, 2 Platoons on line SQUARE FARM - PLUM FARM, 1 Platoon in reserve for R.E. Strong Point, and 1 Platoon formed defensive flank in CAMEL AVENUE.

On the left "B" Company, after passing through heavy shell and M.G. fire, crossed the Beke by bridges and entered POMMERN CASTLE on either flank at 6.5 a.m. Pigeon message was sent off at once. The dugouts and trenches were mopped up and connection obtained with 9th Kings on Left and 15th Division on Right who were some way back to the Right rear. A Party under 2/Lieut. Leach was pushed out to construct a Strong Point on Hill 35 and came under severe M.G. Fire. The Strong Point was established on the N.W. side of the ridge. A light Field Gun was captured enroute to the position on Hill 35 and enemy were caught by Lewis Gun Fire when retiring.

The remainder of "B" Company proceeded to consolidate the position in POMMERN CASTLE, Captain Neaton taking up his main position on the West side of the Castle and when "A" Company arrived followed by "D" Company, he took command of the whole force and was untiring in the work of strengthening and consolidating the position. Two Supporting Points were pushed out about 150 Yards to East of main defensive position and occupied at night. By day, an advance post was maintained at S.E. point of POMMERN CASTLE with telephonic communication to main trench.

"A" Company on the Right were held up at about 400 yards from their objective by enfilade M.G. Fire. A Tank that was operating about 600 Yards to the left came along on receipt of a message (gallantly taken by Pte Shaw) and enabled the Company to proceed and gain its objective at 9.30 a.m. The trenches were cleared of the enemy, when it was noticed that some of the enemy were manning some trenches in advance of the captured position. A party went forward and 3 Officers and 30 men were taken prisoners and this advanced position held. The work of consolidation was pushed on.

only 1 junior Officer being left with A + D Coys

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Connection by means of a patrol was established with the Right Flank and when later on "C" Company from line SQUARE FARM - PLUM FARM came as reinforcements, the Line was completed to Right Div. "C" Company was ordered to reinforce the Front Line at 11.20 a.m. and a Company of 5th King's took over the line SQUARE- PLUM FARM.

"D" Company seemed to have gone too much to its Left, but 1 Platoon arrived in POMMERN CASTLE with "E" Company and shared the task of clearing up the place and consolidating. Later on, at about 9 a.m., the other part of "D" Company arrived at its objective which had already been dealt with.

About 10 a.m. the 164 Brigade passed through our position, and were assisted by fire of our M.G.'s and Lewis Guns, especially from Strong Point at Hill 35. This Strong Point was compelled later to withdraw its garrison the Machine Guns and Lewis Gun having been knocked out.

When the 164 Brigade fell back at 5.20 p.m. special measures were taken to secure the position. Lewis Guns were pushed out to the front and Machine Guns arranged to cover the front. Some men of this Brigade stayed in POMMERN CASTLE but were ordered to withdraw at midnight.

Enemy were seen massing during the course of the afternoon but their counter-attack on this day failed to develop, being broken up by artillery fire. In this connection our rifles and Lewis Gun fire played effectively on groups of the enemy seen massing in the vicinity of IBERIAN.

Battalion Headquarters was established at UHIAN FARM at 5 a.m. and moved up to POMMERN CASTLE on receipt of Brigade instructions to do so.

Line Held and consolidated:-

D.19.c.75.80 to D.19.a.67.02 thence along Southern portion of POMMERN REDOUBT to D.19.a.10.30.

C. H. Voller

Comdg. 1/7th Bn. "The King's" (Liverpool Regiment)

Lieut. Col.,
T.F.

9th August 1917.