

IV



copy

Operation Order No. 1

by Lt Col G. D. Goodman, Commanding
6th Bn Sherwood Foresters

Reference. Trench map

16.4.16

1. It is intended to explode mines opposite (a) BIRKIN. (b) GRANGE
The near lip of the crater will be occupied. (a) by 6th Bn Sherwood Foresters
(b) by 8th Bn Sherwood Foresters. Each Bn will also send out a raiding party
(a) S. of BIRKIN crater. (b) N. of GRANGE crater.
2. O.C. Lt D'boy will clear the Outpost line and Retrenchment Line by
11.45 pm. and O.C. L'boy the Outpost line from COMMON for 50 yards
south at the same time
3. Covering Parties - This party will consist of 2 groups each of 2 grenadiers
and 2 bayonet men furnished by Lt D'boy 6th Bn Sherwood Foresters. They
will be stationed to the extreme left of the RETRENCHMENT, Right of
BIRKIN by 11.45 pm. Immediately on the explosion these parties
will move by BIRKIN to the forward retrenchment and occupy the near
edge of the crater. The first party moving towards left of crater
the second towards the right. Bayonet men will carry shovels,
and will dig O.P. on lip similar to that at present in BIRKIN
crater. They will at once be followed by 2 parties of 4
grenadiers each who will move up Birkin and establish themselves:
first party by forward retrenchment to L, second to R. on the flanks
of covering and digging parties, and if possible on the outpost line
L & R of the crater
4. Digging Party (2nd Holderness) Digging party of 30 men & men from D
boy will be formed up on the right of P. 75 at 11.45 pm. This party
will draw tools & material in advance from the special dump
in BIRKIN and on the mine explosion will at once move in
rear of the parties previously mentioned up BIRKIN into the forward
retrenchment, advancing from there to dig ^{the} trenches close up
to the near lip of the crater in accordance with orders issued
in case of an enemy mine explosion.
5. Raiding Party - (2nd Evans) This party consisting of 4 P.M. numbers and
8 bayonet men from L'boy will be assembled on the outpost line
50 yds to the R of COMMON by 11.30 pm. This party will, on the mine
explosion proceed up the extension of COMMON towards the enemy
trenches. It will raid the enemy barricade at the top of COMMON
or the adjacent trench using the bayonet and will endeavour to
bring back at least 1 prisoner. It must act as quickly as
possible, with the idea of taking advantage of the confusion
caused by the explosion of the mine and it is essential that
the retirement should be conducted in a similar way.
This party will be supported by a patrol of 2 bombers and
2 bayonet men of L'boy in the cap leading onto our Outpost
Line to the right of COMMON
6. Hunting Parties (a) Left. 2nd Bion This party will consist of 2 bombers
12 bayonet & Lewis Gun 406 from left P. 75 and will be formed up

in P.75 to left of digging party at 11.45pm. This party will follow digging party up BIRKIN and move by the forward retrenchment and occupy outpost line N of BIRKIN crater.

(b) Lieut Brown (i) This party will consist of 2 bombers and 20 bayonet men of Lth Coy and will be formed up at 11.45pm on outpost line to the L of VERNON. On the mine explosion they will occupy outpost line on R of COMMON with the object of ensuring the safe return of the raiding party. Every opportunity will be seized of keeping down enemy's fire.

Lt D.S. Fox (ii) Lewis Gun Officer will place 3 Lewis Guns at suitable intervals in the outpost line to R of COMMON. They will be employed in keeping down enemy's rifle fire and dealing with his MG's.

7. Support. (Lth Maughan) 2 platoons of D Coy will occupy the retrenchment R 1/2 of BIRKIN moving into position from P.75 after the other parties have gone forward.

8. Reserve (i) A Coy of 5th Sherwood Foresters under Capt Stragge will occupy P.S. 74 by 11.30pm and will be prepared to move by COMMON into P.75 on receiving orders.

(ii) The Coy of 14th Miltshire Reg in CROSS ST and QUARRY will be prepared to move on receipt of orders.

9. Artillery:- On the mines being exploded the Field Artillery will form a barrage of fire on each flank and into the German support trenches in rear. The H.B Howitzers and the Heavy Artillery will also bombard the enemy's support trenches etc. The exact details of these barrages will be issued when received from the C.R.A.

10. Other Troop Remains of 6th S.F. will cease work & stand to at 11.45pm.

11. Posters The C.O. will be at D Coy HQ in P.75 from 11pm.

(cd) C.B. Johnson

Issued at 9.15pm

Capt VAM
6th Sherwood Foresters

copy 1 to 139th Tde

2 .. 8th S.F.

3 read to 6th Coy & filed.