

Report of the part taken by the
7th Bath (Robin Hood) Sherwood Foresters in
the action of July 1st by Major E. H. Spalding

In accordance with Brigade Orders the
7th Bath (Robin Hood) Sherwood Foresters attacked
the German line, the objective being the
capture and consolidation of the German
trenches from the point of the little Z to
the junction of FONT and C.T. ORINOCO.

The battalion was detailed to attack in 5 waves
the first four waves were composed of
A, B & C Cos. in lines of platoons, the 5th
wave (D Co) being a carrying and digging
company.

The first wave was formed up in our
new front line trench, the second and
third waves were formed up in our old
front line trench, the 4th wave was the
first retrenchment and the 5th wave in
GREEN STREET.

As detailed in orders the smoke was
discharged at 7.25 and at the same time
the second wave commenced to file through
the gaps in our wire, the first wave
moved out at 7.30 a.m. from the new
advanced trench, the third wave commenced
to move out through the gaps in our wire,

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when the 2nd wave got clear. Owing to the density of the smoke these 3 waves were soon lost to sight from the old front line. Out of these 3 waves only about 12 men reached the German 2nd line, they found that the wire was sufficiently cut to enable them to get through, this small party was in the 2nd line until the smoke cleared and finding they were not supported by any other of our men and that a number of Germans were approaching from dug-outs they fell back on the German 1st line trench about 5 reaching it. In this trench were about 24 of our men who had been endeavouring to make some sort of fire position, ~~before~~ before this could be done the Germans made a bombing attack both from the right and the left, our men were unable to offer much resistance their rifles being muddy in some cases, and having no supply of bombs, eventually those that were left retired and took cover in shell holes immediately W of the German wire remaining there until dusk. a ^{small} party of bombers under the Battalion bomb officer worked their way up the C.T.

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and advanced beyond the German 2nd line bombing several dug-outs on the way and accounting for a number of Germans, they had however to fall back eventually.

In the meantime the 4th wave moving up from the retrenchment their advance being delayed by the state of the trench, moved out from the fire trench but found when reaching the new advance trench the smoke had cleared and though a number of men attempted and a few succeeded it was practically impossible to advance owing to the machine gun fire.

The 5th wave (the carrying and digging companies) were delayed in getting into position in the fire trench by the state of the C.T.s.

The trenches by this time were subjected to a heavy enfilade artillery fire from the direction of Marichy and the carrying company when getting over the parapet and moving through the wire suffered heavy casualties, the O.C. company was killed and the only two subalterns wounded. ~~very~~ few of this wave advanced beyond the old first line trench.

The smoke was quite clear between the German 1st line and our new advance trench by 7.55 am and this seriously affected the

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advance, efforts were made to get the remaining portions of the 4th wave and carrying company to advance on the expected resumption of the smoke but no more was sent over.

The artillery fire was kept up on our trenches all the morning and accounted for a great number of casualties amongst the men occupying them.

In accordance with orders a party was organised to carry boxes of bombs formed up in two waves to follow a company of the 6th Sherwood Foresters, the advance to take place under cover of smoke at 3.30 pm. This advance however did not take place.

Report on Lewis Guns.

None of the Lewis guns belonging to this battalion reached the German 1st line.

The two Lewis guns ^{teams} with A Co formed up with the 4th wave and in the advance to our new front line trench the two teams were all wounded or killed by shells one gun was buried and one damaged and all the magazines buried.

B Coy Lewis guns, one gun ^{team} got as far as

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5/ The advanced trench when it was buried and all the team knocked out, the magazines were all lost, the other gun, ^{team} advanced beyond our new front line trench towards the German line, all the team were hit except one man who got back to the advance trench with the gun.

C Coy The 2 gun ^{teams} moved out from the fire trench with the 4th wave, when only a short way out, two of the team of the first gun were killed and the gun destroyed. The team commander of the second gun is missing, believed killed, and the gun blown up.

D Coy These gun ^{teams} moved up with the 4th platoon of the Carrying Co from GREEN STREET to the old front line trench, they had great difficulty in getting along the C.T. They did not advance beyond the British front line - both guns & 47 magazines were brought out.

E. H. Spalding Major
7th (Robin Hood) Sherwood Foresters.