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## OPERATION ORDER No. 77

-: by :-  
BRIGADIER GENERAL C.T. SHIPLEY.C.B.  
Commanding 139th Infantry Brigade.

August 23rd, 1916.

1. On Wednesday August 23rd, a combined bombardment by Trench Mortars and Divisional Artillery of the BLOCKHOUSE X.2.b. & d, and of the enemy's front line in X.2.c. and X.3.a. will take place from 2 p.m., to 3 p.m.
2. Vllth Corps Heavy Artillery will co-operate by bombarding the enemy's front line trenches from X.2.b.75.25 to X.3.a.05.10 and X.2.b.25.05 to X.2.d.15.92.
3. The Officer Commanding 139th Machine Gun Company will arrange for the enemy's front line trench in X.3.a. and X.3.b. to be swept by intermittent bursts of Machine Gun fire during the bombardment.
4. The wire between the river bed X.2.b.36.47 and X.2.b.45.50 will be cut by Medium Trench Mortars, the wire cutting being disguised as much as possible by the bombardment of the BLOCKHOUSE.
5. The gap in the wire at X.2.b.36.47 will be kept open by Shrapnel and Machine Gun Fire during the night 23rd/24th August. Occasional Machine Gun Fire will also be directed against the BLOCKHOUSE throughout the night.
6. A small patrol will be sent up the river bed by the 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters early on the morning of the 24th to examine the gap in the wire.
7. A raid on the enemy's Sap X.2.b.55.50 will be carried out by the 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters on Thursday evening August 24th.
8. A party of 1 Officer and 12 other ranks ("A" party) will leave our trenches at a point close to where WILLOW STREET joins the front line and will be established at X.2.b.36.47 by 9-30 p.m.  
They will be followed at 5 minutes interval by a second party ("B" party) of 1 N.C.O. and 8 men with a Lewis Gun, who will take up a position at X.2.b.61.83.  
"A" party will enter the German trenches at 9-30 p.m., near X.2.b.47.37, where 3 men will be posted.  
They will then proceed to the junction of the Sap and front line at X.2.b.55.45 where 3 more men will be posted.  
The remainder of the party will at once proceed to the end of the Sap.  
Any of the enemy encountered will be killed, but one prisoner must be brought back if possible. Every endeavour is to be made to obtain identifications.  
The party will return by the same route, the two posts of 3 men each returning with them and covering their withdrawal.

(Party "B")



Party "B" will be prepared to deal with any of the enemy who may endeavour to cut off Party "A" from either flank. Both parties will return to our own lines by the river bed and enter at the point of departure.

The Officer Commanding 231st Brigade R.F.A. will arrange for an F.O.O. to be in position at 9 p.m. at the point where WOLLOW STREET joins the front line.

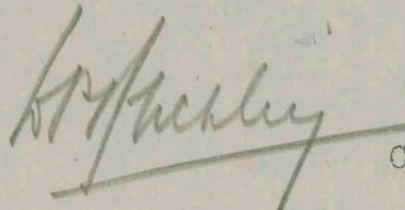
He will also arrange for a line to be laid to Party "B" When party "A" has withdrawn to X.2.b.61.83 the message "All clear" will be sent by telephone to the F.O.O.

The 231st Brigade R.F.A. will open section fire 30 seconds on the Sap at X.2.b.98.35 and the front line from X.2.b.25.05 to X.3.a.1.1.

The return of the raiding party to our own trench will be followed by a 3 minute intense bombardment of the BLOCKHOUSE by the 231st Brigade R.F.A. and Medium Trench Mortars.

As soon as 231st Brigade R.F.A. have opened fire the enemy's Saps at X.3.b.5.8 and R.33.d.9.3 will be bombarded with rifle grenades under arrangements to be made by the Brigade Bombing Officer.

9. The Officer Commanding the Brigade Signal Section will arrange for a telephone line to be laid from the Medium Trench Mortar position to the junction of WILLOW STREET and our front line trench.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.



Captain.

Brigade Major, 139th Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 8 a.m. to:-

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| Copy Nos. 1 & 2. | War Diary.                        |
| 3.               | 46th Division.                    |
| 4.               | 137th Infantry Brigade.           |
| 5.               | 37th Infantry Brigade.            |
| 6.               | 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters. |
| 7.               | 6th " " "                         |
| 8.               | 7th " " "                         |
| 9.               | 8th " " "                         |
| 10.              | 231st Brigade R.F.A.              |
| 11.              | 139th Machine Gun Company.        |
| 12.              | Divisional Trench Mortar Officer. |
| 13.              | Brigade Major.                    |