SECRET.

Copy No

INSTRUCTIONS TO

RAIDING PARTY.

- ENEMY. 1. In advance of the enemy's main line and lying in a hollow screened from direct xiew observation, is a bank (or sunk fence) 200 yards long, known as the TALUS. (See plan). This bank is 200 yards distant from No 14 SAP and rather more from No 15, from which saps it is approached by a downward slope, devoid of cover. There is apparently no bank on our side and the TALUS is in the nature of a sunk fence with a drop of 6ft to 8 ft towards the enemy. A path below runs along the bank. This path is floorboarded and entirely open to the enemy's front lime. At intervals there appears to be steps or short fire bays. On the top of the Bank are bushes. There are none for perhaps 20 yards on the SOUTH portion of the Bank. The TALUS is connected at its south end with the enemy's front line by a C.T. some 200 About 120 yards down this C.T. is a circular work yards long. probably a machine gun dug-out or emplacement marked "D". In front of the TALUS are two depths of wire each about 10 yards deep with an interval between them of some 10 yards. At a point apparently 15 yards from the South end of TALUS is a gap 10 to 15 yards wide (Market A-B on plan). Both sides of the C.T. are strongly wired and there is also much wire between the TALUS and the enemy's front line trench and on the NORTH (open) flank which latter is protected by the BLOCKHOUSE. Apparently is is the enemy's custom to patrol the TALUS from time to time. His patrols also use the gap A - B to approach our line, and there is often a working party on the wire in the neighbourhood.
- objective. 2. It is proposed to make a raid on the enemy's advanced posts in the TALUS with the object of taking prisoners and securing identification, also of taking any machine guns at "D" and of inflicting as much injury on the enemy as possible.
- PARTIES. 3. RAIDING PARTY under 2/Lt R.Evans will consist of N.C.O's and men of Letter "B" Coy with 7 Bombers and R.E.

 This will be divided into:-
 - (1) BLOCKING PARTY of 2 Bombers (1 N.C.O.) and 3 men,
 - (11) 1 N.C. 0 2 Bombers and 2 men.
 - (111) 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. 1 bomber and 5 men with 3 R.E.
 - (iv) 1 N.C.O. 2 bombers and 1 man.

SCOUTS under 2/Lieut E.Kershaw. - 7 Scouts.

- DRESS. 4. Scouts will wear their usual equipment, remainder will not wear their equipment but will carry 10 rounds in pocket magazines charged with safety catch closed and 2 bombs per man in pockets. Socks will be drawn over boots. All badges and marks of identification will be removed.
- RAID. 5. After dark the parties will be assembled near 15 SAP. A party of Scouts will leave 15 SAP and will lay tape and reconnoited the gap in enemy swire to ascertain if it is clear. 2 Scouts will remain at entrance to gap and two will return to guide party. The raiding party will then leave 15 SAP in their proper order. On Passing through gap, Blocking party will turn to left and take up positions by nearest bush on TALUS marked "C". This party will remain there on top with two bayonet men below and will be responsible for this flank until the raiding party returns when they will protect the rear. Should any of the enemy's patrols approach (any such would probably come from NORTH along TALUS) they will be dealt with by the bayonet. This party must not use bombs unless absolutely necessary.

 The raiding party will get into the TALUS as quickly as possible

and proceed in three parties to the RIGHT until they come to the

-2-

- RAID (contd). C.T. turning down it to the left. Short intervals (not exceeding 10 yards) will be kept between parties. If any enemy patrols are met with they should be bayonets or taken prisoners without noise. Any prisoners should be disarmed and sent back at once under escort. On arrival at "D" the leading party will block the trench beyond "D". Any dugouts must be bombed and search made for a machine gun, which, if found must be brought back. The party will not proceed further than "D", but having accomplished its task will immediately return by the TALUS and gap in wire followed by BLOCKING PARTY and SCOUTS. During the operations the Scouts will remain in the vicinity of the TALUS and wire, to direct the return of the various parties, and will lay tape to No 9 SAP. Care must be taken to indicate position of steps from below TALUS.
- RETURN. 6. On leaving gap in the enemy's wire all parties will make for No 9 SAP along the tape keeping their right shoulders up. The direction of the SAP will be given by flares. O.C. "A" Coy will arrange to send up a succession of flares from this spot and will have two men lying out to show gap in our wire.
- WEAPON. 7. The success of the operation depends largely on surprise.

 All ranks must therefore understand that the bayonet is the
 proper weapon and bombs should only be used for bombing dug-outs,
 except in case of absolutely necessity.
- ARTILLERY.8. B/231 Battery will have its guns laid on the enemy front line NoRTH and SOUTH of the TALUS SAP and a F.O.O. Will be on duty with the telephone mean at head of CHURCH STREET. On receiving an order from the Commanding Officer, slow fire will be opened and the battery will be prepared to increase the rate of fire on being called upon to do so.
- C.O. 9. The C.O. will be at the head of CHURCH STREET (Junction of front line trench)

G. D. Gordman

Lt Colonel.

Sist August 1916.

Commanding 6th Battn Sherwood Foresters.

copy No 1. War Diary

" ". 2. 71 Evans.

" " 3. 71 Lershaw.

