

George Denma

October 1917

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Appendix.

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in Year. Some Germans were killed and about 16 prisoners were taken: 2 Machine Guns were also captured.

On the left a machine gun at LEMNOS HOUSE held us up for a short time, but by aid of rifle fire and rifle grenades we were able to knock it out. A considerable amount of Machine Gun fire was coming from FERDAN HOUSE.

The barrage then halted and the men re-organised as far as possible, and the direction checked. Lewis Guns and Rifles were cleaned. When the barrage moved forward, the advance continued, our right directing on FERDAN HOUSE. Lewis Guns were brought into action against FERDAN HOUSE, and a Stokes Mortar of the 11th Division gave valuable assistance. Under cover of this the East Lancashires attached to the Battalion worked round the right flank, whilst the Battalion went round the left. 2 Officers and about 30 men, several of whom were wounded, were captured here, also 2 Machine Guns and 2 Trench Mortars. The prisoners were sent back under an escort of the East Lancashires.

The advance was then continued to the GREEN LINE without opposition, though some casualties were incurred from Machine Gun fire from the direction of 19 Metre Hill.

The Battalion was re-organised as far as possible and distributed in depth. Touch was established on both flanks. The advanced line of posts ran from TRAGIQUE FARM along the GREEN LINE about V.19.b.1.8. Only about the equivalent of 4 Platoons of the Battalion could be collected with about 30 men of East Lancashire Regt. under an Officer. 5 Officers were left with the Battalion; of these Capt. Greetham who had been ill for the last two days had to be sent down in the afternoon. 2 Platoons with the party of East Lancashire Regt. held the front line: and the other two platoons formed a Support about V.19.a.3.2.

About 2 p.m. a Counter-Attack took place on our left: the Seafortns were seen to be falling back, and the Germans, strength about 200 or 300 were advancing. The left of the Brigade had to fall back slightly to conform to this movement. Rifle, Lewis Guns and captured Machine Gun fire was opened on the Germans, as they came over the ridge, from the vicinity of TRAGIQUE FARM and the heap of stones about V.19.a.3.2.

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