

NARRATIVE of 16TH SEPT. 1916.

At 4 am on the 16th September, the Bn. relieved the 9th K.R.R. in the right GUEUDECOURT Sector, which had been captured by this Battalion on the previous day. My dispositions were as follows

- B Coy on right of A - A trench.
- C Coy on left of ~~XXXXX~~ A - A trench
- A Coy in B - B trench.
- D Coy support in GUN ALLEY.

I had been told the previous evening that I was to attack ~~at~~ on the next day & received final orders at about 4.30 a.m. on the 16th.

I sent for my O.C.Coys. & issued my orders. I have not a copy but my arrangements were

The attack to be made in two waves by the Coys in the front line. Coys to right incline on leaving our trench.

Coy objectives were Gird Support as follows

- B Coy N 33-c-4-3 to N 33-c-1-8.
- C " N 33-c-1-8 to N 32-b-7-2.
- A Coy N 32-b-7-2- to N-32-b-3-8

D Coy to move to A.A. trench at zero & when Gird support had been captured to Gird Trench.

Each Coy to leave a cleaning up party of 1 bombing squad & 6 men in Gird trench & then follow the barrage to Gird Support. Both trenches to be consolidated. Zero at 9.25 a.m.

There is a trench which I have called X -X in sketch. I do not know if it had been occupied by the 9th K.R.R. on the previous day But I imagine not. At any rate I ~~know~~ was unaware of its existence. \*

There is a slight ridge between AA & XX trenches at ~~2~~ zero the men went over, but instead of reaching gird support the right of B Coy reached the right of Gird Support, the other Coys taking the remainder of the trench between this point & the Sunken Road. Some six Germans were captured on the right ~~points~~ & about a hundred of the enemy ran away. Everyone thought they were in Gird trench & I was under this impression until the evening. C Coy advanced & dug in on a line some 50<sup>X</sup> from Gird trench. A coy dug in about 100<sup>X</sup> North of XX trench with their left on the road. On coming over the ridge between A-A & X-X trenches the men came under M.G. fire from the N. & E. & lost heavily. It was impossible for them to advance further. At about 9.50 am I received a message from B Coy. on right saying that they could not advance owing to the number of the Enemy, who were bombing them from Gird trench. As I had two Coys of the K.O.Y.L.I. in close support I sent D Coy to their assistance, but on account of the M.G. fire they were unable to advance beyond X-X trench.

All Coys remained in these positions during the day, & I reported that Gird trench had been taken but that I could not advance further.

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This is an unfinished German trench - right end seemed old, but a lot of new work had been done on the left & centre.