

SECTION 1 - "A"

THE OPERATIONS

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1. GENERAL OUTLINE-

- (a) With a view to forcing the enemy to evacuate LENS the Canadian Corps has been ordered to undertake operations for the capture of the High Ground north of LENS.
- (b) These operations will be carried out by the 1st. Canadian Division on the Left, and the 2nd. Canadian Division on the Right. (c) The attack of the 1st. Canadian Division will be carried by the 2nd. C.I. Brigade on the right, and the 3rd. C.I. Brigade on the left, with the 1st. C.I. Brigade in Reserve
- (d) The 2nd. C.I. Brigade will attack on a two battalion frontage, with two battalions in depth, the four battalions being in the assault. Each battalion will be on a two company frontage.

The 5th. and 8th. C.I. Battalions on the Right in depth, with the 5th. C.I. Battalion in front.

The 10th. and 7th. C.I. Battalions on the Left in depth, with the 10th. C.I. Battalion in front.

The flank boundaries between battalions and the objectives allotted to the 2nd. C.I. Brigade are shown on MAP "A".

2. TASK OF THE 5th. C.I. BATTALION.

1st. Objective - German Front Line trench from N.1.c.1.5. S.O. to N.1.a.8.5.6.0.

Final Objective - The BLUE LINE from N.1.d.9.0.9.5. to N.2.a.0.0.8.0

In each case the Map readings are inclusive to the 5th. C.I. Battalion.

The BLUE LINE is to be the main line of resistance.

On capture of the final objective,

- (a) Position will be traversed and consolidated.
- (b) The intermediate objectives will be secured, and cleared of all enemy who may have been overrun by the 3rd. and 4th. Waves.
- (c) The Ground between the BLUE and RED LINES will be cleared when the 8th. C.I. Battalion have advanced through the BLUE LINE.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF BATTALION

1st. and 2nd. Waves -	RIGHT "D"	LEFT "C" making 2 Waves.
3rd. and 4th. Waves -	"B"	"A" : : :
Bn. H.Q.	N.1.a.1.1.	
Rgtl. Aid Post	N.1.a.1.0	

4. ATTACK.

The attack will be made on a two Company Frontage, and in four waves as per attached diagram "C".

"C" and "D" Companies will capture the Front Line, and "A" and "B" Companies will pass over "C" and "D" Companies in the Front Line, and capture the BLUE LINE.

The Barrage will halt 200 yards in advance of the BLUE LINE at ZERO plus 20 minutes, and remain to ZERO plus 56 mins., when it will lift and the advance continue.

The leading two Companies of the 8th. C.I. Battalion will then pass over the BLUE LINE where they have formed up and capture the RED LINE.

Parties from "A" and "B" Companies previously detailed will follow on and mop-up to the RED LINE.

The Barrage will be arranged in depth so as to form four distinct waves as follows:

Two-thirds of available 18 pounders - Rolling Barrage about 75 yards in front of the Infantry.

One-third of available 18 pounders - On definite trenches not less than 200 yards in front of the Infantry for 4.5 howz. and 75 yds for 18 pounders.

"6" in. Howitzers

- On definite trenches not less than 300 yards in advance of the Infantry.

"82 and 9.2. Howitzers

- On definite trenches not less than 400 yards in advance of the Infantry.

It is of the utmost importance that all Units keep touch with other Units on their flanks, and in their Rear.

5. DEFENSIVE PLANKS.

Until the GREEN LINE is captured and the troops on our Right and Left have secured their corresponding objectives, it may, at any stage of the attack be necessary to form a defensive plan.

"D" and "C" Companies would be responsible for the Right Flank up to the BLUE LINE. The Senior Officer will be responsible for this Flank.

"B" and "A" Companies will be responsible for the Right Flank beyond the BLUE LINE up to the RED LINE. The Senior Officer will be held responsible for this Flank.

6. "A" CARRYING.

"B" and "A" Companies will carry over S.A.A., water tools, hand and rifle grenades, and Stokes' bombs. These loads surplus to their equipment will be left in the German Front Line, as they pass through.

Garrisons in German Front Line and BLUE OBJECTIVES, will immediately collect all material into dumps.

"A" BRIGADE RESERVE.

Each Company will tell off 21 O.R.s and 2 N.C.O's. This party will be in Brigade Reserve.

"C" DUMPS

Dumps previously established and as far forward as possible, will be immediately moved forward as follows:

Parties previously told off from "C" and "D" will return to the Dumps, and carry everything forward to the BLUE OBJECTIVE.

Parties previously told off from "A" and "B" will then move forward the portions of these dumps allotted to the RED and GREEN LINES, leaving a portion allotted to the BLUE LINE.

They will also distribute the Stokes' bombs to the new Stokes' Mortar emplacements, under the direction of the 2nd. C.T.M. Battery.

7. SNIPERS.

During the attack selected men who will act as snipers, will advance with their platoon, and take advantage of any targets which may appear. They will not carry telescopic rifles.

8. CONSOLIDATION.

The BLUE OBJECTIVE is to be consolidated as the main Line of Resistance. A well traversed trench with a single apron and stake fence 50 yards in advance, wire to be increased as rapidly as possible.

9. SPECIAL PARTY TO INVESTIGATE DUGOUTS

A Special Party of the 3rd. Australian Tunnelling Company have been detailed to examine all dugouts, buildings, and so forth for traps. No man is to be allowed to enter a German dugout before it has been investigated by this party and passed as safe.

Prisoners recently captured on this front, state that all dugouts are mined on HILL 70.

All men ought to be warned that they are to cut all wire they are to see at once

10. MOVEMENT OF BATTALION H.Q.

The I.O. will detail a party to go forward with the 4th. Wave to locate a report centre

The S.O. will arrange for wire to be laid through this new location and communications established at once.

11. ENEMY RETIREMENT.

In the event of the enemy retiring, the Battalion will be ordered to advance in extended order or in alternative bounds of platoons. The Battalion will not move forward until definite orders from Brigade are received.

12. LIAISON OFFICERS.

Major D.E. Boulton to H.Q. 3rd C.I. Brigade.
 Lieut. W.E. Lloyd to H.Q. 22nd C.I. Battalion. 11
 Lieut. R. Lingford to H.Q. 10th C.I. Battalion.

13. COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS.

All documents found will be forwarded to Battalion H.Q. as soon as possible.

14. ZERO HOUR.

The day of assault and Zero Hour, when they have been decided upon will be communicated to all concerned.

Emphasis is once more laid upon the vital importance of preventing the enemy of having the least suspicion of the hour at which the assault will take place. It must not be issued by telephone but in writing, and then only to responsible Officers.

All promiscuous conversation on the subject is absolutely forbidden.

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

- (a) Reports. - Immediately Units are settled in captured positions, disposition reports with maps will be forwarded by the quickest means to Battalion H.Q.
- (b) Should the leading waves at any stage of the attack be faced with an obstacle, such as wire or machine guns, on no account are they and the succeeding waves to mass on it.
- (c) The importance of keeping secret from the Germans our move into the assembly positions is manifest.
- No smoking lights or unnecessary talking or movement is to be permitted.
- On W/X, X/Y and Y/Z nights a constant screen of outposts and patrols must be maintained. On Zero morning no bayonets are to be fixed and nothing is to be shown above ground until immediately before Zero hour.
- (d) Enemy Devices. The enemy in their retreat before the third and fourth Armies left behind many devices calculated to cause us casualties. Contact mines were attached to bayonets, sticking prominently out of the sides of trenches, and cap badges and hand rails leading down to dug-outs and other prominent objects were also used. No food or drink found if the German lines is to be consumed on any account.
- (e) Gas. (a) If a bombardment of Gas shells by our artillery precedes our attack great discretion must be observed by our men and mop-up in particular in entering captured German dug-outs.
- (b) During his retreat the enemy may make arrangements enabling him to liberate gas mechanically. Gas alert precautions will therefore be adopted by all Units when the wind is between north-northeast and south-southeast.

16. CARE OF SECRET DOCUMENTS.

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All ranks taking part in any assault are forbidden to carry any letters, papers, orders or sketches, which in the event of their capture will be likely to give any information to the enemy.