

*D Coy*

*W. La 103*

OPERATION ORDERS  
BY LIEUT COLONEL W. GODFREY, D.S.O.  
COMDG 9th BATTALION WELCH REGIMENT. 17/9/17.

1. REFERENCE.

HOLLEBEKE 1/10,000.

2. THE BATTALION FRONTAGE AND BOUNDARIES as on map issued to Companies.  
The 8th Bn Wiltshire Regt will be on our right, and the 9th Bn  
Cheshire Regt on our left.

3. ASSEMBLY.

Four lines will be taped on the night before the attack. Sections will keep together round shell holes and the leading wave will only shake out into lines when the O.C. leading Companies consider the ground fit.

All extension will be to the left.

Strict silence and no lights or unnecessary talking is to be ensured. If the enemy knew of our assembly it would be fatal.

4. DISTRIBUTION & PLAN OF ATTACK.

The attack will be carried out in four waves:-

C. Coy on right, D. Coy on left forming 1st & 2nd wave.

A. Coy on right, B. Coy on left forming 3rd & 4th wave.

Waves will consist of 2 lines.

The second wave of C and D. Coys must be prepared to detach men to mop up if they are passing likely places and the next wave is too far behind..

The third wave will mop up to the final objective and when all the ground is cleared, withdraw to intermediate line.

The fourth wave will stop in the intermediate line and will act as Battalion Reserve.

The second wave will be on the look out to fill gaps and watch the flanks.

O.C. A and B. Companies will be with their leading waves to direct mopping up. Special parties will be told off for certain likely places. The rest will mop at sight.

The second wave will remain in sections in file as long as possible.

The third wave will remain in sections in file in one line, each section with two scouts close to the second wave.

The fourth wave will remain in sections in file in one line.

Waves will start together to get clear of assembly position and will then open out to :-

15 yards between lines.

25 yards between waves.

5. DIRECTION.

C and D. Companies will detail an Officer to watch the direction on right and left flank.

True bearing of advance is  $132^{\circ}$  Variation is  $12^{\circ}$  West. All Compasses will therefore be set to march on  $144^{\circ}$ , unless their variation is exceptional.

Right flank marches by left of OPAQUE WOOD and right of thick green undergrowth visible East of this WOOD.

Left flank to the Gallows on the Hill at right of Copse, then to point 100 yards to left of far ~~edge~~ of HESSIAN WOOD.

Sections on each flank will dovetail with neighbouring Battalions.

Intermediate line runs 100 yards North West of HESSIAN WOOD having a group of seven dug-outs in centre at O.6.b.7.11.



6. CONSOLIDATION.

The front and intermediate line will be consolidated by two lines of Posts each.

The lines of posts should be about 50 yards distance from each other and irregularly placed.

Immediately it is dark or the situation admits of it, the Battalion carrying party will bring forward wire and stakes and the whole front will be wired on the Battalion system, wire at least 40 yards from Posts.

7. MACHINE GUNS.

There will be a barrage starting with the Artillery Barrage. Two Guns will move on the left rear of 9th Cheshire Regt to position at P.I.a.6.7.

Two Guns will move in rear of 9th Welch Regt to spur near Intermediate line.

Both these sub-sections will cover the left flank if held up until defensive flanks can be formed, or will fill any gap.

Two Guns under O.C. 9th Welch Regt will advance in rear of left of first wave. They will take up the best position between intermediate and front line for covering the latter.

As these teams can only move slowly, second and subsequent waves will pass through them if necessary.

8. COUNTER ATTACK.

A counter attack must be expected.

Troops will hang on to all ground to be held and will use their rifles freely and immediately.

Counter attacks will be met by Unit Commanders in rear pushing up fresh troops without waiting for orders and before the enemy can reach our advance posts.

All ranks have got into a bad habit when they see an enemy of talking about it first. Shoot first and talk afterwards.

9. COMMUNICATION.

Brigade Visual Station ... O.5.b.5.6.

Brigade Forward Station... I.36.d.40.25.

On the 9th Welch Headquarters moving forward, a Brigade detachment will move to their command post laying two lines, one Artillery and one Infantry.

The 9th Welch Forward Command Post will be at O.6.b.25.60.

Pigeons. Two pigeons will go with each of the leading Companies.

After dark and after Zero hour, all tracks will be used as IN trenches. OAF and IMPERIAL Avenues as OUT trenches.

During assembly hour all routes will be used as IN trenches.

10. ARTILLERY.

Barrage as per map issued to Companies.

O.C. Companies will make as much use as possible of Forward Liaison Officers and will afford him every facility for sending messages.

When the barrage is pausing, plus 20 to plus 64, on our left, and also when it reaches the final objective, it will fire for 10 minutes a few smoke shells to show the Infantry where they have got to. Officers will follow the barrage closely with their watches.

11. STONES MORTARS.

The two Guns attached to this Battalion will start in rear of the



11. STOKES MORTARS. Contd.  
the/ third wave in the centre of each half Company. They will deal with any M.G. or S.P. holding up the advance, and take up position on the Intermediate Line.
12. PATROLS.  
O.C. A and B. Companies. will each tell off a strong patrol from their rear two platoons to clear the ground when the barrage lifts to about 400 yards from our front line to allow of this. They must make their way to the front and be ready to move out the moment the barrage lifts which will be one hour after plus 96. They will have one hour in which to clear the front under a protective barrage.
13. DOCUMENTS.  
A special party under O.C. Scouts will search all dug-outs etc. Documents will be tied in bundles, put in sacks, and labelled as to locality.  
N.C.O. will wear a "Brassard" "INTELLIGENCE" and will forward all documents immediately to Brigade Headquarters.
14. PRISONERS.  
A special N.C.O. per Company will be told off to superintend escorts to Prisoners. If he has not sufficient slightly wounded men, he will get them from the nearest Officer. He will not allow prisoners to drift through our ranks but will collect them together.
15. HOSTILE AEROPLANES.  
If any fly low over the troops in the assembly position, nobody must look up and all ranks will keep quite still.
16. REORGANIZATION.  
The C.O. wishes to draw special attention to this. It is the most important point in the fight..  
Section Commanders must on all occasions, and especially on getting to their objective, get their section together. No excuse can be taken, as without this consolidation is impossible and resistance to a counter attack very doubtful.
17. FLAMMENWERFER. *they only last*  
These may be met with but all ranks must realise 6 seconds. Shoot the man who is working it if possible.
18. S.O.S. SIGNALS.  
In use. Rifle Grenade Signal - Parachute - with three colours - Red over Green over Yellow.  
*if necessary* First Change. Rifle Grenade Signal - Parachute - Light changing if ~~necessary~~ from White to Green.  
Second Change. 1 1/2 inch VERY LIGHT - Parachute - changing from ~~if necessary~~ White to Red.
19. CARRYING PARTY. *40*  
A carrying party under Sgt Richards of 40 men will assemble at the Battalion Dump behind the Railway Line and on the first possible occasion will bring forward wire, stakes and French wire to front line.  
The Battalion Carrying Party must be prepared during the fight to send forward Bombs or Ammunition if needed.



20. MAPS.

No Maps showing our own positions will be taken into the fight.

21. RUSES.

Cases have occurred of enemy shamming death. Any bunch of dead men should be tested in passing with the nearest handy instrument.

There is no such order as "RETIRE" and the man using it will be taken under immediate control by any means at hand.

22. FLAGS.

Flags will on no account be stuck in the ground.

Two will be carried by each platoon proceeding to furthest objective and displayed at intervals to help the Artillery.

R.E.

23. CONSTRUCTION OF STRONG POINTS.

The 82nd Field Coy, R.E. will construct a Strong Point on 58th Brigade Front at :-

No 1 Post about O.S.D.8.2.

The Strong Point should be for a Garrison of one platoon and two Vickers Guns.

The Garrison will be detailed beforehand as under :-

"O.C. A.Coy will detail this Garrison".

No 1 Post:- 9th Bn Welch Regt and one or two of the Machine Guns detailed to move forward to Intermediate Line when released from Barrage. ~~Para 7.~~

This Garrison will occupy the Strong Point as soon as reported ready for occupation by the R.E. Officer in charge.

O.C. 82nd Field Coy, R.E. will detail two parties with mobile charges to assist in the destruction of dug-outs beyond the final objective line. They will also be available if necessary to blow in the doors of any dug-outs which contain Germans and which cannot be entered. These parties will assemble with Battalion H.Q. of 9th Bn Welch Regt. and 9th Bn Cheshire Regt. They will move forward in rear of the last wave of the attack of the Battalions to which attached, keeping touch with the rear Company Commander of the Battalion.

24. REFERENCES TO TIME.

The words "Plus" or "Minus" will always be written.

25. HELMETS.

Helmets will not be covered but mud must be rubbed all over them before troops go into the line.

26. HEADQUARTERS.

Brigade	...	...	O.35.b.9.8.
9th Bn Welch Regt	...	...	Dug-outs I.36.d.35.20., I.36.d.32.10.
6th Wilts Regt.	...	...	O.6.a.4.7.
9th Cheshire Regt....	...	...	I.36.d.49.49.
9th R.W.Fusiliers....	...	...	I.36.c.3.0.

*David B. Jones*

Captain & Adjutant.

9th Bn Welch Regiment.



CONTACT PATROLS.

1. Aeroplanes for Contact Patrols will be R.E.8 type and will be specially marked by a Black Flap attached to the rear of each lower plane.
2. The Contact Patrol will fly over the line and call for flares at the following hours. Troops will also be prepared to put out flares at any other time if the Aeroplane calls for them.

Zero plus 45 minutes.  
Zero plus 115 minutes.

3. Aeroplanes will call for flares and WATSON FANS by sounding a Klaxon Horn and firing a "VERY" white light, or by giving either of these two signals.
4. Red flares will be used. They should be lit in bunches of three each about 50 yards apart.  
WATSON FANS will be used in conjunction with flares. The Fans should be turned over every two seconds and not quicker. This signal will be made for periods of not less than two minutes at a time as the observer is sometimes in a position from which he cannot see the Fans.
5. CODE LETTERS FOR LIAISON  
BETWEEN INFANTRY AND AIRCRAFT.

58th Brigade .....	LI.
9/Cheshire Regt.....	LIW.
9/R.W.Fusiliers.....	LIX.
9/Welch Regt.....	LIX.
6/Wilts Regt.....	LIZ.

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Captain & Adjt.

9th Bn Welch Regiment.

17/9/17.



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS.  
BY LIEUT COLONEL W. GODFREY. D.S.O.  
COMMAND 9th BATTALION WELCH REGT. 17/9/17.

1. SURPLUS PERSONNEL.

Surplus Personnel will be accommodated at the 1st Line Transport, leaving the Battalion at noon two days before the Attack.

2. MEDICAL.

Aid Post ... I.36.c.2.9. Railway Embankment.  
Walking Wounded O.2.d.8.7. The Mound.

3. PRISONERS.

Brigade Cage on track north of Buffs Bank.  
Escorts will not be more than 10% and will use overland tracks.  
Prisoners will not be searched.  
Looting is forbidden, but if a man tries to destroy papers they will be taken from him.  
Officers and N.C.Os will be kept separate.  
Receipts will be taken for all prisoners.

4. AMMUNITION.

Brigade Dumps :- OPAQUE WOOD O.6.a.8.6.  
IMPERFECT COPSE I.36.d.35.10.

5. R.E.

Same as Ammunition Dumps.

6. STRAGGLERS POSTS.

O.4.a.7.9., and O.4.a.7.8.  
Collecting Station :- O.2. central.

7. RATIONS

Battalion Dump will be in rear of Railway Embankment containing 200 tins of water and an issue of Iron Rations.  
No man is to use his Water Bottle before Zero hour.

8. TROPHIES.

All articles claimed must be labelled and a claim submitted.  
Number and mark should be stated.

9. DRESS.

As detailed at conference.  
C and D. Companies have Yellow patches on Haversacks.  
A and B. Companies carry two bombs per man.  
Sacks. Four to every man.  
S.A.A. 170 rounds per man.  
Bombers & Rifle Grenadiers, six each.  
Every man to have a tool, Proportion, 1 pick to 5 Shovels.

The above does not apply to Runners, No. 1 & 2 Lewis Gunners, Signallers etc.

*Thur K Bourne*

Captain & Adjutant