

OPERATION ORDER No. 1 20.4.17
Lt. Col. G. T. Beckwith D.S.O.

1. At a date to be notified later the general advance will be continued on the Corps front..
2. The objectives of the 29th Division will be (1st) Copse 08B1.2 inclusive on a line running through 08B3.4, 08B4½, 9½, 02 Central (BLUE LINE) (2nd) 09B5.0, line through 09B5.5, 03D5.0, 03D2.8, East edge of BOIS DU SART, I33B8.1 (RED LINE).
3. The 88th Brigade will capture the portions of the first & second objectives between the grid lines 07 Central to 09 Central and the dividing grid between 07 and 01 and 09 & 03. On the right of the 88th Brigade will be the 15th Division and on the left the 87th Brigade.
4. The Worcestershire Regt, will take the first objective (BLUE LINE) on the Brigade rout of 500 yds. There will then be a pause of 6 hours and the Hampshire Regt which will have followed the Worcesters at zero and dug in behind the BLUE LINE, will pass through the Worcestershire Regt. and capture the second objective (RED LINE) just EAST at the BOIS DU VERT.

The direction of advance all the time will be lane EAST (about 102° magnetic)

5. At zero hour the Hampshire Regt. will be formed up in and behind the line N12B5.0 and 07A1.9. Y & Z Coys finding the front two waves and W & X the rear two waves. Y and W on the right of the respective waves.
6. When the barrage falls the battalion will advance as close as possible behind the rear wave of the Worcester Regt. till all (Hampshire Regt) Y & Z Coys, reach the line 08A2.0 to 08A2.9, where it will immediately dig in throwing back its RIGHT FLANK slightly across the SUNKEN ROAD. W Coy will make a strong point at 07B7.3 and X Coy another at 07B8.7. This is provided the attack on the first objective succeeds. Should it not the battalion must hold the ground it has got to pending further orders.
7. If the attacks of the Divisions on the right and left of the 29th Division on the first objective succeed the second objective (RED LINE) will then be tackled as stated in No.4 on the barrage falling at 7 hours after zero, this interval being required for bringing forward the guns.
8. The advance of the Battalion will be made as in Order No. 5 till Y & Z Coys have seized the Western Edge of the BOIS DU VERT when W & X Coys will pass through Y & Z respectively and seize the red line EAST of the BOIS DU VERT as laid down in Order No's, 2 & 4, W Coy making a strong point about 09B7.1 and X Coy another about 09B5.7 meanwhile Y & Z Coys will consolidate their position at West Edge of BOIS DU VERT – Y Coy making a strong point about 09A5.0 and Z Coy another about 09A4.6.
9. In the advance from the first to the second objective about 50 yds distance will be maintained between the waves of Y and Z Coys and 100 yds between the rear wave of Y & Z and the front wave at W & X which latter Coys will also keep 50 yds distance between waves. These distances however are only to be got by degrees as the barrage advances, the Coys getting out under the barrage in the usual way when it first falls at zero plus 7 hours.
10. Communications. In the advance from the first to second objective the Signalling Officer will be prepared to open communication Westwards from just WEST of BOIS DU VERT. Y & Z Coys will also push forward communication posts through the BOIS DU VERT at not more than 100 yds distance to keep touch with W & X Coys respectively.

11. Lewis Guns. Each Coy will have 1 Lewis Gun team with Battalion Headquarters which till the first objective (BLUE LINE) is consolidated will be at 07A1.8 and when the Battalion advances to capture the second objective will be about 08B1.3.
12. Flanks. Especial care must be taken to keep touch with battalions on our Right & Left.
13. The Artillery barrage will creep at the rate of 100 yds in 4 minutes, the bulk of the artillery in the advance to the second objective will concentrate on the BOIS DU VERT and the BOIS DU SART the Gulley in between being swept by 20 Machine Guns.
14. On capturing the second objective mark patrols will be pushed forward to the GREEN LINE which, if vacated by the enemy will then be occupied by two ... *(N.B. incomplete copy of Operational Order supplied by TNA)*