

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS OF 9TH (S) BN. ROYAL DUBLIN
FUSILIERS ON 15TH 16TH, 17TH & 18TH AUGUST 1917.
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At 8.0 p.m. on 15.8.17 the Battalion left the Vlamertinghe area No.3 and marched to position of assembly on BLACK LINE. Guides were met at X ROADS at FRIEZEBERG REDOUBT. Companies were led to their positions on assembly points according to the previously arranged Brigade Diagrammatic maps. All Companies reported in position by 11.30 p.m. Battalion H.Q.s. were established at D.25.A.20.70. During the whole night the enemy maintained an intermittent bombardment of the BLACK LINE this was intensified about 3 p.m. and became a barrage about ZERO hour, which made it extremely difficult to cross the BLACK LINE. At 1.20 a.m. 16.8.17 the Battalion was in touch with the 7th R.I.R. (D.25.A.5.3. on our Right, 8th R.I.M.S. Fus. (LOW FARM) on our Left and the 2nd R.D.F. (FRIEZEBERG REDOUBT) in support. The Battalion moved forward and first wave of A.B. & G Coys crossed the BLACK LINE at ZERO followed by their 2nd waves with "D" Coy in support. and "E" Coy of the Support Battalion.

At 7.30 a.m. a message was received from 2/Lieut Hickey (B Coy) saying Battalion held up about 100 yards from strong point and most of assaulting waves killed or wounded, this message was timed 5.40 a.m., flares as arranged were lit at ZERO plus 35 mins, so the strong point referred to in 2/Lieut Hickey's message was assumed to be BREMEN REDOUBT. as at 5.40 a.m. the Battalion should have been approaching this strong point.

At 7.25 a.m. a pigeon message was sent to ~~Headquarters~~. JUST repeating 2/Lieut Hickey's message. At 6.35 a.m. O.C. 7th R.I. Rifles was asked for situation report.

At 7.30 a.m. a message was sent to Brigade Headquarters (via FRIEZEBERG REDOUBT) reporting that the Battalion was held up presumably near BREMEN REDOUBT.

As soon as this message had been received 2/Lieut Martin and 2 O.R. together with the runner who brought the message from 2/Lieut Hickey were sent out to ascertain the situation, the runners became casualties soon after leaving Headquarters but 2/Lieut Martin apparently managed to get into touch with the Battalion and on returning to Headquarters about 2 hours later but when within 20 yards of Battalion Headquarters was shot through the head by a sniper and killed instantly. Any information this Officer may have gained was probably verbal as no written messages were found on his body.

At 9 a.m. a message reporting situation of 48th Infantry Brigade and asking for information re 49th was sent to the 8th R. I.M.S. Fus.

At 9.20 a.m. "C" Coy 2nd R.D.F. were ordered to be ready to go forward in support of "B" Coy 2nd R.D.F.

At 9.30 a.m. a message was received from O.C. "B" Coy. 6th R. I. Regt saying that he was now in position on our left. Another message was received at 10 a.m. from O.C. "B" Coy stating that the enemy appeared to be gathering for an attack on his front and asking for men to join with him and saying that he had orders to hold the old ~~XXX~~ BRITISH line at all costs.

At about 1 p.m. a message from Brigade (B.M.B. 129) timed 9.15 a.m. was received stating that a Company of 2nd R.D.F. had been ordered to move up in support. This Company was seen to move forward and an attempt was made to get into touch but both runners became casualties.

At 1.30 p.m. O.C. 2nd R.D.F. reported: "Following from Brigade timed 12.10 p.m. begins a.s.a.. Left Brigade are going to attack BERRY FARM again ends".

At 9.50 a.m. 2/Lieut JAMSON 49th att. 47th M.G. Coy returned to Battalion Headquarters and reported loss of both VICKERS GUNS by shell fire also both teams with the exception of 3 O.R. These men were sent back to report to O.C. 47th.