

2.

M.G. Coy to ask for another gun they did not return up to time of relief on night 17th -18th.

About 10 a.m. our Artillery of all calibres were falling short and messages were sent to Brigade H.Q. by pigeon and wire asking for correction to be made. About 1.30 p.m. 2/Lieut JAMSON went forward to ascertain the positions of other Battalions. He returned at 12.30 p.m. and reported that our assaulting Coys (A.B. & C.) had reached within 100 yards of RED DOTTED LINE but appeared to be cut off as the enemy held VAMPIRE FARM. He only saw wounded men who could give very little information. At 3.45. an apparent Counter Attack appeared to be developing on our left. Enemy came across the open in groups of 2 - 4 men making a line along the BREWEN REDOUBT which appeared to be stringly held. They also crossed the HANNEBEKE and reinforced posts at D.26.a.15.15. and vicinity -- S.O.S. Signals were fired with no result.

At 4 p.m. another message was sent to Brigade by wire intimating that there was a Counter attack on our left and apparently on our Right and that the enemy had been seen moving up through ZONNEBEKE and in the vicinity of a Dump at D.26.b.20.50.

When darkness set in a number of posts withdrew. Capt Byrne, 2/Lieut BEAUMONT with 4 C.R. of "B" Coy 2nd R.D.F. reported at 10 p.m. This was all of his Company that Capt Byrne could muster.

Our strength in the BLACK LINE were about 40 C.R. but a number of these became casualties from a direct hit on a Dug-out before morning. The night and following day was comparatively quiet with the exception of intermittent shelling and sniping.

Posts were established about 100 yards in front of the BLACK LINE. Search parties were sent out to collect wounded and brought in a considerable number.

At about 10.15 p.m. message number B.M.B. 165 was received and replied by our M.547. at 10.20 p.m. In the evening of the 17th inst. Capt COWLEY withdrew from his advanced posts and retired to the BLACK LINE. Search parties were again sent out at dusk to bring in wounded and stragglers.

The Battalion had relieved in the BLACK LINE 1st by the 7th BRISTERS and later in the night by the 7th K.O.S.B. Relief being completed by 2.15 a.m. 18/8/1917 Battalion returned to the VLAERTINGHE AREA no.3.

19.8.1917.

J. Hunt
Lieut-Colonel,
Commanding 9th (S) Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers.