

**NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
WAR DIARY**

**BATTLE OF ARRAS
MONCHY-LE-PREUX**

APRIL 1917

(EXCERPT)

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

VIGNACOURT

1/4/17

Marched to Beauval, length of march 10 miles.

BEAUVAL

2/4/17

Marched to Grenas, length of march 8½ miles.

GRENAS

3/3/17

Lt. Stick & 30 other ranks detached to special company at IV. Corps Depot.

5/4/17

Marched to Ivergny, length of march 8½ miles.

IVERGNY

6/4/17

Ordered to march to Coulemont. Orders cancelled later.

7/4/17

Marched to Coulemont, length of march 5 miles. Capt. Butler, Lieuts. Bartlett & Power and 7 other ranks left behind to join special company at IV Corps Depot. CSM. R. Postlewaite and CCMS L. Field promoted 2nd. Lieuts. dating from 5/4/17.

COULLEMONT

8/4/17

Marched to Gouy-en-artois, length of march 8½ miles.

10/4/17

GOUY-EN-ARTOIS

11/4-12/4/17

Orders received at 0130 to march to Arras. The Regt. marched with the Brigade at 8.15 am. Owing to accomodation not being available in Arras the Brigade was halted outside the town, and the billets were not entered by the Regt. until 3 p.m. On arrival orders were received to move up to the front line that evening. The Regt. marched with the Brigade at 6.30 pm. On the way up the Cambrai Road instructions were received to take over firing line on the right of Monchy-le-Preux held by the 6/Queens & Sussex Regts. 12 Division, from about O.l.d.13 to N.12.b.60 and so connect up with the 1/Essex Regt. on the left and 4/Worcestershire Regt. on the right.

ARRAS

12/4/17

LES FOSSES

13/4/17

The front line was taken over by Ia.m., Regtl. Hqrs. being established at Les Fosses Farm.

2.30

Verbal warning that the Brigade was to attack during the day, but that the attack would probably not take place.

11.00

Orders received to attack. The attack to commence at 2.30 p.m. Urgent message was sent to Brigade pointing out the impossibility of moving into position for attack. Owing to the impossibility of moving troops into the firing line by daylight the Nfld. Regt. was going to attack with only two companies, C. & D. Cos. being practically on the spot.

2 pm.

Attack postponed till next morning, the Regt. to be in Assembly Trench by 4.30 a.m.

MONCHY-LE-
PREUX

14/4/17

2 am.

Battalion Hqrs. moved to Monchy-le-Preux, O.l.c.3.9.

3 am.

Firing line relieved by 4/Worcestershire Regt.

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SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

MONCHY-LE-PREUX

14/4/17

1.
Regt. formed up in Assembly Trench O.d.5.0.6 O.b.5.1. dug by 2/Hampshire Regt. during the night, 1 platoon of A. Co. occupying a strong point dug by themselves during the night at the southern end of the Assembly trench. A good supply of water was dumped in Assembly trench in addition to that carried on the man. 2 guides per platoon were shown the position of Battn. Hqrs.

DISPOSITIONS:

b/

On the barrage falling C. & D. Cos. were to advance in the usual two waves direction due east (the direction was easy as both the small wood at O.2.d.9.5. and the Bois-du-Vert both visible from the Assembly trench). Behind the first wave four sections of B. Co. as "moppers up" advanced, 1 section behind each platoon of the first wave with orders to drop into first occupied German trench, the first wave to capture any second trench encountered, the second wave to jump the first wave and begin digging in on the objective, being reinforced as soon as possible by the first wave. D. Co. on the left was to capture a small wood at O.2.d.9.5. with left platoon of second wave and to make a strong point in front of it at O.3.c.1.5. C.Co. on the right was to make a strong point at O.2.d.5.0. facing S.E. with right platoon of second wave. If no second German trench was encountered the first wave would reach objective first and would be reinforced by second wave. B. Co. was to advance in the usual two waves behind C. & D. Cos. in support to occupy the trench held by the "moppers up" that had advanced with C.& D. Coys. and if no German trench was found to dig a support trench about O.2.d.0.5. and to send reinforcements forward to C. & D. Cos. as required. A. Co. was to be responsible for the right flank 1 platoon to be left in strong point at O.7.5.9. which had been dug during the night. The other 3 platoons to advance in the usual waves, 2 platoons in the first wave and the third platoon in the second wave behind the left leading platoon. The right leading platoon was to advance straight for and capture the Small Wood at O.8.b.1.1. which from previous reconnaissance appeared to be an enemy strong point and enfiladed our objective and to make a strong point S.E. of it at O.8.b.15.10 facing S. E. The left leading platoon was to make a strong point where the road crosses the spur at O.8.b.3.4. The third platoon in support to make a strong point at O.8.a.8.8. facing South. If the right leading platoon was unable to capture the wood at O.8.b.1.1. the left leading platoon was to attack from the left, and if necessary the third supporting platoon was to reinforce. 2 Regtl. snipers and 1 scout to remain in the Assembly trench vacated by each Co. to assist the advance by sniping if necessary and to report on the advance of that particular Company. The remainder of the scouts and snipers to be left at Battn. Hqrs. as a reserve. The Intelligence Officer to remain in an O.P. at the S.E. edge of Monchy-le-Preux and to report on the advance in general.

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MONCHY-LE-PREUX

14/4/17

3.am.

Operation Order No. 67 received from 88th Brigade.

4.45

Company Commanders in the Assembly trench verbally told alteration of objectives.

NEW DISPOSITIONS:

C. & D. Coys. to make their strong points at O.2.d.5.0. and O.3.c.1.5. with two platoons each instead of one. The Regtl. scouts & snipers (16 of each) to advance under the Intelligence Officer on the right of B. Co. Whilst the barrage remained on the Bois-du-Vert the scouts were to get up as close as possible to the wood and the snipers to take up position covering them along the ridge between the wood at O.2.d.9.5. and O.8.b.8.4. The Intelligence Officer observing from strong point at O.2.d.5.0. On the barrage lifting off the wood the scouts were to try and enter the wood and if this was seen to be possible O.C.'s. C. & D. Coys were to rush 1 platoon from each of their strong points at O.2.d.5.0. and O.3.c.1.5. to the west edge of the wood at O.9.a.5.3. and O.9.a.5.9. If the scouts made progress through the wood or if only slight opposition was met with, these two platoons were to force their way through the wood and occupy the eastern edge of it at O.9.a.9.2. and O.9.a.9.5.9. and make strong points there. The Regtl. scouts & snipers were to advance again and the snipers to take up position along the road O.9. central to O.9.b.8.7. while the scouts advanced up the ridge O.1.5.b.0.5. to O.10.a.3.3. If these scouts made progress or the resistance appeared to be feeble the Intelligence Officer at strong point O.2.d.5.0. was to inform O.C.B. Coy. who was to advance with his Coy. and occupy the right making strong points at either end of it and in the centre. The result of this operation if successful would be a position balloon shaped blown from Monchy-le-Preux which was already the apex of a salient.

5.am.

2 Germans surrendered at the Assembly trench and about 100 of the enemy were seen in the half light about 500 to 600 yards away apparently moving in the direction of the Windmill O.8.a.0.6. They did not appear to be in any formation, but unfortunately fire was opened upon them and before this could be stopped the enemy turned and moved north when it got a bit light. The enemy did not appear to be carrying arms, but no more gave themselves up.

5.30

The barrage fell and the Battn. advanced. The barrage was very weak and the shelling scattered, from reports received later it did not improve during the whole of the advance.

5.33

The enemy put down his barrage. Monchy-le-Preux was heavily shelled and the Battn. advancing was subjected to very heavy machine gun fire, apparently mostly from the front. The Windmill (ruined) at O.8.a.0.6. was apparently a small strong point,

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5.33 am.

11.6.17

but was enveloped and captured by A. Coy. who then moved straight on to their objective, the small wood at O.8.b.1.1. This apparently caused some trouble but was captured by the two leading platoons, the huts in the wood shortly after caught fire and the men were seen digging in. No report and no survivor ever returned from this wood.

The strong point at O.8.b.4.5. was apparently never made, but the one at O.8.a.8.8. was by 2/Lt. Langmead's platoon, No. 4. This officer reported a German strong point at about O.8.c.8.8.

C. Coy. crossed no enemy trench but passed a lot of dead Germans. The first wave was halted behind the tip of the open about O.2.d.5.2. while the second wave went over the ridge and were supposed to be digging in, but no report and no survivors ever came back from this wave. The 2 Lewis Guns of the first wave went up to the top of the ridge to cover the men digging but were not seen again, although the guns were heard firing at intervals. D. Coy. in their advance came on a German trench newly begun at about O.2.d.3.4., a few enemy wounded were in it and about 10 others were captured, the remainder retired. No. 13 platoon was left in the trench to mask a dump of wood about O.2.d.2.6. where a party of about 30 enemy were active. The dump had apparently been missed by the Essex Regt. in their advance, they having advanced on to their objective. The remaining three platoons advanced to their objective and were seen digging in. A number of men were seen to advance into the wood at O.2.d.9.5., this was also reported by the Essex but none ever returned.

B. Coy. advanced and took up a line rather to the right of the ridge, the right almost connecting up with A. Coy's. strong point at O.8.a.8.8. and the left near D. Coy's. platoon at O.2.d.4.4. The scouts and snipers were nearly all knocked out by shell fire soon after the start. During the advance casualties are estimated at over 30% and most of these were from machine gun fire. The wounded and presumably runners also were sniped on their way back, the fire coming from the right down in the valley. The Intelligence Officer also was hit on his way back to report Bois-du-Vert was impossible, he passed Lieut. Langmead at O.8.a.8.8. but did not get back. Nothing was seen of the 87th Bde. patrols, supposed to occupy the spur from O.8. central to O.8.c.7.4.

7.20 Essex Regt. reported on telephone to Brigade that their objective was taken and they were digging in.

7.30 Essex Regt. reported enemy massing on their left flank.

9.00 (About) A Lance Corporal of Essex came from left down B. Coy. line to A. Coy. strong point O.8.a.8.8. and reported half the Essex captured and the remainder retiring.

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9.00 am. At this time the enemy in large numbers advanced mostly from the left front. About 500 to 1000 came on to D. Coy. left in mass with skirmishers in front, practically surrounding D. Coy., also over 200 came from Bois du Vert. D. Coy. fought till surrounded at close range (about 50 yards) when two little knots of men were seen to surrender. About 10 of D. Coy. on the right of the line then ran for it, but only one man got back. The platoon of D. Coy. at O.2.d.4.4., B. Coy. and the platoon of A. Coy. at O.8.a.8.8. retired, also a few men of C. Coy. at O.2.d.5.3., but very few got back. While this retirement was going on the platoon of A. Coy. at O.7.b.5.9. was firing at about 2 Coys. of Germans advancing up the St. Rohart Factory - Monchy - le-Preux Road. The Lewis Gun and team were soon knocked out by a shell, but the remainder (19 out of a platoon of 37) were doing great execution. The Germans had been advancing in mass till fired on when they extended out on both sides of the road and came on. Unfortunately a wounded officer of this Company in the Assembly trench ordered the platoon to retire. The men were reformed at the back of the village and re-entered the firing line at O.7.a.1.81. No reports on their retirement were sent to Battn. Hqr. and the special observers had all been knocked out.

10.00 O.C. 4/Worcestershire Regt. holding the line on the right reported to Brigade by telephone that 200 enemy were between Monchy-le-Preux and Guemappe, and another 100 behind the wood at O.8.B.1.1.

10.05 A wounded man of the Essex drifted into Battn. Hqrs. and reported that the Essex were captured or killed.

10.10 Lieut. Keegan, the Battn. Signalling Officer, was sent down to the Assembly trench to observe and report. The bombardment of Monchy-le-Preux heavy all the morning was now very intense.

10.35 Lieut. Keegan returned and reported that we had not a single unwounded man on the east edge of Monchy-le-Preux and that 200 or 300 Germans were advancing along about 300 yards away. Battn. Hqrs. at once fell in, possible total 20. The telephone line to Brigade H.Q. had just broken so the Adjutant was immediately sent to report and Battn. Hqrs. hurried through Monchy towards the Assembly trench. The shelling of Monchy by the enemy was still intense so presumably the Germans had not yet entered the village. A few stragglers were met enroute and turned, but they probably did not come far. The returning lightly wounded were also asked to join up. At the last big house a pause was made, and from a ladder up to a shell hole in the wall the position was reconnoitered. The enemy were just jumping into the Assembly trench and half way towards it was the last hedge of the village on a bit of a bank at O.1.d.3.4. Battn. Hqrs made

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14/4/17

- a rush for the hedge about 100 yards across the open, rifle fire was at once opened by the enemy in front and a machine gun opened from the left front. Two if not more men were killed in this rush but the hedge was reached and the bank found to be the parapet of quite a good little section of trench.
- 10.50 Two officers, seven N.C.O's & Men reached the trench, viz;
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lt.Col. J.Forbes Robertson M.C | (Comdg. Officer) |
| Lieut. K. J. Keegan, | (Signalling Officer) |
| No.789 Sergt.J.R. Waterfield, | (Provost Sergt.) |
| 783 Corpl. C. Parsons, | (Sig. Corpl.) |
| 2115 L/C. W. Pitcher, | (Provost Corpl.) |
| 122 Pte. D.W. Curran | (Signaller) |
| 2110 Pte. J. Hounsell | (Signaller) |
| 1826 Pte. A. S. Rose | (Regt.Messenger) |
| 10778 Pte. V. M. Parsons. | (1st.Essex Regt.) |
- About 1½ hours later No. 1878 Corp. J. Hellier (Ord. Room Corpl.) crawled in, he having been temporarily knocked out and fallen into a shell hole. The trench commanded a very good field of fire and from its shape good views north and south as well as east. Directly to the front at a range of 100 to 1500 yards was the Assembly trench now full of Germans. The hedge gave plenty of cover from view and doubtless prevented many casualties. Fire was at once opened on the Germans and a good many hits quickly registered. A German machine gun away to the left, range about 200 yards was very trying, but after about 5 minutes action a British machine gun about 200 to 300 yards to the left rear opened up and probably knocked out the German machine gun as it ceased fire about 11.15 a.m. The enemy were pinned to the Assembly trench and other small parties reinforcing them were shot down. Large numbers of the enemy were seen in the distance crossing the hill in O.2.d. moving south west and also small parties at 500 to 600 yards, but owing to the necessity of great economy of ammunition fire was not as a rule opened up at any range over 300 yards. In the first two hours and not counting the first few minutes when a little rapid shooting was opened 40 Germans were shot at a close range.
- 11.30 A British Lewis Gun opened fire at 200 to 300 yards in right rear.
- 13.30pm. Heavy German attack developed to our right rear on the 4/Worcestershire Regt. By the sound of the firing it appeared as if the enemy had entered the village from the south.
- 13.55 The enemy sniping having died down and the shelling of Monchy being only Intermittent, report of the situation was sent to the 88th Brigade, also asking for reinforcements and that the little wood at O.8.b.l.l. appeared to be a German Hqrs. as messengers were continually running in and out of and that the enemy appeared to be massing behind it as troops moving over hill O.2.d. disappeared there and did not reappear.

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MONCHY-LE-PREUX

14/4/17

- 13.55 Pte. Rose crawled away with the message and returned with the answer at 1610.
- 14.45 Reinforcements of 1 platoon of 2/Hampshire Regt. appeared in houses behind also about this time our artillery shelled the small wood at O.8.b.l.l., so the village appeared to be safer from capture by the enemy.
- 16.15 The enemy heavily bombarded the village and continued it till 17.30 when it slackened off. During the afternoon our own guns put a barrage down east of the village. The Assembly trench caught a good many shells. This fire must have killed a good many of our wounded lying out in the open and those collected in the Assembly trench.
- 20.00 The platoon of 2/Hampshire Regt. relieved us in our trench as soon as it got dark. Before the light went the enemy were seen retiring in small parties from the Assembly trench and as there was no reason for absolute economy of ammunition a good deal of sniping was allowed. After the relief Lieut. Keegan went out with two men and brought in 5 of our wounded lying in Assembly trench who had survived.
- 20.10 Reported to O.C. Hampshire Regt. commanding Monchy and received permission to return to our Battn. Hqrs., collected there 26 N.C.O.'s & Men and received orders from Brigade to return to Arras after midnight. The Regt. made the attack with 20 officers and 501 N.C.O.'s & Men. Casualties: 17 Officers. 470 N.C.O's. and Men.

OFFICERS

Wounded	Wounded & Missing	Missing
Capt. Rendell	K Capt. Rowsell	W 2/Lt. Clousten
Capt. Raley	K Lieut. Holloway	K 2/Lt. Gardner
Lieut. Murphy	K 2/ " N. Outerbridge	K 2/Lt. Smith
" Bemister	W " Baird	K 2/Lt. Alcock.
" James	W " Grace	
2/" Clare	K " Stephenson	
" Herder		

N.C.O'S & MEN

Killed	Wounded	Wounded & Missing	Missing
18	134	22	296 - 470

ARRAS

- 14/4/17 Lieut. Rendell & 2/Lt. Hickey join Battn. also 14 other ranks.
- 15/4/17 Remnants of Regt. in Ronville. Day occupied in checking casualties.
- 16/4/17 Capt. Butler, Lieuts. Bartlett, Stick & 2/Lt. Summers joined Battn.
- 18/4/17 39 other ranks join Battn. Composite Battn. made of about 200 1/Newfoundland & about 200 1/Essex under command of Lt. Col. J. Forbes Robertson. Composite Battn. marched up to reserve trench in Brown Line and took over trenches on Orange Hill from 1/Dublin Fus. in H.34 c & d.

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SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

BROWN LINE

19/4/17
20/4/17

Parties bury dead & salvaging. No casualties.
Party of 1 officer and 40 men report to Col.
Hext, 12 Div. Art. for bridging trenches.
Also a party carrying wire & screw posts to
Monchy. Casualties NFLD. 2 killed, 5 wounded.

21/4/17

Carrying party 100 Nfld. & 100 Essex report
to Brigade Hqrs., buried several dead of the
K.R.R. & R.F.A.

22/4/17 04.30

Portion of Brown Line shelled by gas shells.
Orders received from Brigade to send 1/Essex
detachment back to Arras after dark and 1/NFLD.
to go up to firing line trenches in N.12c.
and hold them which was also Assembly trench
for 2/Hampshire Regt. and 4/Worcestershire
Regt. for their attack. 2/Lt. Summers and
25 men report as carriers to 88 M.G. Coy. for
the attack next day.

LESFOSSES FARM

&
MONCHY.

23/4/17 04.45

Took over trenches in N.12c.

DISPOSITION

A.B. & D. Coys (4 platoons) in the firing line.
C. Coy (1 platoon) in supports and Battn. Hqrs.
in a cave in N.12.a.3.3. Big attack by units of
5th. 3rd. & 1st. Armies. 15th. Division
astride Cambrai Road held up by village Guemappe,
exposing right flank of 4/Worcesters, 2/Hampshires
& 1/NFLD.

06.40

C. Coy. (1 platoon) ordered up to occupy trench
at O.7.c.1.4. in 15th. Div. area. to guard
our right flank. Battn. Hqrs. stand to arms.

0850

C. Coys. trench filled by Royal Scots & other
Regts. of 15th. Div. in their retirement.

1300

Guemappe captured by 15th. Div. C. Coy. returns
to Battn. Hqrs. in cave, meanwhile 4/Worcester
Regt. had gained their objective, i.e. the
small wood at O.8.b.1.1. and a line about 500
yards due north of it. The Hampshire Regt.
unable to go forward to their objective owing
to 15th. Division being held up remained in
close support to 4/Worcesters also making a
defensive line facing south.

1330

Hqrs. of Middlesex Regt. arrive in the cave
and a company sent up to reinforce Worcesters.

1800

Heavy shelling on our front, the trench held
by A.B. & D. Coys. being our original front
line get it particularly hot.

1900

Big enemy counter attack develops. 4/
Worcesters driven back behind small wood at
O.8.b.1.1.

2200

Regtl. Transport arrives with water & rations.
The transport of Brigade Hqrs. & 4/Worcesters
having arrived a few minutes earlier had many
casualties from shelling at LesFosses Farm, our
transport gets away with the loss of one half
limber.

2300

Orders received to return to Arras at 2 a.m.
and that the Middlesex take over new front
line.

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ARRAS

24/4/17 0200
0330
1700

Companies start marching back to Arras.
Battn. Hqrs. march back.
Bus to Simeoncourt billets.
During the whole of the 23rd. the Regt. was subject to very severe shell fire and a lot of machine gun fire. Lieut. Bartlett did most excellent work in the trench and when the 15th. Div. retired on our right he found they had nobody of higher rank than Lance Corporal, so did good work in re-organising them. Strength of Regt. going up, - 12 officers, 220 N.C.O's. & Men.

Casualties:

Officers:

Wounded

Capt. Butler
2/Lt. Hickey

N.C.O'S. & MEN:

Killed	Wounded	Missing	
10	48	3	- 61.

SIMEONCOURT

26/4/17 0900

Marched to Gouy-en-Artois, length of march 3 miles.

GOUY-en-ARTOIS

27/4/17 1000

Marched to Bayencourt, length of march 9 miles. Billeted in huts about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from village.

BAYENCOURT

28/4/17

2nd. Lt. Edens and 6 men rejoin from hospital.

30/4/17

The following promotions took place.
To be Lieutenants: dating 27-11-16
2/Lt. J. Edens,
18-4-17
" N. Outerbridge
(Missing)
20-4-17
" H. Outerbridge
(Wounded)

(Sgd.) Kevin J. Keegan , Lt. & Adjt.

1st. Newfoundland Regiment.

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BROWN LINE
1/6/17

Battalion relieved in Brown Line by 13th Kings. and marched back to billets in Arras about 4 miles.

ARRAS
4/6/17

Battalion entrained enroute ^{SW} to Bonneville about 30 miles.

BONNEVILLE
6/6/17

Following officially reported prisoners of War in Germany, viz - 2/Lt. N. A. Grace, 2/Lt. A. B. Baird & 20 O.R. Lt. R. P. Holloway (missing), 575 Sgt. A. Ash (killed) 249 L/C A. Jesseau (missing). 402 Pte. F. M. O'Neil was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch of 9th. April as deserving of special mention.

7/6/17

Draft of 14 officers and 92 other ranks arrived.

11/6/17

Draft of 14 O.R. arrived. Following officially reported prisoners of war in Germany, viz: 2/Lt. A. Clouston & 2 O.R.

14/6/17

Draft of 3 Officers & 3 O.R. arrived.

15/6/17

5 O.R. officially reported P. of W. in Germany. All above were made prisoners as result of battle of Monchy on April 14th.

19/6/17

Draft of 118 O.R. arrived.

27/6/17 1700

Left Bonneville where Battalion had been in rest billets for training purposes since the 6th. & entrained at Doullens about 7 miles.

28/6/17 0100

Detrained at Proven in Belgium.

29/6/17 1815

Left Proven and went to copse near Weosten about 5 miles.

(Sgd.) A. L. Hadow, Lt. Colonel,

Comdg. 1st. Newfoundland Regiment.

OPERATION ORDER NO.66

by
Brig.General D.E.Cayley C.M.G., Comdg.88 Brigade.

13 April 1917.

Ref. Map 1/20000 Sheet 51b S.W.

The 88th. Brigade will attack and capture the German trenches east of Monchy-le-Preux on April 13th at an hour zero which will be notified later, and will consolidate a line roughly as follows: O.2.d.5.0., O.2.d.7.5., O.2.b.5.2. Strong detachments will be pushed forward at O.8.b.3.5. to O.3.c.1.5. and O.3.c.1.9. where strong points will be constructed. The flanks will also be secured by a series of strong points extending from O.2.d.5.0. to O.1.D.4.3. and from O.2.b.5.2. to O.1.B.7.9.

The attack will be carried out under a creeping barrage which will open about 0.2000 - 1 32000 in front of our line of posts on the eastern edge of Monchy-le-Preux. This barrage will move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes. There will also be a standard barrage on the enemy position. At 044 the barrage will jump to the line extending from the wood in 09A through 030 & A to Keeling Cops in 132D and remain there for 36 minutes to allow the positions to be consolidated i.e. until 1 hour 20 minutes after zero. The 17th. Div. will attack on our left and effect a junction with left of our attack at O.1.b.T.9.

2. Before zero hour the Essex and Newfoundland Regts. will be formed up in our present front line E. of Monchy-le-Preux on a front from about O.1.b.5.1. to O.1.d.5.0.

3. The boundary between battalions will be a line drawn from 50 yards north of road running East and W. directly south of the words Monchy-le-Preux to O.2.d.7.5.

4. Men will go forward in fighting order as laid down except that every available tool will be taken forward up to 50% of attacking force.

5. The advance will be made in two waves, each battalion on a front of two companies; the frontage of each battalion being about 500 yards.

6. The O.C. Machine Gun Co. will detail 1 section to go forward as mobile section. The 87th Machine Gun Co. will be under his command. He will arrange to cover the advance with a machine gun barrage and also to protect the flanks of the attacking troops.

7. A contact aeroplane will be in the air from zero onwards. Troops will light flares after attaining their objective when called upon to do so by the aeroplane.

8. The London Field Co. R.E. will be prepared to go forward after dark to assist in the consolidation and wiring of the captured position.

9. On the advance commencing the Worcestershire Regt. will extend their left so as to take over the line held by the Newfoundland Regt. The Hampshire Regt. will detail 1 company to lightly hold the line vacated by the Essex Regt.

10. 2 battalions of 87 Brigade will cross high ground in N.4.A & B. at zero and will take up position in any trenches in square N.6.

11. Battalion Hqrs. will not go forward until the position has been gained.

12. Brigade Hqrs. will remain in their present position.

Issued at 0810.

(Sgd.) P.N. Wilson, Capt. Bde.
Major, 88 Bde.

Copy 1. Staff, 2. Diary, 3. Worcesters, 4. Hants, 5. Essex,
6. Nfld., 7. M.Gun, 8. 87 Bde., 9. 29 Div. G.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 67.

by
Brig.General D.E.Cayley C.M.G., Comdg.88 Brigade.

14 April 1917.

1. 88th Bde. Order No.66 is cancelled. The attack mentioned will take place to-day 14th. inst. at an hour to be notified later.
2. The attack will be carried out as originally arranged. In addition to artillery support mentioned, the 3rd. & 17th. Div. artillery will also assist.
3. On the objectives being attained battalions will push out patrols after the barrage lifts to ascertain whether the Bois-du-Vert, Bois-du-Sart, Bois des Aufapines and Keeling Cops are held by the enemy and will occupy them and the high ground in O9D in strength if possible. Similarly the 87 Bde. will push out patrols under the 3rd. Div. artillery creeping barrage to occupy the spur from o.8. central to O.8.c.7.4. If possible these patrols will advance to the gardens on the Cambrai Road in O.14. A. & B.
4. 2 Bns. 86 Bde. will be placed at disposal of G.O.C. 88 Bde. as a reserve. They will occupy the strong points at Cahpel & Orange Hills at Zero hour and remain there until further orders. Each Bn. will send a liaison officer to 88 Bde. Hqrs. at H.34 central at zero hour.
5. The London Field Co. R.E. will be at disposal of G.O.C. 88 Bde. The officer commanding London Field Co. will report at Bde. Hqrs. at H.34 central for orders at 1700.
6. In order to assist in the consolidation E. of Monchy 51st. Bde. (17 Div.) will place 1 Bn. at disposal of 88 Bde. This Bn. will be moved forward so as to commence work as soon after dark as possible. The officer commanding this Bn. will report at 88 Bde. Hqrs. H.34 central at 3 p.m. for orders.
7. All prisoners will be handed over to A.P.M. 29th.Div. at Estaminet Corner on main Cambrai Road where A.P.M. will have escort.

(Sgd.) P.N. Wilson, Capt.
Brigade Major 88th Bde.

Copies to :

1. Staff
2. Diary
3. Worcesters
4. Hants
5. Essex
6. Nfld.
7. M.G. Coy.
8. 86 Bde.
9. 87 Bde.
10. 51 Bde.
11. 29 Div.
12. London Fd. Coy.