

Secret.

2nd Bn. The Durham Light Infantry.

Additional Instructions in connection with the Raid
which will be carried out on the night 8/9th April.

DRESS. Jerkins will be worn if desired. Boots and puttees.
Steel helmets coated with mud. Rifles and bayonets - bayonets
coated with mud. Hands and faces blackened with charcoal.

S.A.A. 50 Rds. - 10 of which will be in the magazine before
leaving, remainder in pockets or a handkerchief as preferred.

HAND GRENADES. 6 per man, carried in aprons. They will be
supplied in Dug-out at 9 p.m.

P. Bombs. Parties of C. & D. Coys. each man to carry one P.Bomb
in his side pocket. Supplied in dug-out.

KNOB-KERRIES. To be carried by N.C.Os.

REVOLVERS and WHISTLES. To be carried by Officers and Sergeants.
Revolvers will be issued at H.Q. tomorrow afternoon.

FIELD DRESSING. Each person to have a Field Dressing.

P.H. RESPIRATORS. To be worn. Box Respirators to be left in
assembly Dug-out.

SPUN YARN. Each man to be provided with a piece 5 yds. long for
securing prisoners. Spun yarn will be issued later on.

WIRE CUTTERS. Wire cutters on rifles.

ESCORT for PRISONERS. B.Coy will detail 1 N.C.O. and 4 men to
be in readiness at the point of return to our own trenches to
escort prisoners to Bn. H.Q.

CONFERENCE. The Commanding Officer will see all Officers and
Sergeants taking part at Bn. H.Q. at 2.0 p.m. tomorrow 8th inst.

PLACE of ASSEMBLY. Parties will assemble at Dug-out immediately
N. of junction of RAILWAY ALLEY and Reserve Line at 9.0 p.m.,
8th instant, in marching order and all articles of equipment not
required will be left there. The men will return to the same
dug-out.

Tonight the men of C. Coy. taking part in the Raid
will remain in Close Support by Coy. H.Q.

Raiders will not be employed on carrying or fatigues
tonight or tomorrow.

Coy. Commanders will make a careful inspection of all
the articles to be used in the Raid.

Every precaution is to be taken in case of a counter-
raid by the enemy.

MOBILE CHARGES. 1 man from each party will attend H.Q. at
2 p.m. tomorrow to be instructed in their use.

PERSONAL EFFECTS. Each person taking part in the Raid will leave
behind all personal letters etc., Cap and Collar Badges.

7/4/17.

(Sgd). J. Tindle, Lieut. & Adjt.

S E C R E T

RAID INSTRUCTIONS.

by

Lt. Col. A. E. Irvine, D.S.O., Commanding 2nd Bn. The Durham Light Inf.

(1917)

On night of 27th April at ZERO enemy's line will be raided at H. 31.d.2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to H. 31.d.2.6 $\frac{1}{2}$ with the object of securing an identification, capturing a Machine Gun, and destroying M.G. emplacement and dug-outs. The raiders will only go as far as enemy's front line.

2. The Raid will be carried out by three parties under direction of Capt. McCullagh:-

(a). B. Coy. contingent - 2/Lieut. Moir and 12 O.R.
1 Sgt.
1 Cpl.
10 Ptes.
12

(b). D. Coy contingent - 2/Lieut. Rees and 12 O.R.
1 Sgt.
1 Cpl.
10 Ptes.
12

(c). C. Coy. contingent - Sgt. Cannon and 12 O.R.
1 Cpl.
1 L/Cpl.
10 Ptes.
12

(d). Covering Party - Sergt. Jackson, 10 Snipers, and 2 Lewis guns with half teams.

1 Stokes Gunner with 3 shells will be attached to parties (a), (b), and (c).

Two wire cutters with each party (a), (b), and (c) also a mobile charge.

3. Point of entry - H. 31.d.2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - H. 31D.2.6 $\frac{1}{2}$. C. Coy. contingent under Sgt. Cannon will remain at point of entry and destroy Dug-out situated 20 yards down C.T.

D. Coy. contingent will enter at H. 31.D.2.6 $\frac{1}{2}$ and destroy Dug-out situated about 20 yards down C.T.

Both these parties will establish temporary blocks down C.T. and main trench and both parties will be provided with a mobile charge.

B. Coy. contingent, party (a), will enter at H. 31.D.2.7. capture M.G. at H. 31.d.2.7 and destroy emplacement by placing mobile charge on leaving trench.

Parties will remain in Trench 15 Mins. returning at ZERO plus 19.

Signal for retiring will be whistle blasts at Zero plus 19 signals to be given by 2/Lieut. Moir's party.

Covering party will cover retirement of the raiders and then return.

4. Raiding party will be in position at head of BOYAU 46 at Zero minus 30 minutes and file out through gaps already prepared in following order:-

C. Coy. - Left.
B. Coy. - Centre.
D. Coy. - Right.

and lie down in front of our own wire as follows:-

C. Coy. B. Coy. D. Coy.



Signal for advance will be the 18 Pdr. Barrage. As soon as barrage commences, parties will advance in three columns (the left directing) and jump into trench as soon as barrage lifts at Zero plus 4.

Covering party (3) will, by Zero minus 10, lay out lines on both flanks (men at 30 paces interval) to within 50 yards of enemy's trenches.

O.C. Snipers will arrange for 2 guides to lead the Raid. These men will have previously reconnoitred the gap.

5. Prisoners will be escorted to our lines and brought to Battalion H.Q. Identifications will be collected from any killed.
6. The Medical Officer will arrange for a First Aid Post to be established at Right Front H.Q.
7. Signalling Officer will arrange for a telephone at junction of Support Line and BOYAU 46.
8. Returning raiders will report themselves to an officer detailed by O.C. Right Front Coy. at Right Front Coy. H.Q.
9. Copy of Tables of Barrages will be communicated later.
10. O.C., Machine Gun Coy. will kindly arrange flank barrages along C.T. from H.31.b.4.1 and H.31.D.2.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and generally behind the raided area.
11. The L.T.Ms. will kindly deal with enemy's line between 14 BIS and N. edge of BOIS RASE.
12. On completion of Raid the raiders will be accommodated at Battalion H.Q.
13. Watches will be synchronised at Zero minus 2 hours.
14. Zero hour will be notified later. (2 A.M.)

(Sd) J. Smith,
Lieut. & Adj.

Sketch showing Artillery Barrage is attached.

STOKES MORTARS.

Zero to Zero plus 3 - The Stokes Mortars will barrage on both flanks as shewn on sketch 1.

Zero plus 3 - The two left (N) Stokes will cease fire and open again at Zero plus 4 on point as shewn on Sketch 2.

The two right (S) Stokes Mortars will continue firing until Zero plus 20 when they and the two left Stokes will gradually slacken off.

18 Pdr. Barrage and 4.5" Hows.

As shewn on sketches 1 and 2.

60 Pdrs. - Counter battery work beginning at Zero.

ROLL of Officers and Other Ranks taking part in Raid
on night of 8/9th April 1917.

	Captain McCullagh, H.R.	Superintending.
	2/Lieut. Moir, R.B.O..	1/c Party (a).
	2/Lieut. Rees, D.M.	1/c Party (b).
No. 10138.	Sergt. Connon, S.	1/c Party (c).
No. 11895.	Sergt. Jackson, F.O.	1/c Party (b) Covering.

Party (a). B. Coy.

No. 10218.	Sergt. Hodgson, J.	
No. 8582.	Cpl, Harding, J.M.	
No. 53607.	L/Cpl. Wooff, R.J.	Waiting Man.
No. 22/41.	Pte. Hodgson, W.	
No. 9866.	" Madden, J.	
No. 14129.	" Malpass, J.	
No. 35874.	" Peart, A.	
No. 26637.	" Blackburn, J.	
No. 930.	" Robson, P.	
No. 18352.	" Wright, J.T.	
No. 26778.	" Faulkner, W.	Volunteers.
No. 43112.	" Brydon, W.	"
No. 9023.	" Parkes, J.	

Party (b). D. Coy.

No. 12319.	Sgt. Alderson, W.	
No. 11116.	L/Cpl. Phillips, C.	Volunteer.
No. 8876.	Pte. Theasby, J.	"
No. 8333.	" Temple, G.	"
No. 57781.	" Rutter, H.	
No. 43132.	" Meadows, T.	
No. 23277.	" Thompson, R.	
No. 1433.	" Roberts, W.	
No. 38903.	" Warburton, H.	
No. 36733.	" Watson, J.	
No. 37710.	" Thorley, G.A.	Waiting Man.
No. 13217.	" Cudd, D.R.	
No. 26850.	" Reidling, C.F.	

Party (c). C. Coy.

No. 10138.	Sgt. Cawte, J.H.	Waiting man.
No. 11335.	Cpl. Bullock, J.	
No. 39995.	L/Cpl. Taylor, R.	
No. 8095.	Pte. Agnew, P.	
No. 38499.	" Anderson, E.H.	
No. 32760.	" Walker, C.	
No. 43137.	" Raine, A.	
No. 36344.	" Tindall, W.	
No. 21963.	" Murray, J.	
No. 43153.	" Wardle, J.	
No. 16724.	" McDonald, R.	
No. 42509.	" Bell, J.	
No. 8277.	" Peacock, J.	

Party (d). (Covering) - Snipers.

No. 43144.	Pte. Smith, J.	
No. 12444.	" McManus, E.	
No. 32175.	" Scott, H.	
No. 9578.	" Colbeck, W.	Guide.
No. 11704.	" Welsh, E.	"
No. 12205.	" Jennings, A.	
No. 27277.	" Barrett, H.	
No. 9416.	" Race, J.	
No. 10392.	" Kane, H.	Guide.
No. 43148.	" Smith, W.	

REPORT on RAID

by

The 2nd Bn. The Durham Light Infantry.

The Raid carried out on the enemy front line between H.31.d.2.8½ to H.31.d.2.6½ on the night 8/9th April, 1917, at 2 a.m. was held up at the German wire under close rifle and Machine Gun fire, and rifle grenades.

The timing and preliminary arrangements were thoroughly understood by all ranks and worked perfectly, the Raiders arriving at enemy wire before the barrage lifted. Every man thoroughly understood the work to be done. The Raiders report that the enemy sent up an S.O.S. signal consisting of Golden Rain followed by pink rockets before they reached the German entanglement. His barrage, which was heavy, opened almost at once.

The three raiding columns led by Guides (who had reconnoitred the wire before moonrise and reported "Gaps quite satisfactory to allow raiding parties into the Trench") missed the gaps and came under fire from the Machine Gun, which was one of the objectives. At the same time another Machine Gun opened on their right flank from the North, and a bombardment of rifle grenades was opened from enemy front trench.

The artillery barrage is reported as perfect and I can only assume that, the barrage lifted while the raiders were struggling in the wire. 2/Lieut. Rees, who was in charge of the right party reports "Barrage excellent" but did not prevent snipers manning parapet or Machine Gun firing." Our bombers endeavoured to bomb the gun team but failed. At this stage most of our casualties were caused by rifle grenades. Officers, N.C.Os. and men made repeated efforts to get through wire, losing heavily, until all three parties were compelled to abandon the attempt and lie down in front of the wire. At this stage 2/Lieut. Moir was killed while trying to force a way for his party.

2/Lieut. Rees told the men to return to our lines. This Officer and Sergeant Cannon, who commanded the left party remained until the men were under-way. They were both wounded on rising, and took shelter in a shell-hole, and saw a party of 15 Germans leave front trench and remove the body of one of our dead from the wire. 2/Lieut. Rees and Sergt. Cannon then crawled back to our lines. It is not likely the enemy obtained any identification us all letters, badges, and identity discs had been collected. 2/Lieut. Moir was wearing uniform with regimental buttons of the H.L.I.

Our Officers, N.C.Os. and men were impressed by the gallantry of the Machine Gunners, and the coolness of his snipers under our barrage.

The repulse of the enterprise was, in my opinion, due to:-

- (1). The guides missing their way.
- (2). Artillery registering on objective on day of Raid.

All signalling communication was broken by enemy barrage 1 minute after Raiders left our front line.

continued.

The Artillery support throughout was excellent. No shells burst short.

Some of the men of the right party state they passed a derelict trench after getting through enemy wire and that they bombed a dug-out. I am satisfied no men entered German front line, which was strongly held by troops, who appeared to be well prepared and on the alert. It is possible these men entered an enemy sap mistaking it for his front line, and bombed a small dug-out in it. Certainly none of the objectives were reached.

Total casualties in Raid were:-

Killed	-	2/Lieut. Moir and 1 O.R.
Wounded	-	2/Lieut. Rees and 15 O.R.
Missing, believed killed	-	6 O.R.

Total casualties from enemy retaliation on our front system:-

Killed	-	1 O.R.
Wounded	-	19 O.R.

9/4/17.

(Sgd). E. V. Manger, Major.
Commanding 2nd Bn. The Durham Light Infantry.