

REPORT ON RAID CARRIED OUT BY 1st. BATTALION,
1st INFANTRY BRIGADE on the night of 29/30th JUNE 1918.

REFERENCE MAP.

Brigades Trench Map Area H.

The objective of the raid was that portion of the Enemy Trenches known as the Right of Water Fort N 11 a & b.

The attacking troops were composed of two trench storming parties under the command of Lieut's H.H. HOPKIN and B.G. LITTLER, a parapet party with Captain P.L. HOWELL PRICE and a covering Force, under the command of Lieutenant W.H. PRIOR. The attack was under the control of Captain P.L. HOWELL PRICE, who was connected by telephone with G.O. 1st. Battalion, who was in a dug-out at entrance to Sally Port with P.O.O.

At 2345 the Raiders left our parapet at Sally Port N 5 A 63, and after forming up in their respective parties advanced to the "Rest" position. At 2400 our artillery commenced their bombardment when the raiding party, with the exception of the covering Force under Lieutenant W.H. PRIOR who remained at "Rest" advanced to the edge of the enemy's wire.

At 0005 the artillery lifted and formed a barrage. The Raiders then forced their way through the Germans wire which had not been cut by the P.M.s in any way, and after about 5 minutes entered the German Trenches.

Up to this time our men had not met with any opposition, though the enemy's artillery was very quick in replying to our bombardment, and shelled our front line trenches very heavily, as soon as our guns opened fire.

The white tape to indicate the return route was taken out safely to the enemy's parapet at point of entry, and then run right and left along the trench to ensure the two storming parties would easily find the way out of the trench, and was effective.

The left storming party under Lieutenant H.H. HOPKIN discovered only one fair size dug-out and two Germans. One of the latter was killed and the other taken prisoner.

The dug-out was carefully searched, but was found to be completely empty. The dead man was searched and any articles found on his body were collected.

The right storming party under Lieutenant B.G. LITTLER located two dug-outs, one containing 5 men and the other 4. They were promptly bombed. One surrendered and was taken prisoner. The others showed flight and were killed.

The Centre or parapet party were meanwhile stationed on the enemy's parapet at point of entry, and were engaged in passing the prisoners and our wounded back through the wire to the connecting files. Two men were engaged in knocking in earth to form a step to facilitate the exit of the storming parties.

Two dug-outs were blown up by the sappers, one being concrete and one built of wood.

After the parties had been 7 minutes in the trench, Captain P.L. HOWELL PRICE sounded the Claxton Horn as a signal for their withdrawal.

The parties were safely withdrawn with the exception of No 243 Sergeant Downer G.R. who was killed in the trench, and whose body became very firmly entangled in the enemy's wire, while attempt was being made to carry him out, and had to be abandoned.