

Name.

GUNN

Corps.

A.F.S. Higgins

Rank

Pvt.

Regtl. No.

2584

John Alexander

Medal.

VICTORY

BRITISH

STAR

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Roll.

9/105 B3

ds.

9/118 B.3

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Remarks.

W.M.F.M.

14.11.16

Theatre of War first served in

11) France,

Date of entry therein

1-5-15

K. 1380.

Correspondence.

Address.

15th. NOVEMBER, 1916.

On the night of the 12/13th. November, 1916, the Battalion moved up to its position in HUNTERS TRENCH. A halt of one hour was made just before the entrance to FOURTH AVENUE and ~~mix~~ hot soup issued to the men. Considerable difficulty was found in getting into HUNTERS TRENCH as it was very narrow in places, but the Battalion was ready in position at 3.20 a.m. on 13th. November.

Platoon Commanders at once set to work and cut away our own wire in places where necessary. Two minutes before Zero the left of the leading wave ("A" Company) moved out and lay down in front of our wire in touch with the 2nd. H.L.I.

Up to Zero the Battalion had suffered no casualties. The mist was of great assistance in helping us to get into the assembly trenches unseen.

At Zero the first wave went over followed immediately by the second, third and fourth waves. Each wave was composed of a full Company, and the Companies were placed in the order of "A", "B", "C" and "D". The Lewis Guns of each company went over immediately ~~after~~ in rear of their respective Companies. I had arranged ~~with~~ each wave should move out as closely as possible on the heels of the wave preceding it, as I thought that the 6th. Seaforth Highlanders would probably be down into HUNTERS TRENCH almost before my battalion was clear of it. As it turned out the first wave of the 6th. Seaforth Highlanders came down into HUNTERS TRENCH just as the last wave of my battalion was leaving it. The leading wave halted at about 15 yards from our own barrage, and as it lifted they rushed the front line, giving the Germans no time to get out of their dug-outs. The bombing parties were busily engaged until Zero plus 20 in clearing dug-outs, and they had considerable difficulty with German parties in the communication trenches.

In the meantime the second wave had carried the second line and commenced to clear it; this wave captured a Minenwerfer. They also sent down about 50 prisoners.

At 7 a.m. Lieutenant McCallum, commanding "B" Company re-organized the remains of his Company and started to lead them forward to reinforce the fourth wave, but as soon as they started away from the second German line they were fired on by some Germans concealed in shell holes near the German first line. They therefore retired and dealt with this party before going on. Having done so they advanced again and eventually reinforced the leading line of the battalion.

The third wave advanced on the third German line and were entering it when the barrage lifted off it. This wave was considerably troubled by snipers on their right flank. There appears to have been a gap between the right flank of the Argylls and the left flank of the 5th. Seaforths, which was afterwards dealt with by a company of the 6th. Gordons. The third wave had orders to deal with two dug-outs located at Q.5.c.3.5.3.5., which lay between the objectives of the second and third

From information derived from a captured German map a Battalion Headquarters was suspected at Q.5.c.5.0.5.5, which was just in front of the objective of the third wave. On obtaining the objective, therefore, the third wave, Lieutenant Munro, accompanied by 2nd. Lieutenant Miller, went forward to search for this dug-out, and there captured a Battalion Commander, four other officers and a staff of 45 men (believed to belong to the 2nd. Battalion of the 62nd. Regiment).

At 9.20 a.m. I received information from the officer commanding the fourth wave that they had entered the fourth German line. They were afterwards shelled out of it, and retired to the third German line. It appears a little doubtful whether this wave did actually reach the fourth German line; owing to the destructive effect of our artillery fire it was almost impossible to recognise the ground. It is, however, certain that they consolidated eventually with the third wave in the third German line, and remained there until the whole battalion moved forward later in the day to try and occupy the line of the WAGON ROAD.

The battalion was at this time (9.20 a.m.) in touch with the 2nd.H.L.I. on the left and the 5th.Seaforths on the right.

At 4.25 p.m. orders were received from the Brigade to seize and consolidate the line of the WAGON ROAD from its junction with the green line to Q.5.b.6.3. This movement was commenced at dusk, but the advance was stopped on the green line by our artillery barrage, which was turned on 150 yards east of the green line. The battalion therefore consolidated on the green line from Q.5.d.1.5. to Q.5.c.6.8., and continued to hold this line until finally relieved. Contact was obtained with the 2nd.H.L.I. on the left and the 6th.Gordon Highlanders on the right.

Two 'Tanks' proceeded up towards BEAUMONT HAMEL during the afternoon, but one stuck between the first and second German lines about Q.4.d.9 $\frac{1}{2}$.1 $\frac{1}{2}$.; the other proceeded to the northern part of BEAUMONT HAMEL and stuck the other side of the village.

The casualties for the battalion during the fight were estimated at 250; at the present time (November 18th) they have turned out to be 265.

Remarks on Operations are attached on a separate sheet.

(Sgd) R. Campbell

Comdg: 1/8th.Bn. Argyll & Suth'd Highrs.
Lieut-Colonel,