

Battalion Diary Extract

1/4TH BATTALION THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS

1917

April

9th. 5.45a.m: Attack on Vimy Ridge. The Battalion was ordered to attack and capture the German trenches from A.23.a.5.6. to A.23.b.c.5 and part of the LILLE Road salient to form a defensive flank between A.22.b.4.4 and A.23.a.2.6. This latter formed a separate operation but was carried out simultaneously with the remainder of the attack and in close touch with the 5th Canadian on the left; this operation will be described separately. (Ref Map. Sheet 51 B.N.w.1. 1/10,000)

The Bn was formed up in Assembly trenches in 3 waves. Leading wave 3 Platoons No 1 company, 2nd wave 4 Platoons Nos 2 and 4 companies, 3rd wave 4 Platoons Nos 2 and 4 companies. On our right 1/9th Royal Scots. At zero (4.45am) the whole moved off, the leading wave capturing the front line without casualties. The 2nd wave passed through the front line and immediately came under MG fire, from M guns which fired through the barrage. The officers of No 4 Coy all became casualties and the advance stopped. Capt WILL then led his company (No 1) forward. The 2nd position was blown to pieces and opposition slight. The whole line reinforced by the No 1 Coy advanced the objective. Two MG's which had been holding up the advance were put out of a selection by bombers.

A mixed party of all 3 companies then proceeded to bomb forward up a trench at the end of which touch was to be established with the CANADIANS on the left, opposition being encountered all the way. The Lewis guns came into action several times.

7.45am: Junction with the Canadians.

8.15am: Reports received from companies containing dispositions and casualties.

Capt Will had then withdrawn his company to German 1st line, and consolidation of captured position was proceeding.