OPERATION ORDERS No. 175
Copy No. 2
by Lt. Col. G. Deakin, Comdg., 16th Battn.
The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

(This cancels all orders issued previously.)
Ref. Lines - TRENTIN Sectors, Trench Map, Scale 1/30,000

1. OPERATION.
(1) The 15th Infantry Brigade will capture the enemy defences from the Railway Bridge to BRUCHWERA and be prepared to hold them for 48 hours, or as ordered.
At 5 p.m. on "Y" day, the holding of the front line will be done by the 16 Lewis Guns of the 12/Glocester Regt.

(b) Objectives - Brigade objectives as per Map No. 1.
Battn. objectives as described in para 3, and as marked on Map No. 2.

3. PLAN OF ATTACK - RIGHT
(a) (1) At ZERO plus 30, special party (Lt. G. PARTINGTON; 4/Lt. G. F. WARD and G O.R.) ford across the R. Piave, 60 yds. east of Railway Bridge, swarm up enemy bank, and make good a small bridgehead, 50 yds. clear of the bank, at the railway, under cover of which, the 5th Field Coy. R.E. begin bridging operations.

(2) At ZERO plus 30, "A" Coy. leaves the road bridge arches carrying eight boats to water's edge at a point about 50 yds. east of road bridge, where they embark and row across to the enemy bank, making a landing about 100 yds. west of Railway Bridge.
Immediately on landing, parties swarm up wall and attack the line of trenches along the river wall, from 0.458.001 to 0.465.984, clearing up all houses in the immediate vicinity, especially the three around road bridgehead. White Very lights will be fired on obtaining objective, and white Very lights will be fired at the Norfolks from the road bridgehead, as they are seen advancing.

(3) At ZERO plus 45, or as soon after as bridge is completed, "B" Coy. will cross to enemy bank, and mop up the trenches, posts and houses, contained in the area 0.465.984; 0.473.973; 0.461.965 and as shown on map No. 3. White Very lights will be fired towards Battn. H.Q.s. on reaching objective.
If after 1/Norfolks have passed through and are seen to be held up with their reserves used up, "C" Coy. will at once move off in support of 1/Norfolks, and help to push the attack home.
(4) "B" Coy. will be in support and "C" Coy. will be in reserve under arches.
Both Coys. will be ready to move at a moment's notice, from ZERO onwards.

(b) If the bridging operations prove to be impossible, "B", "C", and Battn. H.Q.s. will be prepared to move at a moment's notice and cross bridges at 5.350.035 and form a Brigade reserve at 6.350.065.
The operation is more in the nature of a mopping up expedition, than an attack in the normal formation, and Coys will cross by sections, each told off with definite orders as to the houses and section of trench they are responsible for mopping up. Shelters and dugouts similar to our own are bound to exist in enemy’s trench along the river wall, and all these must be thoroughly searched and mopped up. The three houses east of road bridge are known to be occupied, and strong sections must be detailed to clear these right up to top storey.

3. PLAN OF ATTACK - LEFT -

First Phase - At ZERO the 1/Bedfords advance from assembly position and capture DRUIGHEDA village establishing a bridgehead on the line indicated as the first objective on Map No. 1. The 1/Norfolks on the right and 1/Chesters on left move up to final assembly position.

Second phase - After assembly of 1/Norfolks and 1/Chesters is complete, special signal rockets will be fired until acknowledged by Ede. H.Q.s. Twenty minutes after these rockets are acknowledged by Ede. H.Q.s and at the hour known as "x", Artillery put down creeping barrage, and 1/Norfolks and 1/Chesters advance and go straight through to their final objectives with two halts

4. CONSOLIDATION - Immediately the position has been mopped up, consolidation will be begun at once, with a view to holding the position gained until further orders. It must be impressed upon all ranks that they must dig themselves in before the enemy begins to shell the new line, probably ZERO plus 4 hours. The final line will be held by the Brigade, as shown as follows -

From right of 1/Norfolks to right of 1/Chesters .............. A.1.
From right of 1/Chesters to right of 1/Bedfords .............. A.2.
From right to left of 1/Bedfords Regiment .............. A.3.

5. ASSEMBLY - Right Attack - The Battn. will assemble under the arches of road and Railway Bridges in accordance with the following instructions -

One guide per Battn. H.Q.s., one per Coy. (less "A" Coy)
One for special party, and one for "C" Coy, Sandbagging Party will report to the Battn. Marking Officer (Lt. Col. E. K. H. OULD) at Railway Bridge at 8.15 p.m.

C/O. "A" Coy. will reconnoitre the arches under the road bridge, and provide his own guides.

Times
6 p.m. - One platoon of "C" Coy. move to arch nearest river with 10 sandbags per man, and proceeds to sandbag up sides of arch for special party. They will return and join Coy. under arch at 11.30 p.m.

9.30 p.m. - "A" Coy. will have the head of leading platoon at Road bridge, and move into arches carrying boats. They will commence to sandbag up sides at once.

10 p.m. - "D" Coy. will have the head of leading platoon at Railway Bridge and be led to their arch by guides, when they will commence to sandbag up sides at once.

10.30 p.m. - "B" Coy. will have the head of leading platoon at Railway Bridge and be led to their arch by guides, when they will commence to sandbag up
and be led to their arch by guides when they will commence to sandbag up sides at once.

11.45 p.m. - Special party will be led by guide to their arch.

13 midnight - ASSEMBLY COMPLETE.

The above times will be strictly adhered to, and the assembly will be carried out in absolute silence.

In addition to "fighting order" each man, except the special party, will carry ten sandbags for the purpose of sandbagging up the arches.

This work will be done as quietly as possible; also two sandbags per man for putting on his feet, between the hour of assembly and ZERO.

6. PLAN IN CASE OF HEAVY ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING ASSEMBLY OF LEFT ATTACK

If very heavy H.G. fire is put down on assembled troops the B.G.C. may put up the S.O.S. when the 4/BEDFORD Regt. will advance to their objective at once.

The remainder of the operation will be carried out according to plan.

7. DRESS & EQUIPMENT.

(i) Special party. Steel helmets strapped on point of chin. Box respirators in "ALERT" position.

Special waterproof petrol suits.

Webbing belts.

Rifle with bayonets fixed, 8 rounds in magazine, 1 in breech, safety catch on.

Two bandoliers S.A.A. slung and fastened with string.

M.C.O.'s - as above except revolvers and 34 rounds - P.F.A. Haversack containing 8 Mills bombs and 1 "R" bomb.

(ii) ALL COYS

(a) Clothing - Service dress. Leather jerkins will be worn. Greatcoats will not be worn.

(b) Arms - Rifle & bayonet. The Nos. 1 and 3's of L.G. teams - revolvers & 34 rounds P.F.A.

(c) Equipment - Leather or webbing, haversacks will not be worn. Pack on back secured by steadying straps and containing:

- 50 rds S.A.A. in bandolier
- Water bottle, full
- 1 round V.P.A. 1" white
- 3 - No. 94 rifle grenades
- 3 sandbags
- Waterproof sheet
- Mess tin
- Solidified alcohol
- Iron rations
- 3 days rations

(d) Tools - Each platoon - 4 picks and 10 shovels, carried on pack through steadying strap fire cutters as available.

(e) Box Respirator - in the "ALERT" position.

(f) Ammunition - 190 rounds per man in pouches except - runners 50 rounds, signallers 50 rounds.

- No's 1 & 3's Lewis Gunners

(g) Aeroplane flares - 3 flares in tin, per man in right hand coat pocket.

(h) S.O.S. rockets - "Golden rain" rockets - 6 per Coy. H.Qrs. ; 40 at M.A.H.Qrs.

(i) Very pistols - Four per platoon and one per Lewis gun team.

(j) Rifle grenades - Each rifle grenade section 13 - No. 47
(1) Lewis Gunners - No.1 - 1 magazine on gun.  
No.1 - 4 magazines, spare parts.
Rest of team - 8 magazines per man. 
Every member of the team will carry a loading handle in his pocket.

(a) Officers - All officers will be dressed exactly as the men, with 
the addition of revolvers, field glasses and compass.

8. ARTILLERY - Standing and creeping barrages will be put down 
in accordance with barrage map No.5, issued herewith.
A protective barrage will be put down in front of 
final objective which will be maintained until 
such time as is necessary. In the event of "S.O.S" 
the Artillery will open on this line.

9. MACHINE GUNS - 6 guns of the 36th R.G. Coy. and 8 guns of the 
15th R.G. Coy. open direct fire at ZERO along enemy wall 
and bridgeheads 300 yds. West of road bridge to 300 yds. East of Railway bridge, and remain on 
this line till Special party and "A" Coy. commence 
scaling walls, when they cease fire.

10. TRENCH MORTARS - 3" STOKES mortars and 6" MORTAR mortars will 
bombard the area round the enemy's end of the 
FONTE TRUJULA and Railway Bridge. Lifts will be 
arranged to conform with the advance of the Infantry.

11. ENGINEERS - The 5th Field Coy. R.E. will throw a bridge across 
the R. Trave, 60 yds. East of Railway Bridge as soon 
as special party has secured bridge head. 
(This bridge will be used by "D" Coy. for crossing 
as soon as completed.)

12. LIGHT SIGNALS - S.O.S. - Golden flare rockets from 10 p.m. on X/Z 
night, until withdrawal from enemy line. 
Special Signal - Indicating assembly of 1/HORPOLK 
and 1/CHEVINERS complete. 
White V.P.A. 1" - During operations to mark line 
and to be fired at barrage belts as in 
para. 1 and sub-paras (a), (b) & (c). 
Thereafter at night for illuminating 
purposes.
Red flares - for Contact aeroplane work.

13. CONTACT 
AEROPLANES - Contact plane with one black bar on right lower 
plane, will call for flares at :
ZERO plus 40 - (1/CHEVINERS light flares).
X plus 50 - (1/HORPOLK & 1/CHEVINERS light 
flares).
X plus 60 - (1/HORPOLK, 1/CHEVINERS & 
1/CHEVINERS light flares).
If the infantry are close to the barrage 
at X plus 50 - (1/HORPOLK & 1/CHEVINERS it will be on 
FONTE TRUJULA - BANG on radio.)
at X plus 60 - (Battalions will be on final 
objectives.)
Cneys will not light flares unless the attack is 
held up and final objectives are not reached by 
X plus 60. If after X plus 60, aeroplane calls
14. INFANTRY C.O. - The I.O will establish an observation post at forward end of the Railway bridge. He will be connected to Battn. HQrs. by wire.

15. SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES. - Watches will be synchronized at 13 noon and 8 p.m. on "Y" day.

16. SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS - as per Appendix 1.

17. LIAISON - 2/Lt. E.H. HARWOOD will report to Bde. HQrs. at 6 p.m. on "Y" day.

18. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS - as per appendix 2.

19. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS - as per Appendix 3.

20. PRISONERS - will be passed back over bridge to Reserve Coy. in charge of small escort, who will pass them on to 1/3 GLOUCESTERS in front line.

21. EVACUATION OF CAPTURED POSITION. - The Battalion will withdraw over crossings at Bridge Sector Bridges, unless Companies have become detached for other action, in which case they will conform to the actions of the Battalions to which they may be attached. ZERO hour for the withdrawal will be notified to all concerned.

22. Z day, ZERO hour & X hour

Z day (the day on which the operation commences) will be notified later.

ZERO hour will be notified later.

X hour is the hour at which the second phase of the left attack commences and will be notified to all concerned.

25. BATTALION HQRS will be established under arch of Railway Bridge at 11.45 p.m. on Y day.

ACKNOWLEDGE

(Signed) G. DEAKIN, Lieut. Col.
Comdg. 16th Batta. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Issued - Copies to:

No. 1. - HQrs. 15th Inf. Bde.
2. - Comdg. Officer.
3. - Adjutant.
4. - AD in Command.
7. - Lt. Col. G. PARTINGTON.
8. - S.O.
9. - 2/Lt. E.H. HARWOOD.
10. - I.O.
11. - HQ.
12. - Batta. Marking Officer.
15. - O.C. 1/GLOUCESTERS Regt.
16. - War Diary.
17. - War Diary.
18. - War Diary.
APPENDIX I.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. BATTN. H.QRS. - Under Railway Bridge.

2. LINES - A line will be laid from Battn. H.Qrs. to Bridgehead with special party, which can be "Towed" on by Coy's. The Signalling Officer will lay and maintain a line from Battn. H.Qrs. to Battn. O.P. on the forward end of the Railway Bridge.

3. VISUAL - Coy's will work by visual to Battn. H.Qrs. Each Coy will take over C.L. Lamp, Trench Shutter and two flags. D.D. messages only will be sent.

4. STATION CALLS. - Battn. H.Qrs. ......... K.L.B.
   "A" Coy. ........ K.A.
   "B" Coy. ........ K.B.
   "C" Coy. ........ K.C.
   "D" Coy. ........ K.D.
   Special Party ..... S.P.

5. AIRPLANE CONTACT - The Signalling Officer will carry ground strip and aeroplane panels. The floating position calls will be used.

6. ACTION DURING OPERATION. - Two Brigade linemen will take over a line with the special party; these linemen will be responsible for the laying and maintenance of the line.

A station operated by Battn. Signallers who will cross with special party will be formed at Bridgehead.

7. RUNNERS - Coy's will detail two additional runners to report to Battn. H.Qrs. on "Y" Day.
4. AMMUNITION - Forward dump containing S.A.A., No. 14 Rifle Grenades, No. 8 hand grenades, V.F.A., 1" White has been established at 0.450.550 in bank behind signal box No. 6.
In addition, there are 43,000 rounds S.A.A., put up in "YUDEAUN" packs containing 500 rounds in arch occupied by "C" Coy.
Coy's will notify requirements to Battn. H. Qrs. and carrying parties will be sent forward.

5. STORES - Forward dump of shovels, picks, sandbags and wire, has been established as above.
Coy's will notify requirements to Battn. H. Qrs.

6. RATIONS - Two days preserved rations will be issued on afternoon of "T" day, in the line, also solidified alcohol.

7. WATER - Every man will start with full water bottle.
Subsequent supplies will be drawn from the river under Coy. arrangements.

8. TRAFFIC - With the exception of runners, orderlies and wounded men, no man will be allowed to come back across the bridge without an order.

9. SPARE KITS - Put up in haversacks and clearly marked in indelible pencil will be dumped at usual rations dump by 7 p.m. on "T" day, and will be collected by the Transport Officer.

10. BLANKETS AND ORTHOCATS - Rolled in bundles of 10's and labelled, will be dumped and a guard mounted over same, as above.

11. MISCELLANEOUS - 20 complete changes of clothing are at forward Edt. H. Qrs. and can be issued in cases of emergency on application to Battn. H. Qrs.
Hot baths will be available at C. CAVALIERI from ZERO onwards, for men who have been immersed in the river.
APPENDIX G.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

4. FIRST AID POST. - will be established at Battn. 26./P.S., under arch of Railway Bridge, at 11.45 a.m., on "Y" day.

As soon as "D" Coy. have moved across to enemy bank on "Z" day, the R.A.F. will move and occupy the arch vacated by "D" Coy.

5. BEARER RELAY POSTS. - In dug-outs 44, 45, and 46 on river bank at 7.47.47 only concerns Battn. In the event of cases having to be evacuated over trestle bridges at 7.47.47.

6. ADVANCED DRESSING STATION. - In arch under Railway to SPECULANS at 0.49.63 for cases evacuated over bridges on right.

4. WALKING WOUNDED - VILLA ELEA - ARCADE. Cases will be directed over bridges, join communication trenches, and along fired track to ARCADE.

5. MAIN DRESSING STATION. - 43th Field Ambulance - FOHILIANO.

6. MEDICAL PERSONNEL. One M.O. and two squads will be attached to the Medical Officer, and will be at his disposal for the evacuation of wounded.