

Ref 11 of 6 (revised)

## The Attack of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Div on Aug 7.

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On August 7 the 42 Division was ordered to attack the Turkish trenches at G F 13 G 13 a - G 13. This attack was arranged to take place in two phases. The first attack which was to be launched at 9.40 was to capture & consolidate F 12 G 10 G 11 G 12 - G 12 a at 9.50 another attacking line was to go forward passing over the trenches already captured - taking F 13 - G 13.

The bombardment started at 8 am and increased in intensity till 9.40. The last 20 minutes of this was extremely heavy & it was almost impossible to see either our own or the enemy's trenches.

At 9.40 practically the guns lengthened their range & the men left from their trenches & dashed forward. They could be seen very indistinctly owing to the dense cloud of dust but here & there one of the glittering lines which the men carried on their backs could be seen to flash for a moment - the deathcar again. The dust cloud seemed to clear slightly for a moment & the men could be seen surging forward like a great wave & jumping down into the first line of the enemy's trenches. During this time which seemed like an eternity but which in reality was only a few moments, the Turks had opened an extremely heavy



fire on the attackers with guns, machine guns & rifles. The first line however seemed to be taken with extremely small losses. But with the clouds of dust & smoke it was quite impossible to see what was really happening.

At 9.50 the second attack was launched. They dashed forward with great gallantry but came under heavy & accurate fire from which quickly made large gaps in their ranks. This did not seem to check them in the least & they surged on to F 13 & G 13 which was their objective.

Some of the men over ran this line & went down to F 14 & G 14. A large number stayed in the captured trenches & at once started putting them in a state of defence against counter attack.

At 10 am the support line went forward but seemed to suffer more heavily than either of the other two lines who had already gone.

One platoon came out of this line & started forward but before they had gone 20 yards there was a puff of smoke which looked like some great evil hand pouring over them but which in reality was made by the stalling of bullets from a machine gun. Gradually the smoke passed away & all the men could be seen lying either dead or wounded on the ground, not one single scout having got forward. About a minute elapsed & another party dashed forward but only to stop at a similar fate, one man only getting about 50 yards ahead of the others, but as soon as



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he appeared through the smoke he was shot down.

The majority of the Sukhoi west of the communication trench which runs up on the western side of the vineyard. Under their heads could just be seen over the top of the trench bobbing up & down as they ran forward & occasionally the head of a bayonet could be seen.

There seemed to be a good deal of hitting & checking at the North western end of the vineyard & it was hard to make out what was happening.

At about 10.20 a large body of men was seen coming from the direction of F 14. They at first looked like a Turkish counter attack but a closer inspection they were found to be the men returning who in the first onslaught had overrun F 13 & G 13 & gone foraging off into the blue. They came dashing back & some of them actually went back as far as our old firing line.

The great majority of them stayed in F 13 & F 12 R.

A certain number of men could be seen coming back down F 12 R & G 122 but it was extremely hard to see the cause of their retirement.

About 11.30 Turks were seen in G 12a firing at our men in G 12.

It was extremely hard to make out what was what but in this case it was quite easy to see



That the Turks occupied G 12a as they were being  
from it at our men in G 12.

In the afternoon the Turks made a strong counter  
attack which was partially successful but suffered  
extremely heavy casualties. They succeeded however  
in regaining ~~some of our best trenches~~.

That night the 42<sup>nd</sup> Div was in possession of the  
vineyard in F 12 but had failed to hold the rest  
of the ground which they had gained in the morning.

This operation in spite of not being wholly successful  
in itself had the desired effect of holding the Turks  
to their trenches & preventing them from sending reinforcements  
against the IX Corps which had landed at Anzac the  
day before & which was pushing its way inland.