

TRANSCRIPTION.

APRIL 1917 WAR DIARY APPENDIX 8

“J” Special Company R.E.

ARRAS 19.4.17

OPERATION ORDER NO C1 (MAP REF Sheet 51c)

GENERAL SCHEME 400 drums will be fired into GUEMAPPE from projector positions at N.12.c.7.5. The operation will be carried out in 3 nights and will comprise,

1st NIGHT Carrying and digging in by J Special Company R.E. of 200 light projectors.

2nd NIGHT Loading of 200 projectors on to 4 lorries at N.4.d.1.6. by J Coy loading parties, whence the projectors will be carried by infantry carrying parties to the positions. These projectors will be then dug in by J Company.

3rd NIGHT Loading of 400 drums on to 4 lorries at GT.29.c.9.9. and unloading at N.4.d.1.6. whence the drums will be carried to position by infantry carrying parties. Loading projectors & wiring all ready for firing by J Company.

DETAIL FOIR 2ND AND 3RD NIGHTS

2ND night a loading party of 16 men under 2/LT SANTER will proceed at 5.0 pm to G.20.c.5.2. and pole and rope 200 projectors. 4 lorries will arrive at BAYDIMONT GATE at 6.0 pm when they will be met by J Company guides (wearing red, white & green brassard). They will then proceed to G.20.c.5.2. and after being loaded will proceed to N.4.d.1,6. where they will be unloaded. They will then return to their unit.

Commencing at 8.30 at intervals of 20 minutes from that time 8 carrying parties each consisting of 1 Officer, 4 NCOs, 55 men will arrive at the dump. Each party will pick up 25 projectors and will then be guided by J Company guides to the position. They will be loaded and return to the dump with poles and slings. Digging and laying parties of J Coy at the rate of 10 per section under their own Officers (or senior sergeants in the case of 43 section) will parade at 6.0 pm and proceed to the position where they will dig in and lay their projectors. Each section will then have 80 projectors and the order of digging in will be according to diagram.

N

SECT 41	L ^T LAWFORD
SECT 43	2/L ^T SANTER
SECT 45	2/L ^T FARR
SECT 44	2/L ^T ALLCHIN
SECT 42	L ^T TAIT

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3RD NIGHT At about 6.0 pm a loading party of 16 men under 2/LT FARR will proceed to G.29.c.9.9. where on the arrival of lorries they will load 400 drums on to the 4 lorries and unload at N.4.d.1.6. 4 lorries will report to J Company guide at BAUDIMONT GATE ARRAS at 6.0 pm and will be guided to G.290.lc.9.9. afterwards proceeding as above. Commencing at 8.30 pm at intervals of 20 minutes 10 infantry carrying parties each consisting of 1 Officer, 3 NCOs, 44 men will arrive at the dump. Each party will pick up 40 drums and be guided by J Coy's guides to the position the drums will be handed over to J Coy's Officers. At 6.0 pm J Coy's lorry will be loaded up with 400 propellant charges, fuses, wire, exploders etc. and will proceed to the point N.4.d.1.6. where parties detailed from each section will receive their portions of these stores. These will be immediately fitted into the projectors and connections made. The drums will then be placed in position by the men detailed from each section for this operation. During the whole of the 3rd nights operation box respirators will be worn in the '**ALERT**' position.

TESTING Lines must be kept tested throughout the night every 10 or 15 minutes.

FIRING Firing will take place at a ZERO to be notified later.

AFTER FIRING All sections will detail personnel to inspect projectors after firing. If any undischarged drums are found, they must be at once reconnected and fired. Immediately this is done cover should be taken in dug outs about N.12.a.8.1.

WIND Wind limits are S.W. to N.W.

COMMUNICATION From 10.0 pm of the 3rd night, wind messages will be sent by runner to LT PAINE R.E. at Batt H.Q. at N.11.d.7.7. whence they will be transmitted by phone to CAPT LAYCOCK R.E. at Bde H.Q. at N.10.sd.3.7. or by runner if the phone breaks down. Runners will be detailed and trained for this purpose.

