

“J” Special Company RE
Appendix No 14

ARRAS 25/5/17

REPORT ON PROJECTOR OPERATION

Last night conditions assumed to be favourable for discharge of the drums in the CHERISY operation. I therefore reported to 41st INF BDE at 8.30 pm on the 24th to ascertain if it was feasible. They informed me that they were vacating the line and that the 42nd INF BDE were taking over. As the Brigade relief was taking place between 10 pm and 2 am 35th.

I decided that we would attempt to discharge the drums at a time between 3 am and 3.30 am 25th. I then reported to 55th INF BDE and informed them that we should be ready to discharge the drums at 3 am 25th. At 10.20 pm I reported again to 55th INF BDE that the 2 sections were proceeding up to their position to stand by with orders to discharge gas if the wind was favourable at 3-3.30 am. I then stayed at 55th Bds H.Q. The wind was favourable all night and at 3 am this morning was W by S at a speed of 1-2 miles per hour. I observed the flash of the projectors when they were fired at this time from Bds H.Q. At 4 am an orderly from the forward position reported to me with a message from the Officer in charge of the position that all the guns had fired. Out of 364 drums in position 364 were discharged. There were no misfires and no prematures. There were no special signals sent up from the enemy lines. A few ordinary white lights were sent up from the enemy lines and a little rifle & machine gun fire was started. There was no shellfire on the position and very little anywhere else. From our point of view this part of the operation was a complete success.

The subsequent path of the gas cloud is dealt with in the attack report JR/287