

“J” Special Company RE
Appendix No 22a

ERVILLERS 7/8/17

From:- O.C. “J” Special Company RE

To:- G.S. VI Corps
G.S. 21st Div

I beg to report on Gas operations at present in a state of preparation on the VI Corps front which will be handed over by the 7th Division.

There are two operations pending:-

- (1) Mobile Cylinder Attack
- (2) Projector Gas Attack

Details of these operations are attached herewith

(Signed) C Laycock Capt RE

O.C. ‘J’ Special Company RE

From:- O.C. “J” Special Company RE

To:- G.S. VI Corps
G.S. 21st Div

(1) Mobile Cylinder Attack

- (1) It is intended to discharge gas from Cylinders from the HINDENBURG LINE on the front from U.20 to E.15 to U.14 C.22.90
- (2) In this attack emplacements will not be built and cylinders will not be installed in the usual manner. 180 Cylinders will be used in 5 groups of 4 Cylinders each and the Cylinders will be carried up when suitable wind conditions are predicted.
- (3) The Cylinders will be carried up from “J” Coys dump at B.8.c.9.6 in G.S. Wagons to a point on the road at U.129.a.4.0, and from there carrying parties will take them into the front line where the cylinders will be discharged immediately.
- (4) Warning will be given by O.C. “J” Special Company RE at 2pm on any day that wind is likely to be favourable for discharge of gas at 1 or 2 am the next morning. In event of wind changing before 7pm, wagons and carrying parties can be cancelled at that time.

Wind The wind limits for this operation are S by W to W.S.W.

Details in Wagons and Carrying Parties

15 G.S. Wagons to be at “J” Special Coys Camp at B.8.c.96 at 6.30 pm.

These will be loaded and guided by “J” Special Coy to the forward dump U.19.a.4.0.

9 Carrying parties of 60 men each (exclusive of Officers and NCO’s) to report to Officer of J. Coy RE at road at U.19.a.4.0. at the following times.

No1 party }
No2 party } 10.0 pm
No3 party }

No4 party }
No5 party } 10.20 pm
No6 party }

No7 party }
No8 party } 10.40 pm
No9 party }

Parties will take up 230 cylinders each (1 per 2 men and relief man), and will be guided throughout by "J" Coys guides.

Cylinders will be handed over in the line to "J" Coys representatives, and parties then return to their units.

All carrying parties and troops holding the line will wear box respirators in the ALERT position.

All troops in the line will wear box respirators from Zero to Zero plus 15 minutes.

(2) Projector Attack

- (1) It is proposed to install 1000 projectors to fire four groups of GAS DRUMS on the position of the HINDENBURG SUPPORT LINE from U.20.b.7.5 to U.14.a.7.2.

This line contains dug outs along its whole length, and is usually occupied by the enemy in strength.

- (2) Projectors are being salvaged from various places in the Corps area and some 900 are available up to the present. This work is being continued as far as possible by this company.

When the necessary number is available, the projectors will be cleaned and taken up by the trench tramway to the point U.13.d.8.0. where they will be dug into position. This point constitutes an ideal position as it is on the reverse slope of a hill, with no direct observation by the enemy.

Projectors can be taken up to the trench tramway into the position at night and carrying parties are thus entirely dispensed with.

- (3) 1000 Drums are available for this operation and these can be taken up by G.S. Wagons to the point where the projectors are dug in. No carrying parties are necessary for this part of the operation.

(4) Wind

The wind limits for this operation are W to S by W.

- (5) The progress of this operation will be reported to 21st Div, and further details will be submitted when the projectors are dug in and ready for the drums.