

TRANSCRIPTION.

MARCH 1917 WAR DIARY APPENDIX 1

“J” Special Company R.E.

REID-KELLET PUSH-PIPE EXPERIMENT. Summary of facts relating to the operation.

At the end of December 1916, Captain A. REID-KELLET was sent up to ARRAS to carry out an experiment for boring tunnels through NO MAN’S LAND with a view of pushing tubes through them to the enemy’s wire. These tubes were to be connected to batteries of gas cylinders, the latter being subsequently discharged through them.

Under the care of ‘Q’ Special Company R.,E., Captain KELLETT assisted by L^T BERRIDGE R.E. (“B” Special Coy R.E.) utilised a dug out at the end of a sap at G.24.c.54.45 (ARRAS TRENCH MAP 1/10000). This dug out was enlarged, and from it, with the aid of a constant water flush, seven holes were bored successfully into an average length of 200 feet. 8 other holes, which were started, were abandoned on account of striking saps or other difficulties. To the seven tubes used, seven batteries of forty cylinders each were attached. The personnel of the dug out was provided with “Salvus” breathing sets in case of a leak. “Q” company handed over the experiment to “J” Company on Feb 5th 1917. The wind limits sought were from NW to SW through W.

N.B. The experiment was subsequently carried out on March 18th 1917.

See Appendix 3.