

**TRANSCRIPTION.**

**MARCH 1917 WAR DIARY APPENDIX 4**

**SECRET**

**“J” Special Company R.E.**

**Orders for removal of BERRIDGE BABIES**

1. On March 27<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>, 280 Berridge Babies will be removed from the sap at G.24.c.55.45. 14 more being removed the night 27-28 and the balance on March 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>
2. Dump will be at the N.W. corner of the cemetery on the road just S of the Railway Bridge. G.28.d.30.25.

|        |     |                             |
|--------|-----|-----------------------------|
| ROUTES | In  | IVORY ST                    |
|        | Out | IMPOTENT AVENUE, IRISH LANE |

Parties will make two complete journeys.

3. J Company will provide 4 Officers, 8 NCOs, 160 men for carrying, one Officer, 1 NCO and 10 men for the dump, one Officer, 1 sergeant and 20 men for handing over the stores at the dug out. These will be detailed as below (see para 7)  
  
46<sup>th</sup> Inf Brigade have arranged to provide two parties of 1 Officer, 2 NCOs, 30 men each reporting to O.C. Dump at 8.30 pm and 9.0 pm respectively.
4. The Officer, sergeant and 20 men detailed for work in the dug out will proceed to the dug out at 10 am taking with them 60 poles tied in bundles by means of the ropes. They will remove 140 babies from the interior of the dug out and machine gun shelter to the entrance of the new sap and rope and pole them ready for handing out quickly to carrying parties. They will carry haversack rations (100 poles are already at the dug out)
5. All personnel connected with the carrying will wear box respirators in the ALERT position, ready for immediate use in case of accident and will carry arms. Carriers will wear shoulder pads of portions of sandbags.
6. Carrying will be arranged as follows

If a baby be empty or partially empty two men will carry it down  
If full two men and one relief.

This will be arranged at the dug out by J Special Company

7. **Carrying Scheme** Mar 27

| No of Party | Strength                    | Sect Nos   | Officer                        | Time    | Remarks  |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| 1           | 10 Officers, 2 NCOs, 40 men | part of 41 | L <sup>T</sup> Lawford<br>R.E. | 8.0 pm  | Report to O.C. Dump, then IVORY ST. If delay occurs in the front line warning to be sent back by connecting files who will keep distance. Connecting files will be supplied by rearward parties, will be at 5 mins interval and used on the upward journey only. Each party to carry one spare pole on downward journey. |
|             |                             | part of 42 |                                |         |  |
| 2           | -do-                        | part of 43 | 2/L <sup>T</sup> Farr<br>R.E.  | 8.15 pm |  |
|             |                             | part of 44 |                                |         |  |
| 3           | 1-2-30                      | Brigade    |                                | 8.30 pm |  |
| 4           | 1-2-40                      | part of 45 | L <sup>T</sup><br>Vandermin    | 8.45 pm |  |
|             |                             | part of 37 |                                |         |  |
| 5           | 1-2-30                      | Brigade    |                                | 9.0 pm  |  |
| 6           | 1-2-40                      | part of 38 | 2/L <sup>T</sup> Lizius        | 9.15 pm |  |
|             |                             | part of 39 |                                |         |  |

O.C. DUMP                      2<sup>nd</sup> L<sup>T</sup> G.C. Allchin R.E. with part of 44 section

O.C. DUG OUT                2<sup>nd</sup> L<sup>T</sup> R.B. Santer R.E. with part of 43 section  
including "Salvus" men

March 28<sup>th</sup> Detail similar but L<sup>T</sup> Tait relieves L<sup>T</sup> E.G. Lawford and 2<sup>nd</sup> L<sup>T</sup> Woolner relieves L<sup>T</sup> Vandermin.

8. All ropes and poles will be carefully checked on return to Dump and brought back by last lorry. Special Instructions will be issued to O.C. Dump, O.C. Dug out and NCOs i/c transport. Unloading party of 1 NCO and 10 men at unloading point will be provided by J Special Company R.E.

J.A. Carpenter Capt R.E.

O.C. J Special Company R.E.

26<sup>th</sup> March 1917