

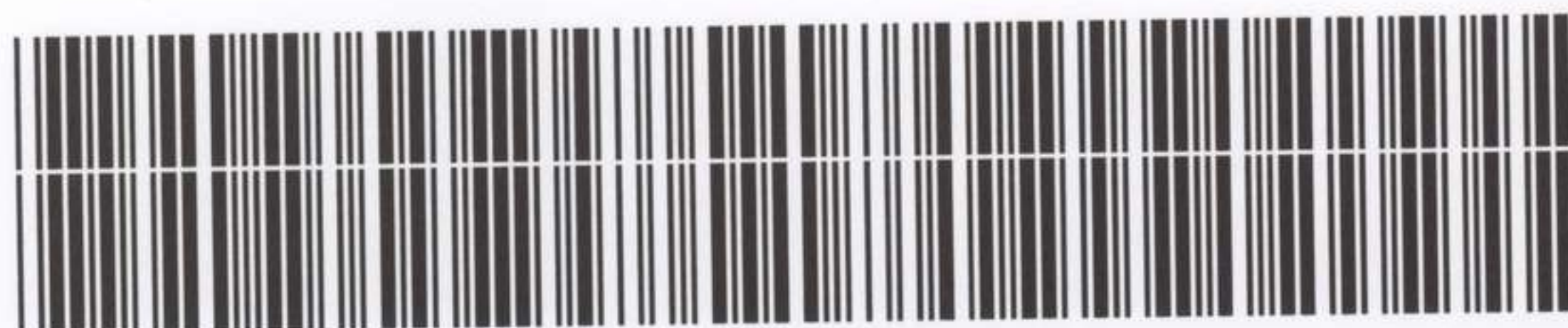
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/46/9 Part 11

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 3rd
Australian Division

July 1917



AWM4-1/46/9PART11



Appendix 46 (g)

Report on Operation

1 3rd Aust - New Report

2 ~~11th A & B~~ Cancelled

3 Light Trench Mortar

4 3rd Pioneer Bn

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Appendix 46 (19) Appendix N. 469.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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Divisional Headquarters,
1st August, 1917.ACCOUNT OF OPERATIONS BY 43RD AND 42ND BATTALIONS AGAINST
ENEMY WORKS IN FRONT OF WARNETON LINE JULY 31ST.

The 43rd Battalion on the right attacked to the right of a line drawn through about U.5.b.45.60 and U.6.a.50.76.

The 42nd Battalion attacked to the left of that line.

43RD BATTALION.

Approach March took Seven hours.

"A" and "C" Companies in forward Assault Line, "D" Company moving up and consolidating Posts Roman VI, VII and VIII. "B" Company digging RED DOTTED LINE.

In the assault enemy Post No.10 gave a lot of trouble with bombs and machine gun fire. One machine gun was captured at this place. Posts 11 and 12 did not appear to exist. At Post 13 the WINDMILL itself was not occupied, but three good dug-outs were found beside the road just behind it. Behind the WINDMILL considerable opposition was met from the enemy in the trench from HIRONDELLE Road just South-Eastwards of WINDMILL, running North-Eastwards towards WARNETON line. About 100 yards S.E. of the WINDMILL is a very strong dug-out on HIRONDELLE Road, where many of the enemy were seen. At least 7 of the enemy were shot as they came out of it. There is a trench running, as already located, down the HIRONDELLE Road from WINDMILL towards WARNETON, and some of the enemy counter-attacking parties came up this trench.

The forward assaulting party lay up in front of the digging parties about 30 to 50 yards East of WARNETON line wire. There was no enemy shell fire on them while they were lying up here. The withdrawal of these men took place at ZERO plus one hour, according to programme.

Roman VIII Post could not be established until about 9 a.m. because our men were hung up by machine gun fire from No.15 post which was not adequately covered by our Artillery barrage and also by machine gun fire from WARNETON line.

For about two or three hours after the attack developed enemy 7.7 cm. fire was very quiet. On the other hand after his aeroplanes discovered that we were not going further forward 7.7 cm. fire began. It seemed as if the enemy first made up his mind we were pressing the attack and was withdrawing his guns.

Machine Gun fire on the right was also experienced from direction of KIWI Farm.

"At 6.30 a.m. part of our artillery barrage came down on Roman VII Post. This was due to the fact that the post was dug in by the Infantry Officer on the spot 100 yards further out than had been originally planned. The barrage had thereupon to be lifted 100 yards!"

P. T. O.

CONDITION OF POSTS UP TO ABOUT MIDNIGHT JULY 31ST/ AUGUST 1ST.

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Roman VIII Post (U.5.d.65.82) was only fairly well consolidated and communication trench to it from our front line in U.5.d. was not completed. Digging was delayed by enemy bombardment. Has about 25 yards of digging done to it with fire-bays. C.T. to it begins about 30 yards South of ADELAIDE AVENUE, and about 30 yards of it is dug. About 70 yards more required to be dug.

Roman VII Post (about U.6.a.08.18) is situated about 100 yards East of WINDMILL. Has 6 or 7 fire-bays. Left of Post is about 50 yards from HIRONDELLE Road. Communication trench is about 200 yards from RED DOTTED LINE, and is completed though shallow in parts. This C.T. crosses road at U.5.b.70.30, but is not dug through the road.

Roman VI Post (about U.5.b.80.45) is well consolidated. The Communication trench to RED DOTTED LINE is about 90 yards long and completed. Post is about 80 yards out, N.E. from ruins about U.5.b.68.40, and near the ditch shown on Map. Post has 7 fire-bays.

Red Dotted Line on Right Battalion front is down about 4 to 5 ft. and in good order, is traversed and fire-bayed. Battalion had to dig about 150 yards of this line and had practically no casualties while digging it. The trench has been dug through the HIRONDELLE Road.

A Platoon, plus Lewis Gun, was left in each Post (30 men). Wire was put out in front of Roman VI Post, and some was carried up for the other posts also.

COUNTER-ATTACKS.

Counter-attacks took place at 6.30 a.m., 9 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 9 p.m. Enemy barrage was very heavy on Posts. Under heavy fire during the last counter-attack Roman VII Post had to be evacuated.

At 12.30 a.m. a counter-attack on Roman VII Post was made by one Platoon of "D" Company. The attackers were hung up within 40 yards of the Post by machine gun fire, and sent back for help. Another Platoon was sent up and the Post was captured about 3.30 a.m. by flank and frontal attack. Only about two or three of the enemy actually ran away from the Post. Snipers in the neighbourhood were very bad.

Communication between Companies and Battalion caused a lot of anxiety and Runners had much difficulty in getting through. The Pigeon service was very bad. One message by Pigeon sent off at the time of the enemy counter-attack at 6.30 a.m. reach the Battalion Commander 12 hours later.

Machine Gun barrage was excellent and caused considerable casualties to the enemy.

Enemy killed estimated at over 100 during first attack.

42ND BATTALION.

Approach March took five hours.

Forward assault wave consisted of "A" and "B" Companies. "D" Company in second wave did mopping up and consolidation of Roman Posts III, IV, and V. "C" Company dug RED DOTTED Line.

The assaulting wave found one Machine Gun in each of enemy Posts 8 and 9 and captured these guns. Another Machine Gun was captured at enemy Post No. 7A. After the capture of Posts 8 and 9 the enemy put up no resistance except for some hand to hand fighting near small post at U.6.a.05.78, near the enemy's communication trench. This C.T. was only about 2ft. deep. A dug-out was found on KIWI Road where previously located (U.5.b.85.95). This was a Dressing Station. The enemy had put up wire behind Posts 8 and 9 which was found uncut, but was cut by riflemen.

An enemy pineapple thrower was captured at the Rendezvous about O.35.d.6.0. Enemy Posts 11 and 12 were not found.

On the North no opposition was found at the crater of enemy Post No.3. Enemy communication trench running S.E. from this Post was mopped up and a block put in it where it ran into enemy wire. Enemy Post 4 was garrisoned by the enemy and captured. The Constellation of Posts in O.35.d was attacked from both North and West and overcome without difficulty, and a machine gun was captured here. This gun was mounted later in one of our Posts and used against the enemy. The assaulting wave lay up just West of enemy WARNETON Line wire. No shell fire was experienced by the men while lying up here.

CONDITION OF POSTS.

Roman V Post (about U.5.b.7.9), 75 yards of trench dug here 3½ ft. deep and fire-bayed. Communication trench to it runs along old enemy trench beside KIWI Road.

Posts Roman IV (O.35.d.6.2.) and III (O.35.d.66.38) are practically connected. 150 yards of trench dug and fire-bayed, depth about 3ft., except for one bit of 20 yards which is only about 1½ ft. down.

Post Roman IIIA (O.35.d.55.50). This post was put in owing to nature of ground which did not afford good view of enemy on Left Flank from Post Roman III. At Roman IIIA 36 yards of trench is dug, fire-bayed and traversed to a depth of about 3 ft.

DISTANCES BETWEEN POSTS STILL TO BE DUG.

Between Roman V and Roman IV	about 30 yards.
" " IV "	" III practically connected.
" " III "	" IIIA 50 to 60 yards.
" " IIIA "	" II about 80 yards.

Communication trench between RED DOTTED LINE and these Posts exists only along KIWI Road as already stated.

Communication Trench from front line to RED DOTTED LINE runs through enemy Post 7 and is mostly 4ft. deep. A few gaps exist in this trench.

RED DOTTED LINE. Is dug slightly forward of line as planned, continues from connection with Right Battalion digging up to about O.35.d.4.2., then comes a gap for a short distance, then another section of the RED DOTTED LINE behind bushes in hedge about O.35.d.30.35, then another gap of about 80 yards to old front line. Fifty yards of enemy wire was put out in front of RED DOTTED LINE. Wire taken from behind enemy Posts 8 and 9.

P. T. O.

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ENEMY SHELLING DURING ATTACK.

Between 5 and 7 a.m. quiet. Men dug hard and were reorganised. Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. enemy was ranging with 15 cm. on RED DOTTED LINE. Between 2 and 5 p.m. enemy shelling was very heavy. Diggers were withdrawn temporarily to old front line.

CASUALTIES.

Estimated about 150 of the enemy killed during first attack.

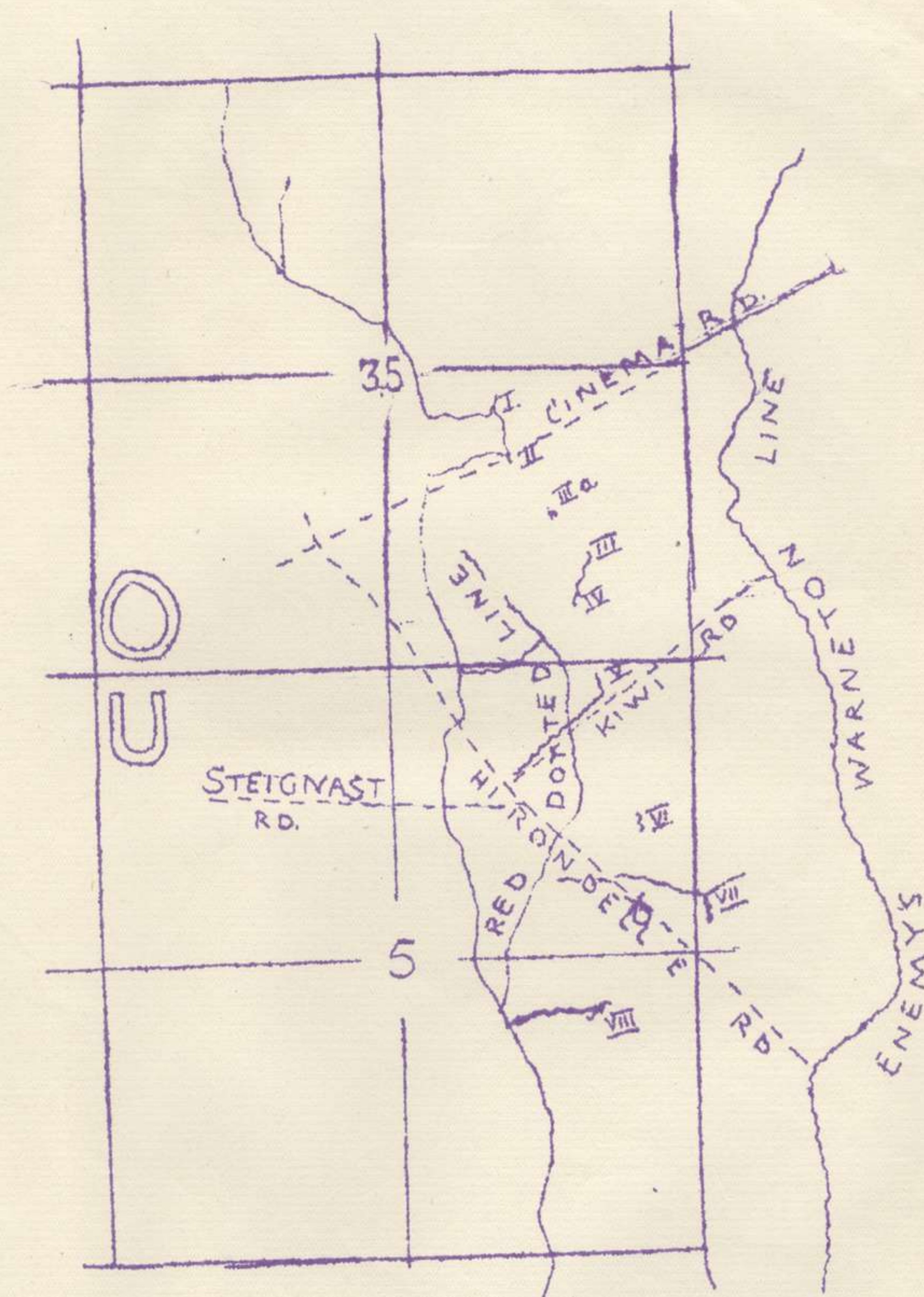
FOR POSITIONS ON RED DOTTED LINE AND POSTS SEE MAP ATTACHED.

T.C.

Lieut.-I.C.

for Lieut-Colonel.-G.S.

Sketch to accompany notes on
operations of 43rd and 42nd
Battalions, July 31, 1917.



APPROXIMATE POSITION
NEW LINE AND POSTS (IIIa to VIII)
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.
at about midnight
July 31/Aug 1, 1917 ~~mil.~~ 10.

$$\frac{1}{10,000}$$

Divisional Light Trench Mortars.
 Appendix 46 (D)
 Report on Recent Operations No. 1.



3

Map Reference - WARNETON.

Headquarters. 10th. F.L.T.M. Bty.
 2nd. August 1917.

Summit report on operations carried out by the 9th, 10th, and 11th. Light Trench Mortar Batteries from 30/7/17 to 2/8/17.

APPROACH: MARCH.

1. 9th. F.L.T.M. Bty., who were in the line, moved from their defensive positions and took up offensive positions in the CENTRE.

All arrangements were complete by 9.30pm on night 30/31.7.17.
 10th. F.L.T.M. Bty. moved from Aldershot Camp to their offensive positions in the NORTH.

All arrangements were complete by 9.30pm. on night 30/31.7.17.
 11th. F.L.T.M. Bty. moved from the Doune River Camp to their offensive positions in the SOUTH.

All arrangements were complete by 9.30pm. on night 30/31.7.17.

OPERATIONS.

2. 9th. F.L.T.M. Bty.

'Zero' to 'Zero' + 1 minute. This Battery barraged enemy's posts Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, and COMMUNICATION TRENCH along SUNKEN ROAD, then ceased fire, and guns laid on S.O.S. lines.

10th. F.L.T.M. Bty.

'Zero' to 'Zero' + 15 minutes. This Battery barraged enemy's posts No. 2, and NEW TRENCH, astride MILITARY ROAD.

'Zero' to 'Zero' + 3 minutes:- Rapid Rate of fire.

'Zero' to 'Zero' + 15 minutes:- Slow rate of fire.

Then ceased fire, guns being laid on S.O.S. lines, and a look out kept for enemy targets.

An enemy machine gun in vicinity of No. 2 Post was blown up. This was confirmed by the left Company, 42nd Battalion, who stated that a machine gun was enfilading them, and that its prompt silencing probably saved them casualties.

Between 'Zero' and 'Zero' + 2 hours, enemy parties moving in NO MAN'S LAND were dispersed.

Mortars, and Lewis guns, working in cooperation, on these small parties, proved very effective.

7.50p

12
ERATIONS.
(ont d.)

11th A.L.T.M. Bty.

'Hero' to 'Hero' + 8 minutes. The 4 guns firing shell, barraged enemy's posts Nos. 15, 15^A, and 16.

'Hero' to 'Hero' + 3 minutes. Rapid rate of fire.

'Hero' + 3. to 'Hero' + 8 minutes. Slow rate of fire.

Then ceased fire, and guns were laid on S.O.S. lines.

During the night, 31st July/1st August, this Battery responded to two (2) S.O.S. calls.

No targets were located during the day, although constant look out was kept.

The firing of an enemy machine gun, from vicinity of an enemy post No. 15, was not detected from our front line. No information was received from the Infantry as to its activity, although a Sergeant ^{was} acting as liaison N.C.O. for Right Battalion.

VARLEY'S SMOKE BOMBS. 4 guns fired 170 rounds of Varley's Smoke Shell with good effect, a good screen being produced. Heavy retaliation was received by these guns, three (3) being put out of action, after 20 rounds per gun was fired.

The number of rounds fired by the three Batteries are as follows:-

9th A.L.T.M. Bty. - 180 rounds.

10th. do. 700 "

11th. do. 650 "

Total - 1530

Casualties - 9th A.L.T.M. Bty. - 10 R. Wounded.

10th. do. 2 " Killed

11th. do. 10ff. 12 " Wounded

do. do. 1 " Killed

The three Batteries commenced withdrawal at 1. pm on the 2/8/17, and returned to:- 9th A.L.T.M. Bty - GLDERSHOT CAMP, 10th A.L.T.M. Bty. - GLDERSHOT CAMP, and 11th A.L.T.M. Bty. - DOUVE RIVER CAMP. Withdrawal was complete at 6 pm, on 2/8/17.

The heavy rain, during these operations, made it very difficult to get the base plates to stand prolonged firing.

2. action -
infantry
concerned
a pit -
was
reported
5/8

operation:
(contd.)

Better results would be obtained with Stokes mortars in operations of this nature, if the Infantry, whom the mortars are covering, would send prompt and accurate information as to hostile machine guns etc., to the trench mortar officer or the C.O. in charge of guns.

In this operation, it was proved that Stokes and Lewis guns, cooperating closely, did very good work. Stokes to drive the enemy out of shell holes, then using the Lewis guns on them, when in the open.

R. Anderson Capt
3rd Div. L.T.M.D.

9 or
15 points over
15 out ready
Shall we make for Capt

4
1/8

Yes.
gm
A/8/17

HEADQUARTERS,
3rd Australian Division.

S E C R E T.

PIONEER BATTALION

A.I.F.

No. *P27/17*

Reporting for your information that the Smoke Cloud used for screening our Right Flank, during the recent diversion, was duly carried out:-

Preparations were made at the outset, to discharge the smoke from U.11. Central, but owing to alterations in the time for operations of the Division on our Right flank, preparation had to be made to alter the point of discharge to the vicinity of FEMME DE LA CROIX.
FME

On account of the Wet weather, the sloppy nature of the ground, and the long distance of transport, considerable obstacles had to be overcome. As ordered, the discharge started at Zero hour, and continued for 1 hour 50 minutes. The weather was favourable for the discharge of smoke, and the wind direction 1 to 2 degrees north of West at 3-50 a.m.

From 3-50 to 4-20, the personnel were distributed from U.5.d.3-2, along the front line to U.5.d.4-8, and from 4-20, the wind having shifted, the discharge was carried on from U.5.d.5-2 to U.11.b.5-7. The quantity discharged totalled 1,350 candles, approximately one and a quarter tons of smoke. The casualties were very small, only 3 men suffering from gas and exhaustion.

F I E L D,
1/8/1917. O.

Robert Law
C.O. 3rd. Australian Pioneer Battln. A.I.F. LIEUT. COLONEL,



*9.10p
1/8/17*

Appendix No. 466 G.

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