

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/110/7

Title: 6th Australian Medium Trench Mortar
Battery

August 1918



AWM4-13/110/7

Original

War Diary

of

6th A.M.T.M.B^{TY}

A.I.F.

6TH AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No.

Date 31-8-18

138

Signature of Officer compiling records

L. Mark
O.C. T.M. BATTERY.
6th

①
 Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

6TH AUSTRALIAN
 MEDIUM TRENCH
 MORTAR BATTERY.
 No.
 Date 31-8-18

Army Form C. 2118.

138

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	August 1st		Working party supplied to 5th Battery, who were occupying the line. Lt Gardner proceeded on 14 days leave to England. Weather Pt.	Mark 1st
	2nd		Weather wet, personnel remained at billets, parades + inspection occupying the day.	Mark 1st
	3rd		Still raining, routine as on the previous day.	Mark 1st
	4th		Orders received to evacuate batiments (), 4th Div DA. taking over, Battery moved to Fouilloy, where billets consisted of cellars.	Mark 1st
	5th		Rained heavily during day & night.	Mark 1st
	6th		Fouilloy bombarded by enemy with shell of various calibres (from 3 to 6 AM) no casualties, rained greater part of day.	Mark 1st

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8TH AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY
31-8-18

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7th		<p>Volunteers called for to assist 5th Battery in stunt on following day, whole Battery stood out, so picking out of hat had to be resought to, 2nd in NCO's ^{under Lt Thompson} men reported 5th Bty HQ 1.30 pm took over positions Nos 4, 5, 6, 9, 11 & 12. 1 NCO and 3 men were detailed for each gun, who then made them - selves acquainted with the positions. Dig-outs were completed and by 10 p.m. everything was in readiness for the operation. N.C.O's in charge of guns were then given instructions as per O.D. No 67 (Copy Attached).</p>	
	8th		<p>The night was abnormally quiet as regards hostile artillery activity no shells falling in our vicinity. At 2nd hour (4.20 A.M.) the stunt opened and as there were three phases in the mortar shoot no time had to be lost to complete the task allotted. This entailed very rapid firing but by 4.30 A.M. all guns had completed the required No. of rounds ordered. A thick fog had arisen partly owing to climatic conditions, but also helped by the terrific bombardment of our artillery. Under cover of the fog our tanks and Infantry were enabled to advance well screened. No immediate retaliation took place. One enemy gun was firing intermittently on cross-roads at P10C 44.36 between 9 and 10 positions but was soon silenced. At 7 A.M. the fog having lifted the combined personnel of the two Batteries (5th & 6th) went forward in small parties each under an Officer with the intention of capturing enemy artillery & utilising them against the Boche (Lieuts Boscall, Newell, Pitman & Thompson) being in charge of the various parties. Just after leaving our own front line, Gvr Alexander was wounded slightly and was taken to the Dressing Station. He was now in close contact with the advancing Infantry one 77 lb. lb. gun was located at by the parties under Lieuts Boscall & Pitman & was then turned upon the retreating enemy 150</p>	<p>Remarks</p> <p>2</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8 th		rounds being fired from this gun. Several other Batteries of different calibres were located but these had been destroyed by the "Boche" gunners, breech blocks & mechanisms either being destroyed or taken away. The spirit objective having been reached we were with-drawn and after dis-mantling our guns proceeded back to Rest Bunkers at Fouilloy. The 77 M.M. guns and a medium M.M. were taken from the line and have been sent to the Aust War Museum as trophies.	
	9 th		Guns now with-drawn from Hamel Sector and taken back to store.	
	10 th		Battery Head Quarter moved forward to ^{wood near} MORBOURT (Q18C 85-70) and took over ^{6 guns} from 4 th D.I.M.B. The positions were at _____ guns were taken over and 30 rounds of 2. M.L. were fired.	2 guns at Q18a 30-25 2 guns at R19a 35-75 2 guns at Q24d 40-50
	11 th		Weather good. 50 rounds were fired on Q12a 50-80 in support of Infantry attack. Good effect was obtained.	
	12 th		At 4.20 A.M. the targets in Q12a 50-80 again were engaged in conjunction with another Infantry attack. A satisfactory shoot resulted. One man returned from English leave (Gnr Hammett).	
	13 th		Was relieved at 3 A.M. by 17 th D.I.M.B. (English Division) and personnel returned to Fouilloy. Weather fine. One man to England for leave (Gnr Morgan). Orders were received at 5 P.M. the result of which 2 Officers 5 N.C.O.s and 22 O.R.s proceeded to _____ to co-operate with the 5 th Aust D.I.M.B. A party was also detailed from the 6 th Battery. The combined parties being under the command of D.C. 5 th Battery (Lt Boxall) 6 guns and beds and 48 hours rations were taken. At 7 P.M. personnel and guns moved off in two motor lorries and on reporting at Caise came under the Command of the 5 th Aust D.I.M.B. An ammunition refilling point was taken over and work was carried on right through the night. A few bombs were dropped around dumps.	D.A.C.H.Q. near CAIXE

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13 th		by Enemy Aeroplanes during the night. <i>L. Clarke</i>	
	14 th		Work on dumps still continuing but at 5 p. M. were relieved by the Dumps Staff of the 3 rd D.A.C. We were then standing by awaiting orders to proceed to the line with our guns. A slight shelling of the vicinity with a gun of high velocity occurred during the night. 1 Gunner evacuated to Hospital with Seabies (Gnr Watt) Weather continues perfect. <i>L. Clarke</i>	
	15 th		Nothing having eventuated owing to Military reasons the detached party were called back to Fouilloy Gnr Hetcher evacuated to Hospital with Fractured Cranium. <i>L. Clarke</i>	
	16 th		Weather perfect.	
	17 th		The C.R. A of the Division, General Grimwade announced his intention of inspecting the 3 rd D.T.M. ^s at 11 A.M. the two Batteries were drawn up in Fouilloy Square. After inspection by the General were thanked by him for our show in the operations commencing on the 8 th and the thanks of the G.D.C. Division was conveyed to us. He laid emphasis on the moral of the M. citars favourably comparing it with other units. Fine weather still prevailing.	<i>L. Clarke</i>
	18 th		1 O.Rank taken on strength (Gnr Shepherson O.R.). The 3 rd Div Concert Party (Boo-ees) gave us a concert in the afternoon in our billets which was much appreciated by all ranks.	<i>L. Clarke</i>
	19 th		Gnr Haynes) evacuated to Hospital (Septic Toe) 1 O.Rank (Sgt McDonald) returned from leave to Paris. Daily Parades are now being held. Inspection of Kit. Arms and equipment at every opportunity. Swimming in the Somme Canal is indulged in. The weather being favorable for same.	<i>L. Clarke</i>
	20 th		Gnr Shepherson evacuated to Hospital (Diarrhoea) Parade held at 10 A.M.	<i>L. Clarke</i>
	21 st		Weather very humid and muggy.	<i>L. Clarke</i>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22 nd		Weather very humid and muggy. <i>W. Clarke</i>	
	23 rd		1 N.C.O. and 15 O.R.'s from this Battery proceed to A. R. P. at Quiry. <i>W. Clarke</i>	
	24 th		Remainder of Battery still at Grouilloy. Parades as usual. <i>W. Clarke</i>	
	25 th		Were attached to No 2 section 3 rd D.A.C. Transport supplied by 3 rd D.A.C. Stores and personnel proceeded to Quiry <i>W. Clarke</i>	
	26 th		3 N.C.O.'s and 14 O.R.'s reported to temporary dump on Bray-Corbic Road. Bay occupied in dumping ammunition 18 pms and 4.5 H.W. <i>W. Clarke</i>	Rained during night
	27 th		Weather very dull. 1 N.C.O. (Sergeant Birch) transferred from 30 th Bty. <i>W. Clarke</i>	
	28 th		Another move forward. Stores and guns shifted forward to BRAY. <i>W. Clarke</i>	
	29 th		Marched to 3 rd D.A. situated at Etinhem and took over 12 light Minenwerfer Guns. These were over-hauled and cleared during the afternoon. 3 O.R.'s transferred from 3 rd D.A.C. (Gris Sims R.J. Callaghan J.G. Johnston L.R.) volunteers had been called for from 7 th + 8 th Brigades and 3 rd D.A.C. to complete the strength of the Battery. Above mentioned Guns having volunteered from the S.A.A section 3 rd reg D.A.C. <i>W. Clarke</i>	
	30 th		Another move forward in process. 6 th I.M.'s were stored and left in charge of 1 N.C.O. and 1 O.R. Remainder of Battery moving forward with the German Light Minenwerfer Guns through Suzanne to Quiry <i>W. Clarke</i> Quarters were taken up in old rest camp, very ^{at} much battered by shell fire. <i>W. Clarke</i>	

Wood about R29 a 40.40

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31st		<p>Lieut Gardner and 4 N.C.O's with 4 P.R.s proceeded from Billets with 36 heavy rations and equipped with 2 Light Momenwaper Guns and 100 rounds of ammunition. Marke Lt</p>	

L. G. Marke Lt
G.G. T.M. BATTERY.

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List of Appendices

1 Honours and Awards

2 Casualties.

3 Taken on Strength

4 Struck off Strength

5 Promotions

6TH AUSTRALIAN MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.	
No.	
Date. 31-8-18	

P. Clarke Lt
 O.C. T.M. BATTERY,
 6th

1 Honours and Awards

6TH AUSTRALIAN MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.
No.
Date... 31-8-18

Nil

P. Clarke Lt
O.G. T.M. BATTERY.

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APPENDIX

8

L. Casnalties

6TH AUSTRALIAN MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.	
No.....	
Date.....	31-8-18

No 521 Gms Alexander G.P.O. G.S.W. France
8-8-18

L. Clarke Lt
.....
a/ O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

6TH AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
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No.

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3. Taken on Strength

22229	Sgt Brich D. W.	from 7th A.A.B.	27-8-18
2574	Gnr Sims R. G.	" SAA Supt 3rd DAC	29-8-18
19255	" Gallagher J. J.	" " "	29-8-18
18484	" Johnston L. R.	" " "	29-8-18
1396	" Lindsay S. W.	" 7th A.A.B.	31-8-18
2266	" Clarence H. E.	" " "	31-8-18
22315	" Shepherdson O. R.	from A.G.B.D.	18-8-18

L. Clarke
O.G. T.M. BATTERY.

6TH AUSTRALIAN MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.	
No.
Date	21. 8-18

4. Struck off Strength

No 521 Gnr Alexander A.R.O 8-8-18 G.S. N. Grace
 20359 Gnr Watt J.F.S. 14-8-18 Scabies
 18659 Gnr Fletcher N.K. 15-8-18 Fractured Ear Drum
 19287 Gnr Haynes N.R.A. 19-8-18 Septic Toe.
 284 Gnr Shephard A.S. 20-8-18 Diarrhoea

P. Clarke
 O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

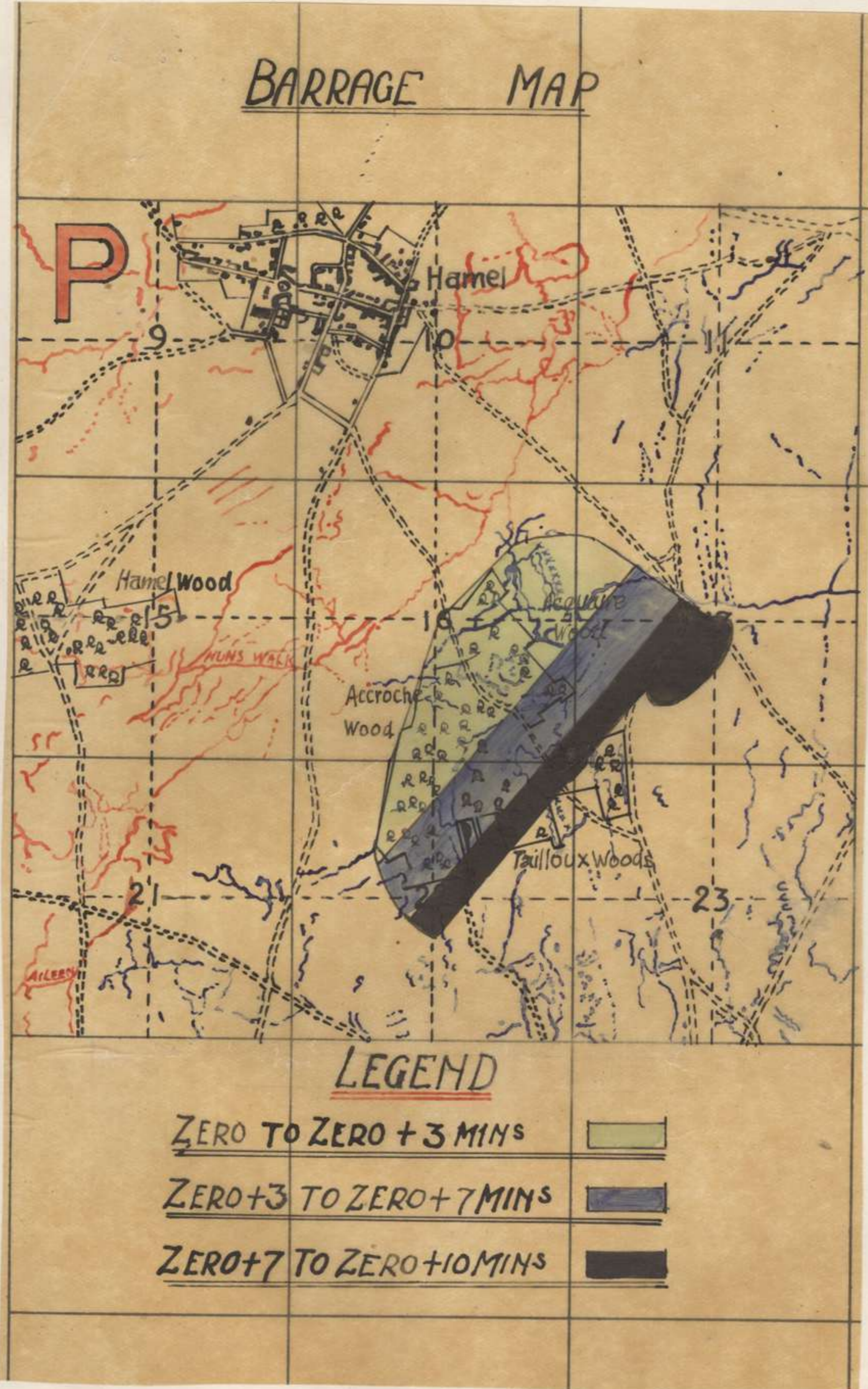
6TH AUSTRALIAN MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.	
No.	
Date. 31-8-18	

5 Promotions

Nil

P. Clarke

 O.C. T.M. BATTERY.



3rd Div Trench Mortars

Field

Operating Order No. 67

7th August, 1918

138

1/ Intention To carry out unmentioned task as allotted by 3rd D. A. H. Q. on a day and zone hours to be notified later.

Battery	No. Guns	Objective	Time	Rate of fire	Total rounds
5 th A. M. J. M. Battery 9	12	As per attached I. M. Barrage Map locality coloured Green	Zone to zone + 3 minutes	5 rounds per Gun per minute	180 rounds
	12	As per attached I. M. Barrage Map locality coloured Blue	Zone + 3 minutes to zone + 7 minutes	5 rounds per Gun per minute	240 rounds
	12	As per attached I. M. Barrage Map locality coloured Black	Zone + 7 minutes to zone + 10 minutes	5 rounds per Gun per minute	180 rounds

- 2/ The D.C. 5th Battery will command the personnel of the two Batteries for the operation.
- 3/ The D.C. 6th Battery will arrange for Lieut Thompson 6 N.C.O.s & 19 O.R.s to be placed at the disposal of the D.C. 5th Battery. This personnel will be held in readiness to move forward at 30 minutes notice.
- 4/ Equipment to be carried 1 Blanket, arms, ammunition 24 hours rations and waterbottles filled N.C.O.s to be in possession of electric torch
- 5/ Watches will be synchronised by instructions issued later.

Appendix

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