

Currey / 2

1918

Y. T. M. D.

Y. BATTERY
6" TRENCH MORTARS

On August 19th. Y. Battery was attached to the 37th. Division to assist in the capture at Bueguoy. Six Guns and 300 bombs were taken into Hedge Trench under cover of darkness. The guns were in position by midnight of 19th, 20th. and the Battery stood by waiting for zero time which was 4.55 a.m. on Aug. 21st so at 2. 30 a.m. the bombs were fused and the charges of gun cotton and cordite attached to tails of the bombs. At zero hour the Battery opened with a salvo, followed by 2 minutes gun fire. When cease fire was given it was found that the fastest gun had fired 66 rounds and the slowest gun which had a miss fire had fired 47 an average of 59 per gun. As the Battery ceased fire the 5th. Div. Infantry advanced between our guns and were soon lost to view in the fog. Our Battery then withdrew from the line and a mobile section with a mule Transport was prepared for action. This section was attached to the 1st. Inf. Brigade, and moved forward to Achet le Petit. The first target found for them was a sunken road near Bapaume. A Battery position was chosen about 600 yds. behind our front line and the mules, guns, and 50 bombs were successfully taken there in broad day light. The 50 rounds were fired in At 6 p.m. that day and the guns were moved into the front line under cover of darkness. On two successive days 8 mules drawing 2 S.A.A. Limbers succeeded in getting into the front line with a total of 140 bombs, 40 of these were fired and the balance prepared but the second shot was cancelled. Our next target was Villers au Flos where we were to support the 42 Division. A Battery position was chosen near Bancourt and the section trotted into the front line much to the surprise of our own Infantry 80 rounds were prepared and then the 42 Infantry cancelled the shoot as they feared it would draw too much fire. Our next target was dead mans corner near Couzeaucourt so 4 guns were taken to Couzeaucourt wood. The guns had to be man handled the last 1000 yards as the enemy fire prevented the mules from getting too close. The guns were got into position and 35 rounds fired at 5 a.m. next morning. Another 30 rounds were fired at 9 p.m. on the 13th. inst. A dump of 70 rds. (which were left behind at the retreat) were found at dead mans corner, so a gun was moved forward at daybreak on the 14th. The Division then withdrew from the line.

A. A. Currey 2/Lt. N.Z.F.A.

O.C. Mobile Section

Y BTY Trench mortars