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TRANSLATION OF A GERMAN DOCUMENT.

GAS BOMBARDMENTS.

(Extracted from "Provisional Instructions for the use of Artillery Gas Shell," dated 1-7-17, issued by the Chief of the General Staff of the Field Army.)

1. Time for gas bombardments.—In the attack, the times which are of particular importance for gas bombardments, with a view to neutralizing the enemy's artillery, are :—

- Before and during the infantry assault.
- Before and during movements of batteries.
- After a successful advance by the infantry.

In the defence, a gas bombardment is most effective before, during and immediately after the enemy's attack, at those places where the enemy's troops are most concentrated, and at times when the infantry is most in need of protection.

2. Employment of gas shell.—If good results are to be obtained, *gas shell* must be employed concentrated as regards both time and space, so as to produce as dense a cloud as possible on the target. Single rounds are valueless.

Gas shell barrages are, as a rule, inexpedient, as the ammunition expenditure involved is rarely proportionate to the probable results.

Blue Cross shell (which causes sneezing) may, on emergency, be employed in rather unfavourable ground and weather conditions. If the gas diffuses rapidly, there still remains the powerful H.E. effect.

Yellow Cross and H.E. shell combined will be usefully employed against places which the enemy frequents regularly, and especially by night.

3. Protection of gun detachments.—The German masks afford complete protection against all German gas shell except Green Cross (2) and Blue Cross ; special precautions must, therefore, be taken to guard against the danger resulting from direct hits on gas shell dumps.

(Note.—An official German document states that the British box respirator affords satisfactory protection against Green Cross (2) and Blue Cross shell.)

4. Protection of troops in front line.—In calm weather, gas bombardments of large areas are only permitted when the areas are at least 2,000 metres from the German front line.

The same applies to small shoots with Green Cross (2) or Blue Cross, while 1,000 metres will then suffice for Yellow Cross, or even less for Green Cross (1).

Trench mortars must be used if there is any fear of "shorts" falling within 200 metres of the German front line.

If there is a fairly strong wind, the distance of the target from the German front line, measured in the direction of the wind, must never be less than 2,000 metres in the case of Green Cross (2) and Blue Cross, except when the wind is blowing directly towards the enemy, when the distance may be decreased up to a point at which it is certain that no "shorts" will fall within 200 metres of the German front line.

In the case of Yellow Cross, the minimum distances (2,000 metres for large shoots and 1,000 metres for small shoots) laid down for calm weather are to be observed.

With Green Cross (1) the same distances will be observed as in calm weather.

5. Warning troops.—In the case of a combined Yellow Cross and H.E. bombardment, particular care must be taken to warn the troops, who will be ordered to wear gas masks during the bombardment. The distance behind the line to which this order will extend will depend on the quantity of gas shell to be expended. The period during which it will obtain will be fixed by the Gas Services.

6. Entry into the bombarded area.—If the troops have to enter a large area which has been bombarded with gas shell, the period during which the gas persists on the area will be reckoned from the time of disappearance of the visible drifts of gas, and not from the time of the conclusion of the bombardment.

Attention is drawn to the following considerations when Blue Cross and Yellow Cross gas shell are used :—

(a) With *Blue Cross*, the action of the gas is entirely confined to the cloud ; when this has disappeared there is no after-effect.

(b) With *Yellow Cross*, there is first of all a dangerous concentration in the cloud, and, in addition, the gas still persists in dangerous concentrations for a considerable time in sheltered places, such as dug-outs, deep trenches and shell holes.

GENERAL STAFF (INTELLIGENCE),
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
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