STUDIES OF GERMAN DEFENCES NEAR LILLE

§6.

AUBERS RIDGE.

5'9 IN. HOWITZER EMPLACEMENT, BAS FLANDRE.

Plate 6A. Photograph 9.

General Description.—The position is on the rear slope of the Aubers Ridge, approximately 3,800 yds, in rear of the German front line trenches.

Two guns are placed in open positions, and two in emplacements constructed in a farm building about 60-70 yds. in rear.

The Open Positions.—The two open gun positions are approximately 50 yds. apart. The garrisons for the guns were accommodated in concrete pill-boxes, one at the side of each of the gun emplacements.

On the opposite side of each emplacement a small concrete pill-box (inside dimensions 7 ft. by 3 ft.) is built, serving as a magazine for ammunition. (See Plate 6A.)

A shelter for ammunition is also provided in the form of a recess constructed in the side of the large concrete pill-box. (See Plan.)

The inside dimensions of the pill-box for the garrison are 16 ft. by 10 ft. by 6 ft. high, the average thickness of the concrete allowed as headcover being 6 ft.

The total amount of concrete used on each open emplacement to construct the pill-boxes as detailed above is approximately 290 to 300 tons. Say 50 men, 3 weeks.

The guns were concealed under brushwood camouflage material placed upon wires stretched over the emplacements. Care was taken not to displace trees near the site.

The approaches to the position were good and not likely to give it away.

The position was apparently not detected from aeroplane photographs, as it is not indicated upon the map. On the other hand the ground around shows it to have been subjected to heavy shelling.

The other two gun positions are constructed inside a farm building in rear. They are strong concrete emplacements. Pill-boxes for personnel and signal are also constructed in the farm buildings.

The way in which the materials were brought up for this work is not clear from the map, as there are no light railways shown. Ammunition supply also does not appear to have been arranged for by rail.

The plate is chiefly interesting for the manner in which the trees have been preserved and for the type of emplacement.

Description du site in : Studies of German defences near Lille. Ch.6, p.10 (voir traduction en annexe)

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