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FIELD MESSAGES  
AND NOTES  
AUGUST 1918 ACTIONS  
REPORT OF GAS ATTACK

Books  
W 2,998  
M 2,057.

— 4752. L.B. (W-s-M) Ltd. —  
(29,505 sheets—1/18—E. 2327.)

**ARMY BOOK 153.**

6/8/18 B. Sampson

# **FIELD MESSAGE BOOK**

**(For the use of Dismounted Regimental  
Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of  
Cavalry and Infantry.)**

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*This Book is ruled in  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch  
squares.*

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The waterproof cover issued for the purpose of protecting this book may be obtained on application. It should be made to outlast as many refills as possible. Special envelopes for despatching messages, Army Form C. 398, may also be obtained.



1st. Position

Pass church ~~4-20~~ am.

2-30 am.

4-20 am

2nd. Record word.

8-20

June 10. 16<sup>th</sup>

So through

4<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> pr.

3<sup>rd</sup> London

J. 21

Cherry Ridge

Sapper do.

2 Sappers 13<sup>th</sup> Field Coy. to go  
with "13<sup>th</sup>" Coy Tank to prevent  
demolition of Chipilly Bridge.

3<sup>rd</sup> London. right

Chipilly 2<sup>nd</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> London

Res. Bn. 7 platoons 2 Tanks }

Rem. & plus 130. = 2 hr 10 min

178 Bde. J28 a 89 at 4/200.

Cook - 2 Runners Smith?



Dear General,

All objectives  
gained. We are OK  
Casualties about thirty.  
Captured one field gun.  
Prisoners three hundred

97<sup>th</sup> 55<sup>th</sup> + 238<sup>th</sup>

HQ at Q 8 b 30 95. I  
may shift later.

Yours  
Hampson

9-30 am  
8/8/18

In position 2-40 am.

Moved at 5-40 am

Reached Record Wood 7 am.

Moved to Hospital, halted

19 mins & proceeded

passing through 42nd/1st at  
8-20 am.

9-30 HQ reported all objectives  
gained, OK. Casualties about  
heavy. 1st Field Gun, about 300  
prisoners.

9-48 adpt. returned  
reports position on right had  
been driven back, being enveloped  
by Brooke Artillery & MG Fire

10-45 Forward Batteries driven  
back

11 am D having bad time.

11-30 Smith arrives with report  
re 173rd Bde. Their line  
runs as per letter to Brig.

Not a report - position not good



HQ. RUPA.

My liaison officer  
has arrived from Zethuag's.  
States their line runs thro  
K 27a + CK 26d K 32 central.  
My right Corp is being  
heavily shelled in enfilade  
& ~~Asche~~ are coming over  
Chapilly ridge in small  
parties filtering into the  
low ground opposite  
CERIST. Enemy machine guns  
& Anti-tank gun in Q 9 to 90  
to Q 3 d 63. I cannot clear  
this without T.M. Amara or  
Artillery support. Enfilade  
artillery fire is coming from  
LES CELESTINS WOOD where  
Hun has direct observation  
Our forward artillery has  
been forced to go back

on account of this.  
Huns can be plainly seen  
moving about on CHAPILLY  
RIDGE

My left is alright, but I  
cannot get forward on the  
right.

Just received from CHB 10  
good business. It is vital  
that 58th Div. do their job.

11-30 AM

8/9/18

Hampson  
Major  
oc. DOKA



Dear Alamy,  
Div. are  
moving heaven & earth to get  
the Tommies to do their job.  
We are on to artillery.  
Goss is held up & isn't  
knocked out by anti-  
tank guns.  
Can you help Goss?  
Unless absolutely vital  
will keep "C" by to help  
Goss.  
On right of the things are  
good. Tommies failed.

noon  
8/8/8

Stanley  
Major

1 p.m. Artillery shelling CIPALLY  
& LES SELESTINS WOOD

2-10 p.m. Boogie prisoners 202

Coming in. I.O. reports  
Situation good, CERSY Band  
all clear - about 50 prisoners  
about 20 km to S. Anti Tank Gun

2-15 p.m. left to verify

Situation

3-35 P.m. asks for report and  
sketch of positions.

3-45 P.m. says may have to  
go to Red Line.  
1st Bn. to take our place

3-52 P.C. 1st Bn. Prisoner 202

4-10 p.m. Contradictory orders.

4-30 p.m. R1 cancelled

5-30 Verbal Order from Bn. Adv.

to go behind Caen River and  
Red Line.

16+13 front line



7 pm 1st Pn. CO & Officers

7-7:20 pm Tommies attack  
on Wood & Chipelly Crest.

9 pm Smith returned says  
Tommies back in old place

11-45 pm 1st Pn relieved as 4 Pn.

Moved to rear of Red line near  
Dudgeon Wood. Pn 10 in Morcourt.

9/8/18

4 pm. Moved HQ to Q 23 W 66

Heavy shrapnel on Village

Harbonnières. S 19.20.21.22.C  
15 on R 14.1 13 Centre

Alt HQ wib d b. 100x lecture platforms

Alt ~~50~~ 6.45 to 7 pm. Trans. P 16.  
7.50

---

300x 2nd Vols Left Coy

Guide HQ 1st Vols 11 am

50x from 3rd Vols W 24.58

4 Tanks 10 am.

A Coy 11th Tanks

Major Freeman O.C.

Wk 5\* Tanks

100x in 3 minutes

at S 20.66 Supply Tanks.

1000x from jump off Tanks



Wood on right Charles Wood

10 de A.P. ~~X~~ 23 C. 4050

4 Vickers each

2 American officers (session)

---

Hattenbourg 1/20000

Active defensive.

Outpost line along old French front line

Active patrols - look for signs of withdrawal

Harassing fire

Destruction of wire

Secure identification

Make enemy think offensive will be resumed.

18-19 32nd - 2nd Div.

18-19 3/132 - 46<sup>th</sup>

19-20 4/132 - 45<sup>th</sup>

20-21 2/132 - 15<sup>th</sup> + 13<sup>th</sup>

1st. & 5th Div. to do it.

Keeping down movement

2000 to 1st Div. Tanks. 4/7/18

Honours & Despatches

Renewing all "duds"

Brigadier 22nd inst.

Building up nucleus.



pe Taylor to a yard

18/8/8

HQ. RUPA.

The attached has just been sent to me.

This boy is relieving my right boy ("A") in the front line from Support to night.

I will see Gorman in the morning. The men certainly are very tired I know but I do not think things are as black as a J.C. C. boy paints them. Owing to constant shelling they have had very little sleep & were dog tired before we took over. I considered it up to me to pass this on. Capt. Glasgow's heir O.C. was knocked on 8/8/18. I will report further in the morning.

A. Lambourne  
C.O. 15<sup>th</sup> May

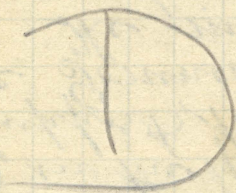
9 P.M.  
18/8/18



Band Sergeant.

Vols. }  
Hinds. } Nucleus  
Drave }

Genlon  
Heron.  
Page.  
Ward.  
Shiky



✓ Capt. Domeneq. - Lieut. Lédard  
✓ "A" Coy  
Lieut. Goss - Lieut. Esquivel }  
B Coy } 7th Coy } 2nd  
5th Coy } 18th  
59th

1st Pn. 59th French Infantry Regt  
relieves front line.  
2nd Pn. 59th the support line  
3rd " 59th " Reserve Area  
i.e. 13th Aust Inf. Bde.

Gas. 11-55 P.m.



O.C. "D" Coy

A French officer + a patrol of  
28 O.R. have orders to go out  
+ get in touch with the Han,  
whom it is thought is going  
back.

Please assist him in every  
way + show him the best  
route out from our line,  
to the Han front system.  
The Officer of Patrol will  
bring this note to you.

11-50 P.M.

24/8/8

Hampton  
Major  
C.O. Doka

Midday Meal. Valises.  
Backs dumped here  
in shed near Bde.  
Blankets & Sheets.

Time for dumping 10 pm.  
One man per Bn. Guard  
48 hours rations  
Herbecourt.

Up to 50000 Saa. 50% Bombs.

P16a/b1 Shelters. A.E.

Jackal Bde Transport.

100% between Coys.

Nucleus 08

Dug in, not more than 2.

Capt. Richards Hq. Nucleus



Page 8.

with Prof. O.  
Reconnaissance <sup>expedition</sup>  
Conference with I.D.

1630

256

1314

20

18

18

24

28

250

18

~~22~~

40

250

14

50

30

30

16

20

10

42

140

24

29

24

27

30

50

50

16

32

16

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nd Bde  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bde  
1<sup>st</sup> Bde  
16<sup>th</sup> Bde

4<sup>th</sup> - 2 Prisoners

10<sup>th</sup> Reg. 59 R.I.R.

one prisoner 1<sup>st</sup> R.I.R.

600. 10 3<sup>rd</sup> R.R. 17<sup>th</sup>

450. Re-Verguier.

Villaret.

1 R.R. 3 R.R. 59. 58. 12 R.R.

46 R.R. 5 + 8<sup>th</sup> Bally. 237 Far.

49 off. includes 5 Ball Commis.  
13 2 3 O.R.

62 - 1496 + 52 wounded

57 - 1148

119 = 2644

1597



$$62 - 1603 = 119 - 2751$$

$$57 - 1148$$

$$67 - 1601$$

$$67 - 1629$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 57 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$124 -$$

$$27770$$

$$67 - 1687$$

$$58$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 57 \\ \hline 358 \end{array}$$

$$2835$$

$$72 - 2045$$

$$2045$$

$$1148$$

$$129 - 3193$$

129 Officers to 3193 O.R.  
for corps up to 6pm. 19/9/18

Strength. 38 - 757

31 - 671 here  
7 - 87 leave ok

Mobile Echelon. O.K.

S.S. Mag's - full  
S.A. 80 per man short  
Tools. ? picks & shovels

Transport. Solidly worked.

Stone. 3 Blankets. Six 1914 Officers  
Heron. Wilcox. Pack ✓  
Newlands. Crow. Pack. Powers ✓  
Voss. Glasgow. Tift

Comforts Fund - Broke  
Demobilization.



Cinema.

Pierrots.

Canteen supplies.

King's Gifts.

Camera. Refund.

---

Demob. starts  
Preliminary Peace.

Base Wallasek  
Actual Fighting Troops }  
6 months.

Germany not.

Here two months.

Onerous duties in occupation  
Feeding Mad.

Finally Demob. Could not start  
till 3 months after that.

---

Letters of appreciation. Giving up food  
etc. Entertained em.

---

Ready to take field any time.  
German Agents trying to

produce discord & Bolshevism  
amongst our troops

Saluting in own units. Good  
Junior Officers returning Salutes  
London

Newspapers. Canteen  
Times - Morning Post & D.N.  
Units to order. Coy. & HQ.

Respirators. to Coy. Stores  
Tins. Hats.  
S.A.A.

Investitures  
Lighting ? Common.  
Playmech.

Flat rate.

Reduce amount used.  
2nd pair of Boots.

Early Demobilization



Compassionate Grounds well  
over & above Common average.

10-30 a.m. Friday next  
9-30 a.m. @ Pde  
Demobilization

Strength	26-608
Detached	10-99
Total	36-738

Returned to Aust. 6-107

1915 Personnel yet to go  
officers 6 mos 5 others 7

3 yrs " nil " 13

O.K. 18 mos. 1 " 62

12 officers 13 5 yrs. 63 O.K.

Gen. Inst. 6. Annexure "A" Cadre  
Volunteers for Despatch Riders

M. T. Drivers  
Next Drafts.

Least no. of Vehicles + animals  
after next two quotas go.  
Paint all burnished. Shift  
Steel work in oil.

Urgent Call from Base.

Big Camp at Harle.

Officers, W.O. + NCO. for it.  
Fair to square in proper order  
Individual hardship, must be a few cases  
Bands.

Years of Enlistment of <sup>not</sup> state of  
embarkation.

War not over Nov 2 of 1918



Annexure B of Ins No 2  
Importance of it, that  
forms be filled in correctly.  
Congestion. Port as a whole.  
Through Railways also Belgian  
Land and so wearance needed.

Schools.

Cadets.

Detached must go on your Rolls.  
Write to people where our  
detached men are.

Reinforcements now in England.

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1919.  
Left Philadelphia 10 am. arrived HAM @ 4 pm.  
Under Communiqué  
R.E.F. Paris, but seen  
your own Show.  
Lack of dealing with R.E.F.  
~~Report Centre~~  
allowance 11 francs a day  
594 Hamilton St.

Jan 30<sup>th</sup> To Charleville. Enkained  
at 6 pm. Cologne - Boulogne  
Express

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Train very late thing  
up continually

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Arrived BOULOGNE at 10 am.  
Enkained at 8 pm. for PARIS



Hotel Windsor  
Rue Petrograd

29 Rue Petrograd ?

M.O. Beds 8 Beds  
~~Rept~~ Kari. Tables 4 Chairs 6

---

Electric Light.

Cleaning out, disinfecting

# W. W. Landing 1. 1. 1. 1. K1 = 19

Bells. To Report Centre office  
Telephone 2 floors.

3 1/2 of stick / Sign Book.  
light over sign pl. floor  
Entrance

1 Major  
1 Platoon

OC. A.I.F. Troops

1 Sgt  
1 Cpl  
4 O.R.

} 4  
for Report Centre

1 M.O.  
1 Sgt  
1 Cpl  
6 O.R.

} A.A.M.C. for Medical  
&  
Prophylactic duties

1 Officer  
2 Sgts

} A.A.P.C. for  
Pay Duties

1 Sgt.  
3 Cpls  
15 Privates

} Aust. M.P. post  
PERINIERE Barracks  
under A.P.M.  
British

149. 1576. 1660. 1945.

2617. 2709. 2913. 3772.



9 Rue Louis Le Grand

O.C. A.C. Troops Paris

1/40 Rue de Londres to  
Rue de Amsterdam

36000 fr. let for half year  
pay each month 3000 fr  
unfurnished

M<sup>me</sup> de Marquette

6 rue de Fort Mahon  
(Place de l'Opera)

5 km.

M<sup>re</sup> Phillips Jose

65 Bd Arago



Buses.  
Sick Men. Leave  
meeting of strains.  
Hospital.  
Funerals ?

Report Centre	5	Tab	12	Chairs	7	Forma
Pay Office	5		6			4
M.O.	4		6			
<del>12</del> Sub Pigeonholes for table						

Blankets.

Sleeping Med. 4  
Pay Office 2

the 308R as they moved through the Reserve Area, where there was no perceptible shell, but which must have been shell full of gas.

Early in the Bombardment about 11-50pm. all forward telephone lines were cut & from that time 3-40 am. my only means of communication was by runners.

The Relief by the French started at 11pm. It was not completed until 4-30am, ~~and~~ this ~~attack~~ <sup>advance</sup> caused ~~of~~ many of his men to be in a heavily gassed area for over five hours. The night was beautifully fine & clear with hardly any wind, towards dawn it became foggy.

26/8/18

Blanchard  
Mug



Relief of the 8th Bn. by 1st & 2nd  
Bns. 59th French Infantry had  
just commenced & to this fact  
attributed the majority of the  
gas attacks. The relief had to  
be completed before daylight  
& so men had to move about.

Precautions.  
When the shells were immediately  
warn, men kept quiet with  
their heads above the trench &  
where possible sat on the parapets.  
Respirators were not removed  
until tests had been made  
for gas by an Officer.

The depth of the shelled area  
was over 2000 yds, as far  
back as Battle the concentration  
of gas was quite strong at  
the time. Left 5-10 am.  
Undoubtedly many men were  
affected as they came out for  
relief, though not wearing

A feature of the spelling was that all ranks talk of a shell, which made a "ping" on explosion like a "richochet" bullet. It smells like "burnt rubber"; others speak of it as smelling like "Tyrone Solution". This shell mainly say burst in the air like shrapnel.

I am of the opinion that several types of gas shell were used during the bombardment which lasted almost five hours.

Evacuations today yesterday & today are as under.

	off.	OR
A Co (Support)	3	43
B " (Reserve)	-	2
C " (Line)		31
D " (Line)	2-	43
HQ (Line men & Sigs.)		4

---

5-123



The Reserve Coy in X 29 which  
it reached about midnight.  
About the same time about  
thirty 5.9 Blue Cross Shell  
fell around Bn HQ at X 28  
to 47.

Until 2-30 am. the shelling of  
the Front Line & Support System  
of trenches & Saps was heavy  
& continuous. From that hour  
it gradually slackened and  
the shells fell mostly in AUGUR  
& CREPEY WOODS and in the  
vicinity of the Hospital in X  
24 C.

Nature of the Gas used.

There is much difference of  
opinion amongst Officers & men  
regarding this.

Blue & at the outset, undoubtedly  
predominated. Later Yellow &  
or so called Mustard was plain  
identified.

Report on Gas Bombardment of  
15<sup>th</sup> Div. night 24/25 August 1918.

Reference sheet. - HATTECOURT

At 11-30 P.M. the enemy put  
down a very heavy Gas Shell  
Bombardment over the whole  
of my sector. This continued  
with great severity until  
2-30 am when it eased off  
considerably, but an intermittent  
shelling of about three Gas  
shells per minute continued  
until 4-20 A.M.

The opening nature of the  
Bombardment was that of a  
heavy barrage & fell on the  
front line & Support Bys  
in S 19, particular attention  
being paid to AUGUR WOOD.  
This barrage lifted at 11-45pm  
& moved on towards the



15th Aug. at night 24/25 August 1944  
The enemy had been in the area since 1st Aug.  
The 2nd Division HATTEGOUR  
1st Division 1st Division

On 19-20 Aug. the enemy had been  
clearly in the area since 1st Aug.  
The 2nd Division HATTEGOUR  
1st Division 1st Division  
On 20-21 Aug. the enemy had been  
clearly in the area since 1st Aug.  
The 2nd Division HATTEGOUR  
1st Division 1st Division

The opening nature of the  
battle would be that of an  
attack on the 1st Division  
The 2nd Division HATTEGOUR  
1st Division 1st Division  
The 2nd Division HATTEGOUR  
1st Division 1st Division



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