

• N-20152.17

36<sup>th</sup> DIVISION

GAS OFFICER  
REPORTS

N 20152.17

36-36-6  
N-20152-17

Report on Gas attack.

New

Date of report: Oct. 11th, 1918.  
Corps: 21st French.  
Division: 36th Division.

Unit: 144th Infantry. Location: Tahure 5323 G.

From: 9 AM, 10th Oct. 1918 to 9:30 10th Oct. 1918.

Method of attack: Shell. No of shells: 75. Caliber 77, 105.

Gas used: Lachrymatory.

Area of terrain and length of terrain: Woods-slope. Approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilometer sq.

No of troops exposed: 400.

Duds found: None.

// Total casualties, including deaths: None.

Length of time respirators were worn: Forty five minutes.

Remarks: Enemy seemed to be shooting up his ammunition preparatory to an evacuation.

Roy Kelley,  
1st Lieutenant, Infantry,  
Reg. Gas Officer 144th Inf.

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Report on gas attack.

Date of report: 11th Oct. 1918.

Corps: 21st French.

Division: 36th Division.

Unit: 144th Infantry. Location: St. Marie, A.P.X. 1/20000 4540 G.

From: 17:30 Oct. 10th to 18:30 Oct. 10th, 1918.

Method attack: Shells Caliber: 77,105. Gas used: Di-phosgene, chlorpicrin,  
some mustard.

No of shells: 150. Character of terrain: low flat, town.

Area of terrain and length of front affected:  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilometer, sward.

No of troops exposed: 150.

Total casualties, including deaths: None.

|| Length of time respirators were worn:  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.

Remarks: Very faint odor of mustard gas, a few hours after attack, but in such a position that it could not affect troops. A fairly high wind cleared off other gas almost immediately.

Roy Kelley,  
1st Lieutenant, Infantry,  
Reg. Gas Officer, 144th Inf.

36A-36A-5

Report on gas attack.

Date of report: 11th Oct.  
Corps: 21st French.  
Division: 36th Division.

Unit: 144th Infantry. Location: Tahure, 1/20000 6728 G.  
From: 22:30 Oct. 10th to ~~23 o'clock~~ 23 o'clock, Oct. 10th, 1918.

Method of attack: Shell. No of shells. 150. Caliber 77, 105.

Gas used: Arsenic compound, diphosgene and chlorpicrin.

Wind direction: North. Velocity: 2 M.P.S.

Area of terrain and length of front affected: 1 kilometer square.

Humidity: high. Character of terrain: wooded hill.

No duds found.

Total casualties including deaths: 15. Total deaths: 0. Lung cases: 15.

Eye cases or burns: 0.

Causes of casualties: 15 due to slowness in putting on mask. Caused by being stunned by H.E.

Length of time respirator was worn: 1/2 hour.

Was any part of gassed area evacuated: All evacuated to escape H.E. and gas.

At what time: 22:30.

Remarks: Troops in support were moved to another hill in close support to escape H.E. and Gas. Moved on initiative of Bn. Commander. The wind cleared off gas fairly quickly.

Signed:

Roy Kelley,  
1st Lieutenant, Infantry,  
Reg. Gas Officer, 144th Inf.

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Report on Gas attack.

Date of Report: 14th Oct.  
Corps: 1st French.  
Division: 35th Division.

Unit: 14th Infantry.

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From: 4:30 14th Oct. to 5:00 Oct. 14th, 1918.

Method of attack: Shell. No. of shells: 50 with H.E. bombardment. Caliber

77, 105. Gas used: ~~Chlorine~~ Blue cross.

Wind direction: North. Velocity: ~~2 m.p.h.~~ Temperature -

Area of terrain and length of front affected:  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilometer square.

No of troops exposed: 750.

Total casualties including deaths: 62. Total deaths: 0. Lung cases 8.

Eye cases or burns: 0

Cause of casualties: Slow to adjust, being due to being stunned.

Length of time respirators were worn: 45 minutes.

Was any part of gassed area evacuated: No.

Remarks: Attack made on front and close support. All casualties interviewed say they were stunned by H.E. and were slow in adjusting respirators.

Signed:

Ray Kelley,  
1st Lieutenant, Infantry,  
Reg. Gas Officer 14th Inf.

Report of Gas attack.

Date of Report: Oct. 18th, 1918.  
Corps: 21st French.  
~~Instructional Division of the 36th Division.~~  
Division: 36th Division.

Unit: 141st Infantry Location: 1 mile S.E. of St. Etienne.

Character of ground: Broken hills, scattered woods.

From: 4:30 PM, Oct. 10th, 1918 to 7 PM Oct. 10th, 1918.

Wind direction: South. Vel: About 1 meter per second.

Temperature: 65 F. Humidity: High. Nature of gas: Blue Cross and  
Green Cross, mostly Blue Cross. Concentration: Light.

Method of projection: Shells. Caliber 77 and 105.

Casualties: Total 12. Dead: None. Evacuated: 12. Cause of casualties:

Officers and N.C.O.'s took respirators off to control platoons while advancing in  
extended order in the dark. Some stunned by shells. Respirators damaged by  
shell fire.

Length of time respirators were worn: Two to three hours.

Remarks: 141st Inf. was occupying line 800 meters back of right edge of St.  
Etienne. Regiment advanced 800 meters to road running from St. Etienne to Scay  
Farm in Meads. Gas bombardment lasted from two to three hours. H.E. and gas  
were mixed, there being more H.E. than gas. Concentration was low at all times.

Signed:

W.S. Montgomery,  
1st Lieutenant, Infantry,  
Reg. Gas Officer, 141st Inf.

Report on gas attack.

Date of Report: Oct. 18th, 1916  
Corps: 21st French.  
Division: 36th Division.

Units exposed: 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 143rd Infantry.

Time of attack: 18 o'clock, 10th Oct. 1916 to 18:30 10th Oct. 1916.

Place: 1 kilometer west Meadeah Ferme: Verdun Reims Map.

Gases used: Di-phosgene (some with punice. Diphenylchlorarsine, some mustard.

Kind: Shell

No of shells: About 125.

Caliber: mostly 77. Few 105.

Duration of attack: 30 minutes.

Masks worn: Intermittently for 1 hour.

Nature of terrain: Wooded, reverse slope, field with shell holes.

Weather: clear, moonlight, and cool. Temperature: 50 degrees.

Wind: Speed 1 M.P.H. Direction S.E.

Casualties: 4 Officers, 25 msn.  
2 Officers evacuated following day.  
3 serious, all lung cases.

Cause: Shells bursting near troops. Masks torn off by explosion of H.D. Rushed into woods where gas was present and gassed before masks could be adjusted.

Discipline: Good.

Remarks: Left Conde-sur-Marne 14 o'clock 6th Oct. 1916 and marched to Dampierre au-Temps with full equipment about 18 kilometers. Left Dampierre 9 o'clock 7th Oct. 1916. Arrived Swippes 8 PM after marching all day in hard rain. Pitched pup tents and camped for night in open muddy field. Distance about 20 kilometers 8th Oct. 1916, went 2 kilometers and camped in woods. Left camp 9:30 o'clock 9 October, 1916 and marched to line of trenches 6 kilometers beyond Somme-Py. Distance about 8 kilometers. Relieved 23rd Infantry in support that night 5 kilometers north of Somme-Py. Night of 10th, Oct. 1916 relieved 141st Infantry in front line. During advance of 2nd and 3rd Battalions a heavy H.D. barrage was laid down followed by severe shelling with gas. Barrage was so heavy that men were stunned by the force of the explosions, causing momentary confusion and excitement. Men rushed into woods and were gassed before masks could be adjusted. In some instances masks were torn off by the force of the explosion of H.D. shells.

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Suggestions: (1) That men slightly gassed be evacuated under a N.C.O. by the order from an officer.

(2) Men reporting to Medical Station voluntarily be investigated before being evacuated.

Frank L. Gray,  
1st Lieutenant, Infantry,  
Reg. Gas Officer, 143rd Inf.

Report on gas attack.

Date of report: Oct. 20th, 1918.  
Corps: 21st French.  
Division: 36th Division.

Unit: 142nd Infantry. Location: Blanc Mont (near St. Etienne)

From: 5 AM to 5:45 AM October 6th, 1918.

Method of attack: Shell.

Number of shells: (Est) 150 mixed in a heavy H.E. bombardment. Caliber 77, 105.

Gas used: Green Cross.

Wind direction: South-east. Velocity: 1 M.P.S. Temperature 65 F.

Humidity: High. Character of terrain: Woods, ground sloping towards S.E.

Length of front affected: One and one half kilometers.

Number of troops exposed: 1800

Duds found: 1, caliber 77, marking: Green Cross.

Total Casualties: 10. Total deaths: None. Lung cases: 10.

Eye cases: 0.

Cause of casualties: Men were advancing through bombardment of H.E. in which there was a scattering admixture of gas shells. A few men failed to put on masks in slight concentrations of gas, and others had their respirators damaged by shell fire.

Length of time respirators were worn: 45 minutes.

Remarks: The 142nd Infantry Regiment went into the line on the night of Oct. 6th, attached to the 2nd Division. In the attack reported above this regiment was subjected for the first time to a heavy bombardment. Lt. Keith Lowry, Gas Officer of the 1st Battalion was killed in this advance.

Signed:

Clark Owsley,  
1st Lieutenant, Infantry,  
Reg. Gas Officer, 142nd Inf.

Report on Gas Attack.

Date of Report: Oct. 20th, 1918.  
Corps: 21st French.  
Division: 36th Division.

Unit: 142nd Infantry. Location: St. Etienne.

From: 5 PM Oct. 8th, 1918 to 6:30 PM Oct. 8th, 1918.

Method of attack: shells

No of shells (Est) 250. Mixed with heavy H.E. bombardment. Caliber 77, 105.

Gas used: Di-phosgene, and diphosgene with chlorpicrin.

Wind direction: S-E. Velocity: 1 M.P.S. Temperature 65.

Humidity: High. Character of terrain: Low ground.

Length of front affected: 1 kilometer and half.

|| No of troops exposed: 1700

No duds found. No opportunity for search.

|| Total casualties including deaths: 0

Length of time respirators were worn:  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

Remarks: Troops had dug themselves in slightly and were holding lines advanced to that morning.

Signed:

Clark Owsley,  
1st Lieutenant, Inf.  
Reg. Gas Officer. 142nd Inf.

36th Div

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REGRADED REPORT OF GAS ATTACK.

BY AUTHORITY OF DOD Doc 52009  
BY 2 Security  
ON 26 Oct 1984

Date: 27th Oct. 1918.  
Corps: 11th French.  
Division: 36th Division.

New

Units: G and H Companies and detachment from Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry, Detachment of about thirty men of 131st M.G. Bn., P.C.'s 131st M.G. Bn., 2nd Bn., of 142nd Infantry, and 1st Bn. of 15th Field Artillery.

Location: Chufilly.

From: 2 A.M. to 3:30 A.M. Oct. 28th, 1918, followed by intermittent shelling for about two hours and by occasional bursts through the day.

Method of Attack: Shell.

Number of shells: 2000 (Est). Caliber: mainly 105, a few 77.

Gas used: Mustard.

Wind direction: Northeast to North. Velocity:  $\frac{1}{2}$  M.P.S.

Temperature: 50 F.

Humidity: High.

Character of terrain: Town on ~~PO REGISTER~~ slope south.

Area of terrain:  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilometer square. Chief concentration in eastern half.

Number of troops exposed: Approximately 200.

Duds found: 3 bases of 105 mm shell and numerous shell fragments found marked with Yellow Cross. (Examples near X 297.950 Y 273.300)

Total casualties: 38. Total deaths: None. Lung cases: 16.  
Eye cases or burns: 37.

Causes of casualties: Remaining in contaminated area without wearing respirators or taking other necessary precautions prescribed in Par. 57, G.O. 17, these Headquarters, 2nd Oct. 1918.

Was any part of gassed area evacuated: Yes 131st M.G. Bn. detachment of about 30 men evacuated at about 7 A.M. on my recommendation. Troops of the 2nd Bn. 142nd Infantry evacuated between 5 and 9 P.M. Oct. 25th, 1918.

Was attempt made to relieve units required to remain in sector: No.

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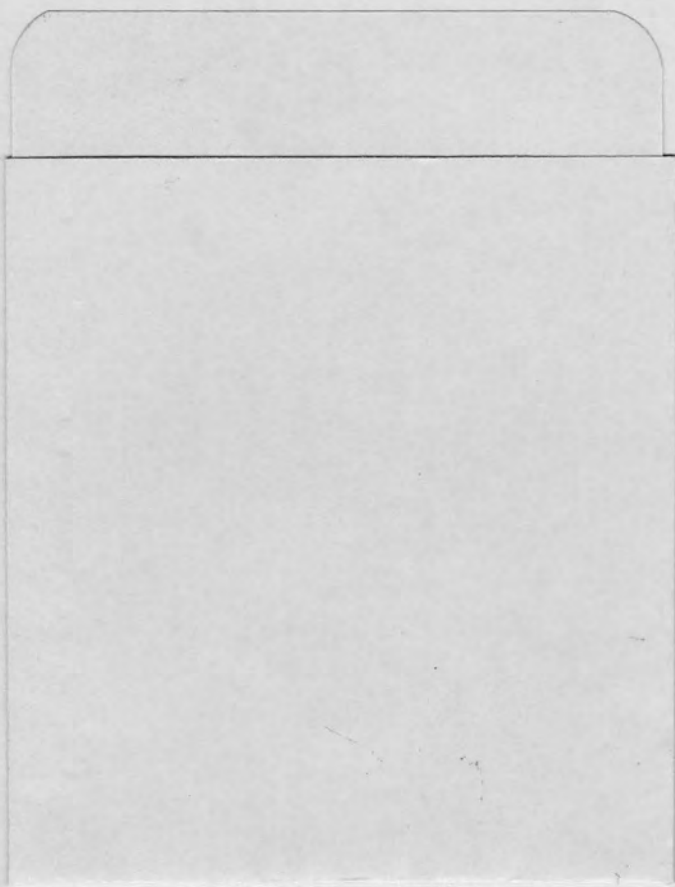
Remarks: (a) Town was heavily shelled from about 2 A.M. to 3:30 A.M. Commanding Officer 1st Battalion 15th F.A. estimated that 2000 gas shells fell during this time. Several hours of intermittent shelling with mustard gas followed. At 6:15 A.M. there was a five minute burst of about 30 shells. (I counted 16 in two minutes). At 8:15 there was a burst of 50. (I counted 20 in  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute.) About noon there was a burst of 20. (I counted 10 in one minute.)

(b) Troops were in support position, dug in just on the edge and to windward of shelled area.

(c) Nine casualties stated periods ranging from 30 minutes to 3 or 4 hours as the time they individually wore their respirators during the shelling. At 6:15 A.M. respirators were not being worn. At this time I arrived and on my advice orders were issued by C.O.'s of G and H Companies to have respirators worn. At 8:15 A.M. I observed that respirators had been removed. (against my advice.)

(d) At 6:15 A.M. I advised wearing masks and keeping away from contaminated objects pending investigation. At about 6:30 I advised that contaminated areas be evacuated if tactical situation permitted, or, failing this, that respirators be worn continuously in this area, that reliefs of not longer than 8 hours be instituted, and that all possible precautions be taken to avoid contamination. The detachment from the 131st M.G.Bn. evacuated at about 7:00 A.M. At 3:00 P.M. 27th Oct. no casualties had been received by the Triage from this detachment.

(Signed) G.W.Keitt,  
Captain, G.W.S.  
Divn. Gas Officer.



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