

N-20152, 22

81st DIVISION

GAS OFFICER

REPORTS

305.812-112

(W)



Headquarters 81st Division

American E.F.

N-20152.22

November 12th, 1918.

From: The Division Gas Officer, 81st Division.

To: The Commanding General, 81st Division.

New

Subject: Gas Shelling Nov. 9th to Nov. 11th.

1. The gas shelling as shown on the accompanying report, was intermittent, covering a period of fifty one hours. This shelling occurred during an advance of this division and was a mixture of gas, shrapnel, and high explosive. The gas shells were not apparently concentrated on any particular locality, but merely a part of the general barrage over the entire sector.

2. All of the casualties were only very slightly gassed, and upon advice from the Division Medical Gas Officer will return to their units in twenty four to sixty hours. From questioning several of the men sent back as gassed, I am of the opinion that in the majority of cases, they were gassed by the nitrous fumes of the high explosive shells. Not being acquainted with this odor, they at once assumed that they had been gassed and reported to the dressing station as gassed patients.

3. The casualties are distributed as follows:

321 Inf.	2
322 Inf.	34
323 Inf.	46
324 Inf.	32
316 M.G.Bn.	7
317 M.G.Bn.	1
316 M.G.Bn.	6
306 Engrs.	24
Total	152

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4. I recommend that at least one hour per day be devoted to gas training during the time that the units are not in the front line.

D.H. Rowe,
Capt. C.W.S.

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Searler
26 Oct 1981

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
DEFENSE DIVISION, CHEMICAL WARFARE DIVISION

Report on Gas Attack.

(Date of report) 11/12/18

Corps 2nd French

Division 81st

Unit 81st Division Location Belrupt-Sommediens Area

From 8 A.M. Nov. 9 1918, to 11:00 A. Nov. 11 1918.

Method of attack (shells, cylinders, projectors) Shells

No. of shells 500 Caliber 150 Gas used Blue Cross

Wind direction Easterly Velocity 2 to 5 M.P.H. Temperature 55°F Humidity Lo

Character of terrain (woods, sloping ground, ravine, swamp, etc.) Woody and marshy

Area of terrain and length of front affected 35 sq.kil. and 10 kil. front

No. of troops exposed About 12,300

Duds found at (Co-ordinates) _____ No. _____ Caliber _____

Markings _____

Total Casualties including deaths 152 Total deaths none

*Lung cases none *Eye cases or burns none

Causes of casualties (approx. no. from each cause; failure to put on mask, premature removal, etc.) 50% shells bursting close and among men. 2% premature removal of masks, 15% failure to put on mask in time. 10% did not realize gas was present, 15% knocked down by H.E.

Length of time respirators were worn 5 min. to 2 hours

Was any part of gassed area evacuated? no At what time? _____

Was attempt made to relieve units required to remain in sector? _____

At what time (in the case of mustard gas) was disinfection of ground begun? _____

Completed? _____

Remarks: (should include any new tactical use of gas, any suggestions, etc.) _____

See attached letter

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BY J. Searles
ON 26 Oct 1981

(Signed)

D.H. Rowe,
Capt. U.S.

December 1, 1918.

ACCESSION NO. _____

From: Division Gas Officer, ~~1st Division~~ ^{PO REGISTER}.

To: Chief of Chemical Warfare Service - Through Military Channels.

Subject: Monthly Report for November 1918.

1. In compliance with circular letter No. 22, the following report is submitted:

(A) Administration and General.

1. The general state of gas training and discipline in this division is excellent as was shown during the gas shelling on November 9, 10, and 11th. Although 170 very slight casualties resulted, the majority of which were the result of nitrous fumes of H.E. shell, there were very few avoidable casualties. To date, 18 officers and 78 N.C.O.s have attended a gas school in France.

2. The relations with Commanding Officers and liaison with the General Staff is excellent, and all advice given on defensive measures has been carried out. There has been no offensive use of gas or smoke in the division.

3. Corporal C.H.White, attached to this office from the 321st Ambulance Company, is assigned to keeping and making records of issues of supplies. Pvt. C.P.Willimen, attached from the 323rd Ambulance Company is assigned to the dump, assisting in the issue of supplies.

(B) Personnel.

1. 1st Lt. V.G.White, C.W.S., and 2nd Lt. G.F.Poulson, Inf., have been assigned to making inspections of defensive measures and training, advising and assisting Regimental and Battalion Gas Officers, and collecting data of enemy gas attacks. 2nd Lt. T.F. East, Inf., is assigned as supply officer. Corp. J.P. Christopher is in charge of the dump, making issues, and is assisted by Pvt. 1/cl. A.E.C. Seldwisch and Pvt. H.E.Culp. Wagoner L.B. Ince is assigned as chauffeur, and Pvt. P.H.Meskil as office orderly.

The work of all of the above officers and men has been very good.

2. The work of Regimental and Battalion Gas Officers has been very good, especially during the gas shelling of November 9 to 11.

3. On November 2, 2nd Lt. G.F. Poulson, Inf., reported for duty as Ass't. D.G.O. On November 3rd, 2nd Lt. Bruce Seddon, C.W.S., was relieved from duty as A.D.G.O. On November 17, 2nd Lt. T.F. East, Inf., reported for duty as A.D.G.O.

(C) Gas Casualties.

1. Reports of gas casualties is attached to this report.

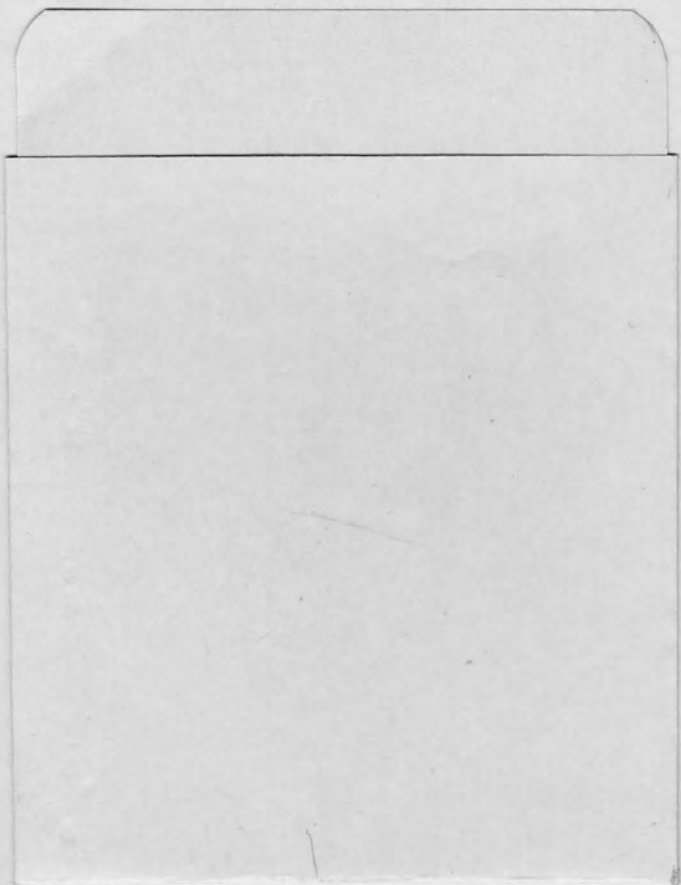
(D) Transportation.

1. The transportation consists of a light Ford truck.
2. There have been no unsuccessful attempts to obtain transportation.

(E) Supplies.

1. On October 13, 700 horse respirators were requisitioned for. They have not been received to date, but are now not required.

D. H. Rowe,
Capt. C.W.S.



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