

Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) Field Ambulance Units

131 Field Ambulance and the 38th (Welsh) Division in France 1915 – 1918

Medals Awarded to 131 Field Ambulance.

[Information from "The Long Long Trail"](#)

The RAMC Field Ambulances of 1914-18

The Field Ambulance was a mobile front line medical unit (it was not a vehicle). Most came under command of a Division, and had special responsibility for the care of casualties of one of the Brigades in the Division. Each Division had three Field Ambulances. The theoretical capacity of the Field Ambulance was 150 casualties, but in battle many would simply be overwhelmed by numbers. The Ambulance was responsible for establishing and operating a number of points along the casualty evacuation chain, from the Bearer Relay Posts which were up to 600 yards behind the Regimental Aid Posts, through the Advanced Dressing Station (ADS), to the Main Dressing Station (MDS). It also provided a Walking Wounded Collecting Station, as well as various rest areas and local sick rooms. The Ambulances would usually establish 1 ADS per Brigade, and 1 MDS for the Division.

The Composition of the Field Ambulance

The Field Ambulance was divided into 3 Sections. In turn, those Sections had Stretcher Bearer and Tented subsections. The Field Ambulance was composed of 10 officers and 224 men.

A Section: 65 in total

- 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, in command of the Ambulance and A Section
- 1 Captain or Lieutenant in command of Stretcher Bearer subsection
- 1 Sergeant and 1 Corporal
- 1 Bugler
- 3 Privates (wagon orderlies) and 36 Privates (bearers)
- 1 Captain or Lieutenant in command of Tent subsection
- 1 Quartermaster, 1 Sergeant-Major, 2 Sergeants, 2 Corporals 15 Privates (including a cook, a washerman and 2 orderlies)

B and C Sections: 128 in total

- 1 Captain or Lieutenant in command of Stretcher Bearer subsection
- 1 Sergeant and 1 Corporal
- 1 Bugler
- 2 Privates (wagon orderlies) and 36 Privates (bearers)
- 1 Major, Captain or Lieutenant in command of Tent subsection
- 1 Quartermaster, 1 Sergeant-Major, 4 Sergeants, 2 Corporals
- 13 Privates (including a cook, a washerman and 2 orderlies)

Attached

- A Section also had a Sergeant, 10 Drivers and 4 officers' batmen attached from the Army Service Corps.
- B and C Sections each had a Sergeant, 9 Drivers and 3 batmen attached.
- An ASC driver for the cooks' wagon was also attached.

The [web site link](#) has a section detailing the actual duties allocated to members of 55 Field Ambulance.

131 Field Ambulance

Was commanded by **Acting Lt-Col Jimmy C Sproule** from 3 March 1918.

The 38th (Welsh) Division

131 Field ambulance was one of three field ambulance units assigned to the 38th (Welsh) Division commanded by Major General Thomas Astley-Cubitt from May 1918.

The 38th (Welsh) Division was part of Britain's "New Army" and was recruited, trained and sent to France during 1915.

The Division fought at:

1916

The Battle of Albert (*a phase of the Battles of the Somme 1916*)

The Division was used to assault and clear Mametz Wood. It suffered severe casualties and did not return to major action until over a year later.

1917

The Battle of Pilkem*

The Battle of Langemark*

*The battles marked * are phases of the Third Battles of Ypres*

1918

The Battle of Albert+

The Battle of the Bapaume+

The battles marked+ are phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

The Battle of Havrincourt^

The Battle of Epehy^

The Battle of Beaurevoir^

The Battle of Cambrai^ in which the Division captured Villers-Outreaux

The battles marked^ are phases of the Battles of the Hindenburg Line

The Battle of the Selle**

The Battle of the Sambre**

*The battles marked** are phases of the Final Advance in Picardy*

The 38th (Welsh) Division suffered nearly 30,000 casualties during the war - 6,112 men killed and missing, 23,268 wounded. Demobilization took place in 1919, with Jimmy Sproule now Chief Divisional Medical Officer.

HONOURS AND AWARDS.

151 FIELD AMBULANCE.

D.B.E.
Captain (A/Lieut Colonel) J.C. SPROULE

BAR to MILITARY CROSS.

Captain (A/Major) J. E. DAVIES.

MILITARY CROSS.

Captain (A/Major) J. E. DAVIES.

do. do. W. D. FREW.

do do G. W. PARRY.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

Lieut. Colonel R. H. MILLS-ROBERTS.

Captain (A/Major) W. D. FREW.

Captain (A/Lieut Colonel) J.C. SPROULE

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

48462. Staff Serjt. F. A. TARLING.

TERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL.

48322. Q.M.S. E. J. BROWN.

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.

48909. Serjt. E. B. THOMAS.

MILITARY MEDAL.

48329. Serjt. H. DANDO.

W 48768. A/Cpl. F. L. NYDLOW.

W 48721. Pte. R. S. GUNNINGHAM.

W 48727. Pte. S. S. JENNINGS.

88389. Pte. A. LAM.

48441. Pte. A. S. POWNEY.

48909. Serjt. E. B. THOMAS.

48338. L/Cpl. P. DAVIES.

48349. Pte. J. H. EVANS.

48390. Pte. H. H. JENNINGS.

W 48440. Pte. T. PICTON.

W 48458. Pte. W. SHARPE.

R.A.S.C. Attached :-

12/077699. Pte. F. EVANS.

W 12/081147. Pte. A. TATE.

12/102849. Pte. F. L. CHATFIELD.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

Captain (A/Lieut Colonel) J.C. SPROULE
54905. Serjt. Major. G. B. LEE.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CERTIFICATE.

48436. Sgt. Major. J. F. PEARCE.

48732. Serjt. J. WASON.

4319. Corpl. R. GRIFLEY.

W 48733. Private. E. LOSBELL.

48716. do. W. LEDDINGTON.

48374. do. R. HOPKINS.

K 48445. do. G. PRITCHARD.

48426. S/Serjt. F. A. TARLING.

48399. L/Serjt. J. JONES.

48245. Corpl. F. A. TUNNAH.

48348. Private. J. H. EVANS.

48775. L/Corpl. J. GOODIER.

K 48412. Private. H. J. LEWIS.

K 48494. do. T. D. WILLIAMS.

R.A.S.C. Attached :-

12/102828. Serjt. F. G. PARROT.

12/081147. Pte. A. TATE.

12/102849. Pte. F. L. CHATFIELD.

FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE.

Captain (A/Lieut Colonel) J.C. SPROULE

48346. Pte. E. EVANS. 48055. Pte. C. ROGERS. 48201. Pte. W. THOMAS.

BELGIAN CROIX DE GUERRE.