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.
WW1 Honours and Awards – 131 Field Ambulance

O B E
Captain (A/Lt Col) J C Sproule

BAR to MILITARY CROSS
Captain (A/Major) J.E.Davies

MILITARY CROSS
Captain (A/Major) J E Davies
Captain (A/Major) W D Frew
Captain (A/Major) G W Parry

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES
Lt Colonel R H Mills-Roberts
Captain (A/Lt Col) J C Sproule
Captain (A/Major) W D Frew

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL
M48462 Staff Sgt F A Tarling

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
M48322 Q M S E J Brown

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL
M48909 Sgt E B Teomas

MILITARY MEDAL
48329 Sgt H Dando
W 48768 A/Cpl F L Fi?dlow
W 48721 Pte R S Cunningham
W 48727 Pte S Jeffings
88389 Pte A Law
48441 Pte A S Powney
R A S C Attached

88329 Staff Sgt F A Tarling

MMENTIONED IN DESPATCHES
54905 Sgt Major G B Lee

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CERTIFICATE
48436 Sgt Major W F Pearce
48732 Sgt J Mason
4319 Cpl R Grimley
W 48725 Pte E Los?ell
48716 Pte W Edgington
48374 Pte R Hopkins
K 48445 Pte G Pritchard
R A S C Attached

48426 S/Sgt F A Tarling
48399 L/Sgt J Jones
48845 Cpl F A Tunnah
48348 Pte J H Evans
48775 L/Cpl J Goodier
K 48412 Pte W J Lewis
K 48494 Pte T D Williams

M2/102828 Sgt F G Parrot
M2 / 081147 Pte A Tate

FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE
Captain (A/Lt Col) J C Sproule

48346 Pte E Evans
48055 Pte C Rogers

48201 Pte W Thomas

BELGIAN CROIX DE GUERRE

48775 L/Cpl J Goodier

"K" prefix (handwritten) – killed.

"W" prefix (handwritten) wounded

Transcribed May 2010 by Adrian Fletcher (afletch at paradoxplace dot com) from the original below, which was in the papers of his grandfather Jimmy Sproule (1887 – 1965 (68)).
HONOURABLE ACHIEVEMENTS.

154. FIELD AMALGAM.

C. S. C.

STAFF SERGT. F. A. TARLING.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

48162. Staff Sgt. F. A. TARLING.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

48322. Q. M. G. J. BRID.

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.

82009. Sgt. E. B. THOMAS.

MILITARY MEDAL.

48328. Sgt. H. DAVIES.

48909. Sgt. E. B. THOMAS.

48766. Lt. P. L. PARDON.

48336. L/Cpl. F. L. PARDON.

48721. Pte. R. S. VERNER.

48346. Pte. J. W. W. MOSS.

48727. Pte. S. J. W. MOSS.

48390. Pte. R. H. JENNINGS.

82389. Pte. A. LA.

48441. Pte. A. S. PAYNE.

48488. Pte. W. SHARPE.

R.A.S.C. Attached:

12/077699. Pte. F. EVANS.

12/0102649. Pte. F. L. CHATFIELD.

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES.

84956. Sgt. Maj. G. B. LEE.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CERTIFICATE.

4874. Sgt. Maj. W. P. PEARCE.

48426. S/Sgt. F. A. TARLING.

48732. Sgt. F. L. PARDON.

48399. L/Sgt. J. J. JONES.

48738. Cpl. R. S. VERNER.

48346. S/Cpl. F. A. TARLING.

48775. Pte. H. L. W. MOSS.

48488. Pte. R. H. JENNINGS.

48278. do. M. W. J. LEE.

48412. Pte. J. E. W. CHATFIELD.

R.A.S.C. Attached:

12/0102659. Sgt. P. R. PARROTT.

12/0102649. Pte. F. L. CHATFIELD.

12/081147. Pte. A. TAYL.

FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE.

48846. Pte. E. EVANS.

48655. Pte. C. ROGERS.

48201. Pte. W. THOMAS.

BELGIAN CROIX DE GUERRE.