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First World War: Operations and Intelligence of the British First and Second Armies

Collection Summary

Title:	First World War: Operations and Intelligence of the British First and Second Armies
Call Number:	MS 90-03
Size:	0.5 linear feet
Acquisition:	Purchased from Sotheby's, New York
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Note:	None
Restrictions:	None

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Restrictions

None

Content Note

This collection contains a number of materials connected to the operations of subunits of the British First and Second Armies from 1916 to 1918. Included are Battalion, Brigade, and Divisional operations reports, intelligence summaries, orders, statistical figures such as casualty reports and policy statements. Also included are maps and map indexes for a number of operational areas and a series of English translations of non-English news journals complete with commentary. The divisional units from which these materials come include 30th Infantry Division, 38th (Welsh) Infantry Division, 57th Infantry Division, and 59th Infantry Division. Among the battles covered by this material are the Battle of the Somme and the Third Battle of Ypres.

Administrative History

None

Biography

None

Detailed Description: Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1 FF 1-19	Military Unit (Named) Materials. Includes communiques, summaries of operations, instructions, orders, maps and other documents concerning specific military units of the British First and Second Armies, 1916-1918
Series 2	Box 1 FF 20-22	Miscellaneous Military Materials. Includes maps, communiques and publication of the British First and Second Armies, 1917-1918.

Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

Series 1 – Military Unit (Named) Materials

Box 1	FF 1	British First Army -- Operation Summaries, one per day beginning July 29, 1917 and ending August 15, 1917.
Box 1	FF 2	British First Army -- Intelligence summaries, numbers 930 to 944 (some with supplements) one per day from July 31, 1917 to August 14, 1917, briefs of intelligence gathered from various sources.
Box 1	FF 3	British Second Army -- "Instructions for Intelligence Duties," September 20, 1916, 39 pages text plus 21 pages in eight appendices, basic outlines for intelligence gathering methods and responsibilities and six grid map indexes for British Second Army Areas of Operation.
Box 1	FF 4	11th Corps -- Fortnightly Intelligence Summary, covering the period of July 16, 1917 to July 31, 1917; two maps of 11th Corps area showing German Improvements to Trench System, May - July 1917; Interrogation Report of two prisoners captured on the night of July 31 - August 1, 1917 from a Bavarian Infantry Regiment; Interrogation report on two prisoners captured on the night of July 28-29, 1917 from 101st Reserve Infantry Regiment, 219th Division; Interrogations Report on deserter from 3rd Company, 161st Infantry Regiment, 185th Division who surrendered on July 25, 1917; and an English translation of a captured German document, "Regimental Order of 29th Infantry Regiment," dated July 5, 1917, captured July 31, 1917.
Box 1	FF 5	15th Corps -- General Staff's instructions to subordinate divisions, revision dated March 31, 1918. Covering a variety of topics related to intelligence gathering, 11 pages, two copies.
Box 1	FF 6	30th Infantry Division -- Report of operations with a breakdown of casualty figures for July 1-5, 1916. Copy signed by commanding general dated July 17, 1916.
Box 1	FF 7	30th Infantry Division -- Report of operations with a breakdown of casualty figures and selected operation orders for July 7-13, 1916. Unsigned copy dated July 16, 1916.

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| Box 1 | FF 8 | 30th Infantry Division (21st Infantry Brigade) -- Report of operations for July 23, 1916. Includes casualty reports and breakdown. Unsigned original dated July 28, 1916, 11 pages; 30th Infantry Division, Operational Order Number 26, unsigned original dated July 21, 1916, three pages; 30th Infantry Division, addenda and amendments to Operational Order Number 26. Unsigned original dated July 22, 1916, one page, and 30th Infantry Division, second amendment to Operational Order Number 26. Unsigned original dated July 22, 1916, one page. |
| Box 1 | FF 9 | 30th Infantry Division -- Report of operations from July 24-29, 1916. Unsigned and undated copy, ten printed pages on six sheets; 89th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Division report of operations from the evening of July 29, 1916 to the morning of July 31, 1916, unsigned copy dated August 6, 1916, nine pages on five sheets; 90th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Division report of operations for July 30, 1916, attached report on carrying work done by 23rd Manchester Regiment, 90th Infantry Brigade, July 29-31, 1916. Unsigned copy dated August 1, 1916, nine pages on five sheets; 35th Divisional Artillery, attached to 30th Division Operations Report July 21-30, 1916, unsigned copy dated August 2, 1916; 30th Infantry Division, report of operations of Royal Engineers and other technical units July 29 and 30, 1916, unsigned copy dated August 1, 1916; 30th Infantry Division, Operation Order 28, dated July 28, 1916. Amendments and Special Instructions attached, unsigned copies; 30th Infantry Division, report on supply, prisoners and stragglers dated July 30, 1916, unsigned copy, one page; 30th Infantry Division, notes on Medical Arrangement Operations, July 30, 1916, unsigned, undated copy, one page; and 30th Infantry Division, casualty lists, one for July 30, 1916 and one covering period from June 24, 1916 to July 31, 1916, four pages on two sheets, unsigned, undated copies. |
| Box 1 | FF 10 | 38th (Welsh) Infantry Division -- Operation Instructions, June-July 1917. Assorted copies of orders, letters, communiques, reports, and other items relating to the third Battle of Ypres. |
| Box 1 | FF 11 | 38th (Welsh) Infantry Division -- Instructions and Orders, second phase, third Battle of Ypres August 1917. Copies and originals of divisional orders, battle narratives, maps, reports, charts and statistics, and other related items are included. |
| Box 1 | FF 12 | 41st Infantry Division -- Standing order regarding training, precautions, and actions before, during, and after gas attacks, December 1, 1916, 17 printed pages and a one page, both sides, addendum to standing orders on gas attacks, December 30, 1916, additions and modifications to order issued on December 15, 1916. |
| Box 1 | FF 13 | 57th Division -- Daily Bulletins, numbers 1 to 33, one a day beginning July 11, 1917 and ending August 12, 1917, brief reports of daily activities and observations of 57th Infantry Division. |
| Box 1 | FF 14 | 57th Division -- Daily Intelligence Summaries, numbers 154 to 172, one a day beginning July 28, 1917 and ending August 15, 1917, brief reports of divisional expenditures, activities, casualties, and observations. Also included are similar, brief reports on the enemy. |
| Box 1 | FF 15 | 57th Division -- Copies of communiques on British Army Message Forms. |

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| Box 1 | FF 16 | 57th Division -- Further instructions for the capture of Mont S. Aubert and Mont de la Trinite. Signed copy dated November 3, 1918, two pages; 59th Infantry Division, Order Number 174, dated October 13, 1918, signed copy, one page, one page appendix to Order 174, dated October 15, 1918, also included; and 59th Infantry Division, Order Number 175, directions to continue to advance against enemy, dated October 17, 1918, signed copy, one page, distribution list on back. |
| Box 1 | FF 17 | 59th Infantry Division -- Operation Policy Number 4, regarding the relative positioning of troops and units within divisional boundaries, dated September 29, 1918, four pages, two pages of amendment and addendum. Also contains 59th Infantry Division, Operation Policy Number 6, reconnoitering patrols and detached posts, dated October 9, 1918, one page plus diagram. |
| Box 1 | FF 18 | 59th Infantry Division -- Defense Instructions, Number 4, Anti-Aircraft Defense, dated September 13, 1918, one page signed copy; 59th Division, Amendment to Defense Instructions Number 4, dated September 13, 1918, one page signed copy; 59th Division, Defense Instructions Number 8, outlines defense plan against enemy ground attack, dated October 10, 1918, one page, unsigned copy, one map original; Communique from Commanding General, 177th Infantry Brigade requesting clarification of a point in Defense Instruction Number 8 by 59th Division Headquarters. Signed original dated October 11, 1918; Reply to above communique, signed original dated October 13, 1918; and Amendment to 59th Division Defense Instruction Number 8, owing to withdrawal of certain troops. Signed copy dated October 13, 1918. |
| Box 1 | FF 19 | Royal Flying Corps -- Communique, number 96, July 14 - July 20, 1917, reports of operations. |

Series 2 – Miscellaneous Military Materials

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| Box 1 | FF 20 | Maps, situational, for first two weeks of April 1918. |
| Box 1 | FF 21 | Summaries of Official Communiques, numbers 320 to 338, dating from July 27, 1917 to August 14, 1917, one per day. |
| Box 1 | FF 22 | <i>Daily Review of the Foreign Press</i> , published by British High Command, issues dated January 1, January 4-5, and January 7-10, 1918. Synopses and summaries of war-related articles found in non-English newspapers. |

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