

6. To DAG 3rd Echelon
Army "A."

Forwarded with reference to my Casualty Wire No. _____ dated _____
Concurs

Date 24/3/19

Capt. S. J. [unclear]
Ag 18 Division.

7. To D. A. G.,

G. H. Q., 3rd Echelon.

Forwarded for record. This casualty should be reported as _____

**7. THIS CASUALTY
IS CLASSIFIED AS**

Date 5/8/19

Sick
init. [unclear]
Capt. S. J. [unclear]
Army Echelon

INSTRUCTIONS.

1. These forms are to be completed in all cases of accidental or self-inflicted injuries, involving a soldier's absence from duty, whether due to the man's own act, or that of a comrade, or to other extraneous circumstances.

2. Where several casualties occur as the result of one accident, one form is to be completed for each Officer or other rank injured, but only one set of statements from the witnesses of the accident need be attached.

3. Full statements are to be taken by an Officer from the witnesses of the accident. These statements will be signed by the witnesses making them, and by the Officer who takes them, and will be forwarded with this Form. Where it is intended to take disciplinary action, copies of these statements should be retained by the Unit for use in lieu of a summary of evidence.

4. Where it is possible to obtain it, a statement from the injured man will also be forwarded. This, however, should not be used as evidence against him in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

Special Instructions as to Evidence in Cases of Self-Inflicted Wounds.

5. In these cases the statements mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 above should bring out all material points, e.g., statements to the effect that the witness was with the accused standing on the fire step (or sitting in a dug-out); that the accused was cleaning his rifle; position of safety catch, magazine, etc., if known; muzzle of rifle on toe of foot; hand on muzzle; that accused pulled trigger; that the rifle was afterwards examined and an empty cartridge case was found in chamber; that accused was seen to be wounded; what accused said ("I have shot myself," "I did not know it was loaded," etc.).

6. A soldier is specially trained in the safe use of his rifle and revolver, and evidence of any neglect of the ordinary precautions as to their handling in such cases usually has considerable bearing on the question of negligence. In cases of wilful self-wounding the fullest possible evidence should be obtained; unless the evidence is conclusive this charge should not be used. The charge will therefore usually be laid under sec. 40, Army Act—"Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in wounding himself through negligently handling a rifle," and an alternative charge to this effect should be made, even if the accused is to be tried under section 18 for wilful maiming.