

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/1/3 Part 2

Title: Chief of the General Staff, Australia

October 1914



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-179-

2nd. October, 1914.

Letter to all Commandants- (W.L. 4562).

"No naturalized Germans or Austrians under 60 years of age and fit for Military Service are to be allowed to leave the Commonwealth".

Cablegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies - (AIF.112/3/33).

"Commonwealth Government glad to know from War Office if another Brigade Light Horse with Brigade Train and Field Ambulance would be acceptable".

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies - (W.393/1/2).

"With reference to your telegram 28th September Press Bureau messages are now telegraphed to Australia by High Commissioner who has special staff for that purpose. Is it your intention that I should ask him to include in his messages particulars of conduct and casualties of Indian Troops".

Cablegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies - (W.393/1/2).

"Your telegram 1st October glad if you will kindly arrange with High Commissioner to include matter in his messages".

3rd. October, 1914.

Letter to Secretary Department of External Affairs - (W.398/4/36).

"With reference to your memo of the 2nd inst relative to the guard for Woodlark Island it is requested that the Lieutenant-Governor of Papua be informed in answer to his telegram of 1st that the men constituting the guard will be living and working near the station they may be permitted to pursue their usual avocation".

Cablegram to Governor-General South Africa - (W.121/38).

"With reference to my telegram 26th September freight on ammunition amounts to £2,500 not £2,250".

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies - 9-30pm.

"With reference to my despatch 12th August 368 following Order in Council was passed September 30th begins :

Whereas by Section 3 of the Prize Court Act 1894, His Majesty in Council is authorized to make rules of court for regulating, subject to the provisions of the Naval Prize Act 1864, and the said Act, the procedure

and practice of Prize Courts, within the meaning of the Naval Prize Act 1864, and the duties and conduct of the officers thereof and of the practitioners therein, and for regulating the fees to be taken by the officers of the Courts, and the costs, charges and expenses to be allowed to the practitioners therein; and whereas in pursuance of the Prize Court Act 1894, certain rules were made by His Majesty's order in council dated the fifth day of August, 1914; and whereas it is expedient that the said rules should be amended; and whereas on account of urgency this order should come into immediate operation: now, therefore, His Majesty, by virtue of the powers in that behalf by the said Act or otherwise in him vested, is pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows: One that in order 28 (detention) of the said rules, rule 3 shall be omitted and this omission shall be retrospective and shall take effect as if the said rule had never been inserted in the said rules. Two that in order 29 (requisitions by Admiralty) of the said rules the following words shall be omitted :- in rules one and three the words "on motion" In rule 1, the words "form of notice of motion will be found in appendix A number 54" In rule 4, the words "by motion" Three that the following rules shall be added to the aforesaid order 29, after rule 4 thereof:- Four A notwithstanding anything contained in this order, the Court shall on the request of the proper officer of the Crown accept in lieu of payment into Court an undertaking in writing signed by the proper officer of the Crown for payment into Court on behalf of the Crown of the appraised value of the ship, or of the amount fixed under rule four of this order, as the case may be, at such time or times as the Court shall declare by order that the same or any part thereof is required for the purposes of payment out of Court. Four B. Where in any case of requisitions under this order it is made to appear to the Judge on behalf of the Crown that the Lords of the Admiralty desire to requisition the ship temporarily, the Court may, in lieu of an order of release, make an order for the temporary delivery of the ship to the Lords of the Admiralty, and subject as aforesaid the provisions of this order shall apply to such a requisition; provided that, in the event of the return of the ship to the custody of the Court, the Court may make such order as it thinks fit for the return to the Crown of the money paid into Court, or some or any part thereof, or the release of the undertaking given on behalf of the Crown or the reduction of the amount undertaken to be paid thereby, as the case may be; and provided also that, where the ship so requisitioned is subject to the provisions of order 28 rule 1 relating to detention, the amount for which the Crown shall be considered liable in respect of such requisition shall be the amount of the damage, if any, which the ship has suffered during such temporary delivery as aforesaid. Four That form No. 54 in appendix A to the said rules shall be omitted. Five This order shall take effect provisionally in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Rules Publication Act 1893, from the date hereof. Almeric Fitzroy."

4th October, 1914.

4th October, 1914.

Telephone message to Prime Minister.

"Following telegram has been received from Admiralty begins Admiralty have stated that the transports to convey home the New Zealand and Australian regiments can safely assemble on the point of concentration. Report if that is being arranged for and the date fixed for sailing date and escort stop Minotaur and Ibuke available in Commonwealth escort to convey over the Indian Ocean with the Melbourne ends I propose to resume operations stop Do you concur stop Anxious for reply today in order to enable arrangements to be carried out."

Telephone message from Prime Minister.

"Admiralty declaration that transports may safely be concentrated proceed to seat of war I concur in your proceeding at once with necessary and expeditious arrangements."

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 4th October, 1914, 12.30 a.m.

"October 3rd. With reference to your cypher telegram of October 2nd in view of the latest news of the German cruisers Admiralty are clearly of opinion that arrangements for the concentration of the transports in Australia can be made safely without further delay. Australian Contingent will of course have to await arrival of New Zealand contingent before proceeding across Indian Ocean. I am communicating with Governor of New Zealand."

Cablegram sent to High Commissioner, London. W.L. 4775.

"Your No. 67. Do you mean information re British Force operating in Europe only or are movements of Australians included Do you refer to Press Cables. Please explain fully."

Cablegram dated Wellington, 8.40 p.m., 5th October, 1914 received from the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

"Your telegram 4th October difficulties have arisen here in this way. Some of our Infantry transports departed from here September 24th but were recalled on receipt of the message to the effect that very serious risk was being incurred stop Another message was received from England to the effect that adequate escort was being arranged to escort our transports from Wellington to junction with Australian Expeditionary Forces stop Great public anxiety felt as regards what had taken place and I gave assurance that the ships should not go till the escort should arrive stop Communications are passing between the New Zealand Government and the Imperial Government but my Government expects good faith to be kept with regard to escort and as soon as word comes we can be ready to leave at probably 24 hours' notice stop May I ask for your assistance in view of public feeling here and knowing that powerful German men-of-war are still at large in the Pacific Ocean we could not consent to vessels setting out without sufficiency of protection from the enemy."

6th October, 1914.

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies dated London 5th October, 1914, 6.40 p.m.

"October 5th. Your telegram October 4th New Zealand transports will await arrival of "Minotaur" and "Ibuki" in New Zealand."

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies dated London 5th October, 1914, 6.10 p.m. W. 389/1/45.

"October 5th. Following telegram has been received by Admiralty from Commander in Chief China begins :- From the experience of last few weeks it appears no increase in loss to merchant shipping will be incurred by always keeping trade routes open in China Indian Seas. When a hostile cruiser makes her presence known by sending crews of prizes into port she is unlikely to remain on that route and shores closing all routes for an indefinite time there does not appear to be any remedy as her next point of attack can be only a question of conjecture. On the other hand it appears masters of merchant vessels disregard precautions to keep of the ordinary trade routes and this tends to increase the loss in a given time. I am directing Intelligence Officers China Station and at Singapore to impress this necessity on them ends. Admiralty fully endorse the foregoing and request that NAVY Office and Vice Admiral Commanding Australian Squadron may be so informed with a view to issuing similar instructions should the Australian authorities consider this advisable."

Cablegram received from the High Commissioner's Office, dated London 6th October, 1914. A.I.F. 170/1/29.

"With reference to your telegram of 17th September War Office consulted troops will be paid by me whilst in England. While at theatre operations cash will be drawn from Base on Continent and distributed by means of two Commonwealth field cashiers acquittance roll will be sent by Company Commanders to this office where checking &c., will be carried out Imperial system Field Service Regulations Part 2 used as from date of arrival England. All necessary personnel beyond two field cashiers and four men can be provided cheaply here soldiers' pay books and forms to be supplied by War Office early approval needed."

8th October, 1914.

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies dated London 7th October, 1914, 12.40 p.m.

"October 7th. Your telegram October 2nd Army Council would most gratefully accept offer if made of another Brigade Light Horse with Brigade Train and Field Ambulance complete."

Telegram to all Commandants. W. 3947. W. 175/1/320.

"Minister has approved that all enemy subjects whether on parole or not and whether reservists or not may be interned by Commandant and parole if given withdrawn if their conduct is not satisfactory to Commandant or if found spreading false reports or reasonable suspected of doing so or if giving Naval or Military information by letter or otherwise or if found carrying arms and that for any of such acts they risk being treated as spies and Commandants are authorised to make this public."

9th October, 1914.

Cablegram despatched to Troopers, London, dated 9th October, 1914.

"Referring to your cable 1379 October 6th First Contingent consists 1st Division officers 640 others 17383 horses 5499 1st Light Horse Brigade officers 100 others 1867 horses 2024 2nd and 3rd Contingent Lines of Communication Units including Veterinary Units officers 96 others 1868 horses 430 2nd and 3rd Light Horse Brigades officers 184 others 3740 horses 4048 4th Infantry Brigade officers 147 others 4351 horses 511 1st Reinforcements for 1st Contingent all arms officers 22 others 1888 horses 2000 Totals officers 1189 others 31097 horses 14512 step Further Reinforcements to follow bi-monthly rate of 3000 troops and 2000 horses."

Cablegram to High Commissioner London. D. 92/2/16.

"With reference to your telegram of 5th October re college students. Kitchener's offer of commissions to second class very much appreciated but Government propose utilize them as required for further contingents from Australia."

Cablegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies. A.I.F. 112/3/40.

"Your telegram 7th October Steps now being taken to send another Brigade Light Horse with Brigade Train and Field Ambulance."

Cablegram from the Governor of Ceylon dated Colombo 10th October, 1914,
1 p.m.

"October 10th. Can you provide accommodation at Colombo on your transports for one double Infantry Company Ceylon contingent. If so at what cost and on what date? Please reply by telegraph as soon as possible."

11th October, 1914.

Cablegram from Secretary of State dated London, 10th October, 1914,
7.55 p.m. W. 175/1/326.

"October 10th Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty consider it essential that no enemy subjects should remain on board any British merchant vessel no matter what her occupation and voyage Please invite Ministers to instruct port officials to obtain from Masters of incoming British vessels names of any enemy subject on board and take all possible steps to ensure their being landed if there is no grave local objection."

13th October, 1914.

13th October, 1914.

Cablegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated London 12th October, 1914, 6.10_ p.m.

"October 12th urgent in view of possible shortage meat here His Majesty's Government are anxious that ships employed to carry Australian contingent which are fitted with refrigerating apparatus should be fitted up with as large an amount meat as possible. Beef is most wanted. Trust this can be arranged in spite of short time."

14th October, 1914.

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies dated London 13th October, 1914, 8.30 p.m. W. 112/4/160.

"Secret. Japanese Government state that in course of searching Western Pacific Islands for enemy vessels and bases squadron called Yap on October 7th and landed marine to investigate wireless telegraph and cable stations there. They found that both had been repaired and used by Germans and since destroyed again. They have temporarily occupied it but they are ready to hand it over to an Australian Force. On account of strategical importance island must be occupied by some force. Your Ministers will remember that it was originally intended that they should send force to occupy Yap and they will no doubt agree that it is desirable to relieve Japanese as quickly as possible of the task of holding the island. Japanese Government have therefore been informed it is intention of your Government to occupy Yap and I am communicating with Admiralty as to provision of transport. Please ask Ministers to arrange in communication with Admiral Patey details of force to be sent. It need not be large and could presumably be detached from force already in occupation of German possessions."

Cablegram dated Suva 14th October, received from H.E. High Commissioner Western Pacific. W. 112/4/162.

"October 14th. Have forwarded copy of your cypher telegram of October 13th by telegraph to the Secretary of State for his instructions."

The above cablegram is in reply to Governor-General's cable of 13th instant as follows:-

"Phosphate Company's Steamer Messina leaving this week for Ocean Island suggest issuing instructions Commissioner occupy Nauru. Messina will pick up Military Guard at Rabaul to enforce occupation if necessary and guard will be returned Rabaul or Australia with German discharged employees Phosphate Company which Company will be held responsible for victualling Nauru."

15th October, 1914.

Cablegram from High Commissioner's Office dated 14th October, 1914,
W. 393/1/5.

"Arrangements have been made for exchange British and Austro-Hungarian women and children and males under 18 over 50 also those clearly not suited for Military Service."

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated London 15th October, 1914, 3.50 p.m.

"October 15th Your telegram 9th October British Consul Batavia reports Westminister discharging whole cargo at Tandjong Priok for Dutch Company require credit Handels Vereinigung."

Telegram to all Commandants in reply to cable from Japanese Government
W. 4381.

"It may be necessary to send at once from Sydney or Brisbane one company Infantry with 2 Machine Guns to occupy an island in tropics stop Men up to 50 years of age would be taken and this would let in many rejected South African soldiers stop Please have lists made up in readiness and notify how many such are available in your command stop Service must be to end of war Officers recommended should be experienced and if possible have knowledge tropics stop All Eastern States will contribute to this unit if approved."

16th October, 1914.

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies dated London 15th October, 1914, 1.45 p.m.

"October 15th. In reply to your telegram of the day before yesterday's date High Commissioner Western Pacific is being informed Messina should convey an officer from Gilbert Islands Protectorate to take charge of Nauru."

Wireless message from "Minotaur", Wellington.

"'Minotaur', 'Psyche', 'Philomel', 'Ibuki' and ten (10) transports sailed 7 a.m."

Cablegram from High Commissioner Western Pacific dated Suva 17th October, 1914. 10.55 a.m.

"October 17th. Urgent. With reference to my cypher telegram of October 14th Secretary of State for the Colonies has been instructed to ascertain from you whether the Messina can call at Suva for officer who has been selected to proceed to Nauru to take charge of the Island. If this is not possible please inform me what will be first opportunity from Sydney of officer proceeding to Nauru."

18th October, 1914.

Cablegram received from the High Commissioner's Office, dated London, 18th October, 1914. A.I.F. 378/1/355.

"With reference to your telegram 15th October Board of Trade now ask for list of names of troopships which will carry cargo insurable war risk scheme."

20th October, 1914.

Cablegram from High Commissioner for Western Pacific.

"Your telegram 17th October, Messina left Sydney 16th October for Rabaul direct. Tambo leaves Sydney 21st October for Solomon Islands, Ocean Island and the Marshals. Induna leaves Sydney 31st October for the Gilberts via Vila."

22nd October, 1914.

Cablegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"Re Expeditionary Force. Commonwealth Government assumes responsibility for command maintenance and administration while in England and in the Field will devolve on Home Government. Considered however for many reasons it will be found convenient to establish Australian depot at suitable place England while the exact manner which depot would be organized would naturally come within province War Office full stop Following points suggested for consideration :-

- (a) High Commissioner be consulted:
- (b) Lieutenant Colonel Buckley take command:
- (c) On arrival Expeditionary Force could furnish representatives for intermediary record office, pay details, nucleus ordnance Company, assistant director of remounts:
- (d) These Australian representatives could aid in maintaining records, personnel, facilitate and co-ordinate pay arrangements, hold, issue, and account for stores purchased by High Commissioner and spare stores for Australia, clothing and equipment sent from time to time from Australia accounting and issuing stores from Ordnance England, assist care and distribution remounts from Australia full stop

Depot to be under control and orders War Office full stop If approved all reinforcements officers men and horses could be dealt with at depot. Convalescents and men temporarily unfit for Australian units could remain there until sent forward again to units or embark for return Australia full stop Considerable quantities stores spare equipment used on troopships could be cared for at depot together with all baggage and kits usually left at base full stop Anticipated considerable number remounts will be sent as reinforcements and their care and maintenance in England will be important matter that could be dealt with at

22nd October, 1914. (Contd).

depot full stop If suggestion of depot be concurred in by War Office great convenience and avoid delay if permission given Commandant to communicate direct with Defence Department, Melbourne on all routine matters pay, leave, promotion, casualties, reinforcements &c., not involving decisions on general question full stop Despatch follows. Please send copy this cablegram to High Commissioner."

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Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated London, 20th October, 1914. 4.40 p.m.

"Experience of the first two months war shows no increase in loss of Merchant Shipping will be incurred by always keeping trade routes open. When hostile Cruiser makes her presence known by sending crews of prizes into Port she is unlikely to remain on same route and short of closing all routes for indefinite time there is no remedy as next point of attack is matter of conjecture. At same time detention of vessels in Port is extremely costly to Owners and Merchants and if continued defeats object of Government Insurance Scheme. Vessels sailing after dark and making good offing with dimmed lights run little chance of capture. Any detention of Shipping should be reported at once by Cable. Admiralty consider it essential that Trade should not be stopped. Telegram has been repeated to all Intelligence Officers."

22nd October, 1914.

Cablegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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- (d) These Australian representatives could aid in maintaining records, personnel, facilitate and co-ordinate pay arrangements, hold, issue, and account for stores purchased by High Commissioner and spare stores for Australia, clothing and equipment sent from time to time from Australia accounting and issuing stores from Ordnance England, assist care and distribution remounts from Australia full stop

Depot to be under control and orders War Office full stop If approved all reinforcements officers men and horses could be dealt with at depot. Convalescents and men temporarily unfit for Australian units could remain there until sent forward again to units or embark for return Australia full stop Considerable quantities stores spare equipment used on troopships could be cared for at

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"Cablegram from Secretary of State dated London 22nd October, 1914.
8.55 p.m. W. 156/1/59.

"Your telegram of September 14th warlike stores. His Majesty's Government would be obliged if your Government would continue to restrict exportation to foreign ports in Europe on Mediterranean Black Sea on lines of your proclamation August 10th. I assume that proclamation and your proclamation proclaimed August 6th are still in force. His Majesty's Government would be glad if your Ministers would also prohibit to such ports other than French, Spanish, Portugal, Russia except Baltic ports of all articles included in list of contraband both absolute and conditional which are not already covered by these proclamations. In such cases it will be desirable prohibition should be worded as to purport to prohibit exportation of articles in question not qua contraband but merely as articles of which it is desirable to restrict exportation. The following articles should it is requested be treated in the same way namely range finders motors of all kinds motor tyres chrome ore nickel ore and woolled sheep skins. As regards foodstuffs and forage and grain suitable for feeding animals which are on the list of conditional contraband it is desired that prohibition in respect of these should be wide enough to cover all foodstuffs for man and foodstuffs for animals and all raw materials for same. His Majesty's Government would also be glad if the exportation of rubber and graphite suitable for the manufacture of crucibles could be prohibited except to British ports."

23rd October, 1914.

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated London, 22nd October, 1914. 3 p.m. W. 389/2/)

"October 22nd. All sale of prize ships must be postponed if possible pending further instructions which will be sent as soon as possible."

Cablegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies. W. 112/4/193.

"Your telegram 22nd October Messina due Rabaul 24th October have not been able communicate with her since she left Australia 16th October. If she has to go Suva first question of coals etc., would have to be considered after her arrival Rabaul. Would not original arrangement your cable October 15th to bring officer from Gilbert Island be preferable, High Commissioner West Pacific informed."

24th October, 1914.

Cablegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies. W. 178/2/1.

"With reference to my telegram of 19th October on the subject of prohibition of the exportation of coal from Australia, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia desire that the Government of the United States of America be asked whether in the event of shipments of coal being permitted to United States that Government will give a guarantee that the coal will not be re-exported."

28th October, 1914.

Cablegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"Government of Commonwealth of Australia desire that Government of Ecuador be asked to give a guarantee that coal shipped from Australia to the Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company will not be diverted to the enemy or re-exported; also to instruct their officers to sign landing certificates for coal so shipped."

Telegram from Navy Office to Admiralty London. A.I.F. 112/3/55.

"130. Request early information of date escort will be available for next convoy of transports (full stop) Military authorities desire to begin arrangements for concentration of Brigades (full stop) Your telegram No. 76 has been received."

29th October, 1914.

Cablegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies dated London, 27th October, 1914, 7.30 p.m.

"October 27. Admiralty desire that following should be communicated to Reporting Officers. Begins. It is undesirable that vessels on passage should be directed to converge on focal points such as Colombo or Singapore merely for orders and unless absolutely necessary. Shipping must be more scattered off the routes and where choice of passages exists this should be taken full advantage of.

As enemy is evidently aware of present scattering limits substitute general order that vessels must scatter widely both sides usual track so that distribution of shipping shall be as effective as possible. Instructions by Reporting and Intelligence Officers should whenever possible be noted to masters in writing and a record of such instructions should be kept. Masters must be warned to destroy these instructions if in danger of capture.

Colours are no indication of nationality until the vessel opens fire. It must therefore be impressed on all masters that measures should be taken to avoid vessels directly they or their smoke are seen. All lights except navigation lights should not exceed brilliancy laid down in Rules for prevention Collisions at sea. Second masthead light is unnecessary Message ends. Please inform Papua."

29th October, 1914.

Cablegram to the Governor of the Strait Settlements. W. 178/2/49.

"Proclamation issued 14th October prohibiting exportation of coal from Australia except with consent of Minister for Trade and Customs. Government ask that action should be taken to prevent re-exportation from Singapore of any coal shipped thereto from Australia."

Cablegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. W. 178/2/48.

"Government of Commonwealth of Australia desire that Government of Salvador be asked whether in event of shipments of coal from Australia to Salvador being permitted, that Government will give guarantee that the coal will not be allowed to be exported from Salvador for any purpose whatever."

Cablegram received from the Secretary of State dated London 29th October, 1914, 6.20 p.m.

"October 29th Following from American Ambassador at Berlin communicated by Ambassador in London begins Proclamation of October 15th orders as retaliatory measure that Customs officers shall seize provisionally all merchandise found in Germany on that day property of persons or corporations domiciled in Belgium France Great Britain or Russia or their Colonies and not already released The Imperial Chancellor may in his discretion order the confiscation of such goods as a retaliatory measure and may also permit relaxation of order of seizure ends His Majesty's Government are considering what action should be taken with regard to this and I will telegraph further."

30th October, 1914.

Cablegram received from the Secretary of State dated London 30th October, 1914, 6.20 p.m. W. 112/4/247.

"October 30th. Your telegram October 27th in order to secure telegraphic communication with Yap without passing through neutral territory Japanese Government propose connect Shanghai Yap cabling this Formosa."

31st October, 1914.

Telegram received from the Hon. The Premier of New South Wales. W.393/1/8.

"Commercial Commissioner advises Tsingtau principal forts seriously damaged and there is every prospect of conclusion of the war."

Cablegram from Admiralty London. W. 175/11/1.

"War has broken out between Great Britain and Turkey. All ships to acknowledge receipt of this by telegraph."