

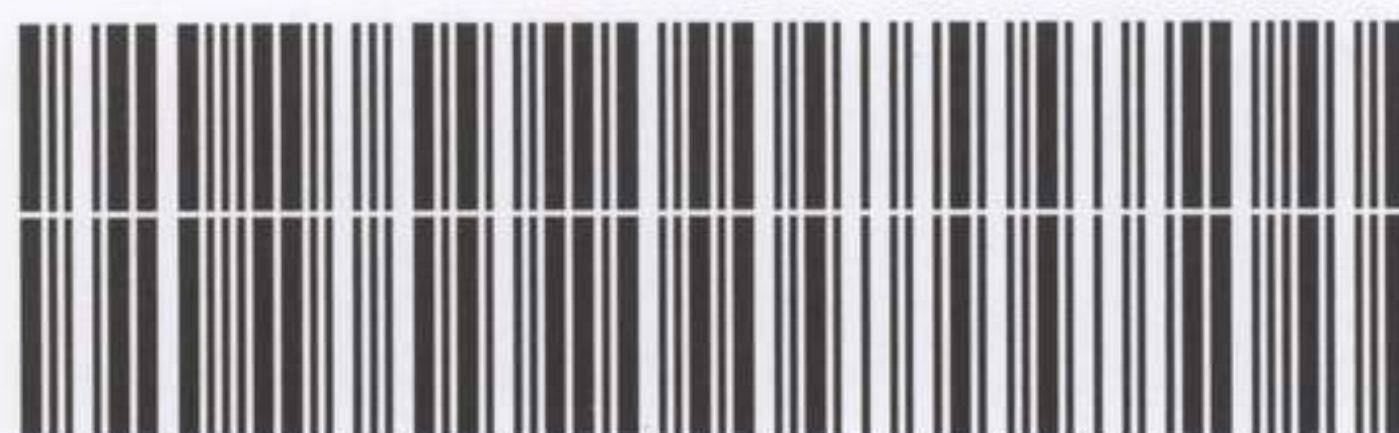
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Signals

Item number: 22/1/31

Title: Assistant Director Signals, 1st
ANZAC Corps and Assistant Director
Signals, Australian Corps

December 1918



AWM4-22/1/31

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DUPLICATE.
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296

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Chief Signal Officer Australian Corps.

FOR

Month of December 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

S. Caporn. Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. R. L. L. L.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE CATEAU	December 1st.		Corps Headquarters closed at LE CATEAU at noon and opened at AVESNES at the same hour. The change was affected without trouble of any sort and better communication was obtained from AVESNES than Le Cateau. CARTIGNIES Office was closed down shortly after the changeover. I made a further reconnaissance of lines to propose future Divisional Headquarters and find that in at least two cases a certain amount of work will be necessary to provide communication.	
AVESNES	2nd.		Signal Stores which were despatch from HAVRE about October 26th arrived at the Corps Rail-head at BUSIGNY and were cleared and delivered to Divisions. Arrangements were made with the 13th Corps regarding the taking over by them of the LE CATEAU office on 3rd inst. I visited 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy at CARTIGNIES to discover information about their future movements but none was available.	
	3rd.		Signal Office at LE CATEAU handed over to 13th Corps at 12 Noon. Numbers 1 and 2 Air-Line Sections were assisting Army Signals during the day. No 1 M.A.L. Section was clearing an old German route on the AVESNES-MAUBEUGE Road and putting two pairs through on the top arm. No. 2 M.A.L. were engaged running two pairs forward from MARBEUGE to BEAUMONT.	
	4th		I visited the 1st Aust. Div. Sig. Coy to get information of that Division. I was informed by the O.C. that it was definitely decided that the Divisional Signal Headquarters should be at PRESLE though the date of moving there was not definitely known. No. 2 M.A.L. Section completed four pairs on the MAUBEUGE - BEAUMONT Route to COLLERET. The poles on this route (an old German route) have been sawn half through and it is necessary to stub and bind them.	
	5th		I visited Nos 1 and 2 M.A.L. Sections at work and also the Signal Office at MAUBEUGE which will probably be taken over by one of our Divisions. The work of the two Sections is proceeding well but the clearing of the German route and the re-wiring of the top arm is a slow job.	
	6th		No. 2 M.A.L. Section moved to CONSALRE and continued work of MAUBEUGE-BEAUMONT route. NO 1 M.A.L. completed wiring of the top arm on route AVESNES-MAUBEUGE.	

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AVESNES.	1918.			
	December			
	7th		I inspected the completed work of No. 1 M.A.L. Section viz. the wiring of the top arm of the AVESNES-MAUBEUGE Route and found it had been done in a satisfactory manner. The pairs put through had been tested and one was then in use.	
	8th		I discussed with the Corps Wireless Officer the points to be brought up at the conference on Wireless equipment and personnel to be held shortly at G.H.Q. The following points are to be brought up for discussion, (a) The provision of a higher powered set for Corps than is at present supplied. (b) The employment of C.W. from G.H.Q. armies etc. down to Corps. (c) The provision of adequate transport for Divisional and Heavy Artillery sets. (d) Provision to be made for mobile war-fare and not only trench war-fare as at present. (e) The sole employment of C.W. for artillery.	
	9th		Information was received that fourth army are to close at HAM-sur-HEURE at 1600 hours on 10th and open at NAMUR at same time. Orders were received that the Australian Corps Headquarters should close at AVESNES at 1100 on the 11th and open at HAM-sur-HEURE at same hour. Australian Corps Heavy Artillery moved from BUSIGNY to BEAUMONT during the day. The necessary Signal arrangements were made.	
	10th		Fourth Army closed at HAM-sur-HEURE at 1600 and opened at NAMUR at the same hour. One line to NAMUR and one line to CHARLEROI were provided for this Corps' use. The office at HAM-sur-HEURE vacated by Army was taken over and prepared for Australian Corps to open on the following day.	
	11th		Australian Corps Headquarters at AVESNES at 1100 and opened at HAM-sur-HEURE the same hour. As Divisional lines couldnot be extended to HAM-sur-HEURE an office is being maintained at AVESNES until Divisions move forward to their new positions and direct lines can be obtained.	
HAM-sur-HEURE	12th		No. 2 M.A.L. Section completed work on the MAUBEUGE-CONSOLRE Route. This will ensure communication for 3rd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy when they move into this area.	

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HAM-sur-HEURE	December 13th	18.	4th Aust.Div.Headquarters closed at SAENS-du-NORD at 8am and opened at DINANT the same hour. A direct line to DINANT from Corps Headquarters at Ham was arranged with the approval of Corps "G". One D.R. run a day only to be done to this Division.	
	14th		A line to new headquarters of 1st Aust.Div. at PRESLE was tested outready for use on 15th inst.	
	15th		Changes in Signal Procedure as outlined in D.Sigs/4911 of Octbber were brought into force at 0100 today (appendix No.). The move of Headquarters of 1st Aust.Div. was postponed until 19th.	
	16th		At the request of Chief Signal Officer 4th Army a breakdown gang was sent on the line from the C.C.S at MAUBEUGE to AVESNES. Numerous companies on the route were found to be completely blown and it was impossible to repair the whole of the damage before night.The repairs will completed on 17th.	
	17th		I visited FRANIERES Dump and made arrangements to draw light poles and bobbins should these be necessary for Divisional communications.	
	18th		I visited 2nd Divisional Signal Company and discussed with the O.C.,the question of surplus stores and informed him that on no account were surplus stores to be returned to Signal Bank Parks direct. This point was emphasised in a D.Sigs letter of a recent date copies of which have been forwarded to all O.Cs Divisional Signal Companies.	
	19th		I visited Army R.E.dump at RANCE and investigated their claim for telephone connection to Corps Heavy Exchange. Found Railway Circuit from Du-mp to C.H.A. suitable for this purpose. Arrangements are being made forthwith.	
	20th		I visited 1st Div.Sig.Coy to arrange re the transfer of one of the Duntroon Officers attached to this Company. 5 A.I.F.Infantry Brigade connected to AUO by telephone.	

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HAM-sur-HEURE	December 21st		Lieut NICHOLSON was sent to 1st Div.Sig.Coy on transfer.	
	22nd		I visited 5th Army Sigs and inquired into working of their system.	
	23rd		I visited C.H.A and went over all lines in area with the O.C., Lines, Aust.Corps and found everything in a satisfactory condition. Found routes made and repaired all strong enough to stand strains necessary.	
	24th		I visited 1st and 2nd Aust.Div.Sig .Companies to see what arrangements had been made for comfort and recreation of troops for Christmas festivities. Found both Divs. well advanced in this respect. Wished all Officers of both these Companies the "Compliments of the Season". The other Companies not visited were sent wires conveying these wishes.	
	25th		Christmas Day.	
	26th		Captain BATH Acting O.C., 5th Div.Sig.Coy proceeded to England for return to Australia. Lieut COLLIER to be O.C. temporarily.	
	27th		Made final arrangements with Colonel LEANE re the Signal equipment Officer for demobilization. (Lieut STEVENS of my Office)	
	28th		Lieut STEVENS left to take up duties in England. Successor Lieut S.S.CAPORN.	
	29th		I interviewed the G.O.C. re the supply of personnel to work the civil exchange at CHARLEROI in conjunction with the Belgian authorities. Am to see 4th Imperial Corps re this and find their views. The G.O.C's ruling with regard to the pooling of the 1st Div.Sig.Car Sunbeam Car was that if it were urgently required by the Division and not being used by the Signal Company, the car should be at their disposal. Regarding demobilization of Signal Company personnel I requested that names of Officers and other ranks should be passed to me for approval so that Signal Companies would always have an adequate xxxx staff for communications.	
			<i>Officers + NCOs Honour + award list prepared + forwarded (appendix 2)</i>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAM-sur-HEURE	December 30th		I was visited by Major GORDON, 1st Div. Sig. Coy re the pooling of his car by 1st Divisional Headquarters and conveyed to him the ruling of the G.O.C. on this matter.	
	31st		I visited C.S.O. 4th Army Corps re the supply of personnel to work the civil exchange in CHARLEROI in conjunction with the Belgian authorities. He concurred with me in this matter.	

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Wireless section *Antony*
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field	1.12.18		C W set erected. In communication with Army. Continuous watch being kept.	
	2.12.18		Weather forecasts being received by W/T at 1100 & 2100. Copy forwarded to "G" Staff.	
	3.12.18		Spark set erected at Corps HQ to work to Divs when necessary. Wavelength 550 Mb.	
	4.12.18		Section Duties. Mr Harper returned from Cadet School.	
	5.12.18		Tyrell Set arrived from Army. This is a light car set but car did not arrive consequently we have a dead weight on our hands. As we have already dumped about 12 tons of gear we are not anxious to have a motor car set (minus the motor car) attached to us for transport. G/H Qs have been communicated with in connection with this but so far no car has arrived.	
	6.12.18		Mr Caporn returned from UK leave.	
	7.12.18		Section Duties. Stores sent to 1st Div.	
	8.12.18		Arranged billeting at Hamour Heures. Section will probably move on 11th.	
	9.12.18		Preparing to move.	
	10.12.18		Section moved to Hamour Heures. C W Set left till tomorrow.	
	11.12.18		Completed details of move. C W Set removed from Fuesnes.	
	12.12.18		and installed at Hamour Heures. In communication with Army. Charging Lorry ditched at Lozer, about 4 Kiloms from Hamour Heures.	

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Field	13.12.18		Breakdown Gang arrived from 6th M.T. but cannot do anything until tomorrow.	
	14.12.18		Lorry arrived from this morning after having been detached for two days.	
	15.12.18		Section Duties.	
	16.12.18			
	17.12.18			
	18.12.18			
	19.12.18		Drew stores from Army for 4th Div + Post (Ops) Section. Issued instructions to Divs re C.W. Sets, asking for number of Ops named in use of Sets.	
	20.12.18		Section Duties. C.W. Spark sets manned and F.L. Press + Weather reports being taken.	
	21.12.18	12.18		
	22.12.18			
	23.12.18			
	24.12.18		Delivered Wireless stores to 4th Div. Found 4th Div spark set working on 450 M instead of 550 M. This is being altered at once.	
	25.12.18		Christmas Day. Festivities.	
	26.12.18		Hunting up Section records in order to prepare history. Issued new keywords to all Divs also instructions re standard Wave length 1330 to effect. That stores are ready for collection at German Dump. Will collect tomorrow.	
	27.12.18		Drew stores from Army for 3rd Div. These stores will be kept here till 3rd Div move up. Visited German Signal Dump at Namur and examined w/t gear there. Demobilisation forms being completed by Section.	
	28.12.18		Demobilisation forms completed	
	29.12.18			

R Marshall Lt.
O.C. 10th Section
31.12.18