

**AWM4**

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

Signals

**Item number:** 22/1/34

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

March 1919



AWM4-22/1/34



# 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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place am sur	Date Heure.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Belgium. March 1st.			<p>I was visited by Major Joseph, 4th. Div. Sig. Coy., and all particulars of their stores being handed to D.A.D.O.S. were explained to me. These at first seemed complicated but on explanation by Major Joseph were understood.</p> <p>New procedure was brought into force at 0001 on this day. Coy. report no dislocation of traffic although operators a little shaky on new procedure after so long at the old.</p> <p>At 2300 hours time was put forward 1 hour - summer time-.</p>	
	2-		<p>I was notified that I was to proceed to 37th Imperial Div. on 4th. inst. to attend a conference with reference to transport of a Corps and Divisional Signal Company.</p> <p>The main suggestions to be put forward are shown in C.O. Coy. Reports Appendix.</p> <p>O.C. Coy reports loss of Motor Cycle belonging to 3rd. A.F.A. Bde. Telephone connected on to D.A.D.O.S. Corps Troops at Thuillies.</p>	Appendix.
	3.		It was reported to me that the new procedure so far was a success and everything working smoothly.	
	4.		<p>I received notification that Corps Engineer would cease to function on March 5th.</p> <p>I, in company with A.P.M. for other reasons, attended 37th. Div. Headquarters at GOSSELIES to give evidence before 4th. Army equipment committee.</p>	
	5.		<p>I received an application to put Major Ballard at Jeumont on phone. This was submitted through "Q" Branch. The demand cannot be met as the limited number of personnel the O.C. Coy. reports to me now exists, will not permit of an increase of staff at Jeumont.</p> <p>I visited C.O. 5th. R.A.F. Bde. re shifting of one of his lines to another exchange. This was satisfactorily arranged.</p>	
	6.		I visited the 1st. Aust. Div. Sig. Coy. and talked over matters likely to arise with the merging of 2 Sig. Coys into one, i.e. - 1st. and 4th. Aust. Div. Sig. Coys. The question of command of Sections and cadre personnel was thoroughly discussed.	
	7.		Consequent upon a communication received from the "Marie" at Mauberge, I visited that town to see the work that would be required to clear the town of the insulated wire now hanging on buildings. This would be a stupendous job and owing to demobilisation of personnel of Corps and Divisional Signal Coys this work cannot be carried out by this Corps.	



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296

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Continued	7.		Guards Division were responsible for most of wire complained of. Aust. Corps or Divisions have never been in this town.	
	8.		I issued orders for the 12th. Army Bde. Sig. Sub. Section to report to O.C. Aust. Corps Signal Company as soon as they could be released of the telephone duties with that Bde. Sale of "Z" horses in this village. 18 or more Signal horses were up for sale. Not all were sold. Wrote O.C. 1st. Div. Sig. Coy. giving authority to demobilise W/T section and 2 cable sections.	
	9.		Two Artillery subsection stores - 3rd. & 6th. - were handed in to D.A.D.O.S. Corps troops also one Motor Air Line Section. The condition of these - excellent - was conveyed to me by the D.A.D.O.S. Corps troops. Wrote "Q" Branch for information 3rd. Divisional Commander that 3rd. D.A.Signal Stores and personnel would be administered by 2nd. Divisional Sig. Coy. Arrangements have already been made to hand in stores to D.A.D.O.S. at THUILLES.	
	10-		I visited 4th. Divisional Signal Coy. and discussed the move that they will make on 18th inst. to GERPINNES. Found that everything is in readiness for the move. Lines completed etc.	
	11.		I had route and circuit diagrams made out for submission to Army consequent upon his letter 1669. These routes show the number of lines that can be handed over to the Belgian Civil Authorities and will also give Army a copy of same for information.	
	12.		Visited by O.C. 5th. Div. Sig. Coy. to find out if I could help him in maintenance of his new large area. This cannot be done by Corps at present as all linemen are employed on new Divisional routes. When routes are finished and Corps men are spare for this work, the Bdes. of 5th. Division will have moved in closer to Div. and H.Q. and the maintenance will not be necessary. Arranged for.	
	13.		Arranged for 2 M.C. D.R's. to be transferred from 5th. to 1st. Div. Sigs. to help them over demobilisation.	
	14.		Interviewed the O.C. Signals 1st. Aust. Division re the amalgamation of 1st. & 4th. Divisions	

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296

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	14.		Signal Coys. and made arrangements that all category men should be released by later category men of one or either of the Coys.	
	15.		I made same arrangements today as yesterday, grouping of 2 Div. Sig Coys. only with the 4th. Divisional Signal Coy.	
	16.		I visited THUIA and interviewed O.C. 3rd. Div. Arty. H. Tra. detachment. The detachment has submitted all shortages of stores to O.C. Sigs. 2nd. Div. and the 3rd. D.A. Detachment are now ready to hand over their G1098 stores to D.A.D.O.S. Corps Troops.	
	17.		I wrote all Divisions and asked for return of number of men by trades of 1914-15-16-17-18- categories who will still form their Companies when the amalgamation of Divisions is complete. This information is required so that Corps Sig. Coy. personnel may be split up in order amongst the different groups.	
	18.		I visited 2nd. Division to make arrangements similar to those made with 1st. and 4th Divisions on 14th. and 15th. insts. respectively. Notification received - Aust. Corps Demob. A.I.F. 70/790 of 17/3/19 that Corps Sigs. pass to 1st. Div. Group for purposes of Demobilisation and Repatriation only on 27/3/19.	
	19.		Received notification from London that Lt. Col. McCall, C.S.O. A.I.F. in Egypt would visit 2nd. Division and would like to have interview with all Divisional Sig. Commanders. This will be arranged as soon as he arrives.	
	20.		I replied to C.S.O. 4th. Army letter asking for particulars of units broken up. This information does not affect the Australian Corps as far as I can see. Was interviewed by Capt. Bowen, 1st. Div. Sig. Coy. re the transferring of Corps Sigs to the 1st. Divisional Group.	
	21.		I was visited by Lt. Col. McCall, A.D.A.S., A.I.F., Egypt, and discussed matters appertaining to Post-Bellum Army. Lt. Col. McCall is in France to meet all Divisional Signal Commanders. I am arranging to take him to Signal Dump at FRAGIERE. He has no idea of the work done by these Signal Companies, he having charge of all Signals (mounted).	

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	22.		I was notified that 68th. Bde. A.F.A. R.G.A. left this Corps area yesterday. This leaves only three R.G.A. Bdes. in Corps now. Notified Army accordingly. I called for Lt. Col. McCall, A.D.A.S., Egypt. at 2nd. Div. and took him to Namur (4th. Army) introducing him to C.S.O. 4th. Army. Signal matters were relatively discussed and both were enlightened by conversation. Afterwards I took him to 4th. Army Signal Dump at FRANIERE. He was greatly impressed by sight of this dump and the quantity of Signal material it contained. Spoke General Glasgow, 1st. Div. re the Command of Sig. Coy. to form "A" Div. Group.	
	23			
	24.		I was visited by Major Gordon, 1st. Div. Sig. Coy. and I informed him that on the grouping of 1st. and 4th. Divs. he was to proceed to Australia for Demobilisation and that Major Joseph, 4th. Div. Sig. Coy. would take over command of "A" Divisional Group.	
	25.		I received 1st. Amalgamation instructions from 5th. Div. Sig. Coy. Notified by Army that cadres of R.G.A. Bdes. proceed to 4th. Army Sig. Coy. R.G.A. Bdes. notified accordingly.	
	26.		I was called to "G" office to interview B.G.C.S. with reference Signal addresses of Div. Groups. This was arranged and G.S. Circular issued today stating method to be used.  Draft of men left Corps Sig. Coy. for demobilisation - 2 Officers accompanying them.	
	27.		I was visited by Capt. Tinkler re his return to Aust. on 1914 early repatriation. Notified reorganisation of Corps sanctioned, also that 4th. Army ceased to be known as such after midnight 24/25 and was to be known as 4th. Area.	
	28.		Wrote 3rd. Div. Sig. Coy. re P.E.L. lorry and sets stating G.H.Q. would notify us later as to disposal of it. To the other Divs. and Corps Sig. Coy. notified that they could hand their lorries and sets (P.E.L.) into Corps Vehicle Reception Park under arrangements to be made with S.M.T.O. Australian Corps.	
	29.		Wrote 4th. Area re transferring non releasable men from 12th. Bde. R.G.A. Signal Sub Section to similar section of 23rd. Bde. R.G.A. Nothing of importance.	



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296

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Continued.	30.		Capt. C.D.H. Ferguson, M.C. C.C. Corps Sig. Coy. left on 14 days leave during which time it is hoped he will be able to return to Australia for demobilisation as his recall has been asked for. This officer has been of great service to the Signal Service of the A.I.F. Nothing else of importance to report.	
	31.		Return of gallant deeds asked for under my T27/48 now complete and forwarded to Army for necessary data to be extracted.	