

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

Signals

Item number: 22/11/26

Title: 1st Australian Division Signals
Company

July 1917



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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.

VOLUME 17

(Erase heading not required.)

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	JULY, 1917.		Divisional Headquarters Sections and Infantry Brigade Sections.	
	1st 2nd		Divisional Headquarters at the Chateau, BALZIEUX. 1st Infantry Brigade at MAILLY, 2nd Infantry Brigade at BRESLE, 3rd Infantry Brigade at MAILLY. All Brigades in communication with Divisional Headquarters and with their respective Battalions.	
	3rd		A Tactical Exercise in the form of Night Operations was carried out by the 3rd Infantry Brigade near SERRE. No. 3 Signal Section laid telephone lines for the Exercise, during which they maintained communication with their Battalions moving forward, by means of both Lamp and Telephone.	
	4th 5th 6th 7th 8th		Besides the usual Signal Office Routine, Training in communication work was carried out by all Sections. At Divisional Headquarters a Class for men from all Sections was held, the men being trained in Power Buzzer work. Classes were held for Visual Signalling, Buzzer work and Fullerphones.	
	9th 10th 11th		A Course in Pigeon Flying for men from all Battalions of the Division was held at LAVEVILLE.	
	12th		The Division was inspected by His Majesty the King.	
	13th 14th 15th		The 1st, 3rd and 2nd Infantry Brigades proceeded to BRAY on the 14th, 15th and 16th inst., respectively. Communication to Division and all Battalions established.	
	16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd		Training Schemes carried out by all Brigade Sections. Station Work, Lamp and Buzzer Work was carried out. Technical Equipment was overhauled. In view of an impending move to a new area old and unused telephone lines and other derelict cable were reeled in and salvaged for future use.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	JULY, 1917.		Divisional Headquarters Sections and Infantry Brigade Sections.	
	24th		1st Infantry Brigade left BRAY for DERNANCOURT opened Signal Office there and established the usual communications. 2nd Infantry Brigade moved from BRAY and opened Signal Office at MEAULTE.	
	25th		Usual Signal Office Routine.	
	26th		3rd Infantry Brigade left BRAY to entrain at ALBERT for transfer to 2nd Army Area. 2nd Brigade moved to AVELUY and entrained.	
	27th		1st Infantry Brigade and Divisional Headquarters moved from 3rd Army Area and entrained at EDGEHILL to proceed to 2nd Army. Signal Office was closed at the Chateau, BAIZIEUX at 8 a.m. Divisional Headquarters was established at HAZEBROUCK and Signal Office opened at 3 p.m. Communication was established to 1st Infantry Brigade at LeNieppe, 2nd Infantry Brigade at St. Marie Cappel, and 3rd Infantry Brigade at Staple.	
	28th		Training continued. On 30th inst. 3rd Infantry Brigade left STAPLE for LUMBRES where the usual communications were established over considerable distances.	
	29th			
	30th			
	31st			

Robson

MAJOR
G. G. 1st AUST. DIV. SIGNAL COY. A. I. F.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information JULY, 1917. Signal Sections with 1st Australian Divisional Artillery.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1st		Signal Sections attached to 1st Australian Divisional Artillery Headquarters and the Field Artillery Brigades in action south of BULLECOURT. Communications from Artillery Headquarters to Brigades and forward to Batteries and Observation Posts were maintained and kept in good order. "Q" Detachment from No. 1 Section of the Company employed in connection with this work.	
	2nd			
	3rd			
	4th			
	5th			
	6th			
	7th		1st Australian Divisional Artillery was relieved by the 3rd Imperial Divisional Artillery. Divisional Artillery Headquarters moved to Vivier Mill, near ALBERT. Communication was established to Sub-Sections at Becourt, as well as to 1st Australian Divisional Headquarters. "Q" Detachment rejoined No. 1 Section.	
	8th		Sections engaged in usual Signal Routine, and also in getting technical equipment in order prior to moving.	
	9th			
	10th		"Q" Cable Detachment, under an Officer, attached to Divisional Artillery Hdqrs. Signal Section.	
	11th		1st Australian Divisional Artillery proceeded by easy stages to RENINGHELST, BELGIUM. Both men and horses stood the trek well.	
	12th			
	13th			
	14th			
	15th			
	16th		Visits made by Section Officers to Line area to inspect communications and proposed Headquarters.	
	17th			
	18th			
	19th			
	20th			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information JULY, 1917. Signal Sections with 1st Australian Divisional Artillery.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21st		<p>1st Australian Divisional Artillery moved into position in old YPRES SALIENT under the Artillery Group System, the 1st and 2nd Field Artillery Brigades being under the command of "C" Group. The personnel of both Brigade Signal Sections were amalgamated under command of Lieut. N.P.H. Neal, and work was commenced in establishing new lines to the Group Batteries. Buried cables were supplemented by Ground Lines. Lines were also laid across Zillebeke Lake. Two Group O.P. Lines were established near the Front Line, and notwithstanding abnormal enemy shell fire, Batteries were able to carry out their programmes without a hitch, communications being well maintained. Lines were constantly cut by shell fire, but the Group Signal Personnel, and "Q" Cable Detachment as well, always quickly repaired the breaks. In spite of the heavy work required to be done in maintaining existing communications, new Lines were laid forward in anticipation of a forward movement by the Batteries.</p>	
	22nd			
	23rd			
	24th			
	25th			
	26th			
	27th			
	28th			
	29th			
	30th			
	31st		<p>Attack by Fifth and French Armies commenced at 4.10 a.m. In accordance with the plan of operations Lieut. A.J. Walker proceeded forward with a Signal Station party to establish Communication for Forward Observation. At Zero hour the laying of a line forward was commenced, but this work was dis-continued owing to intense enemy shelling destroying the line in many places. However Visual Communication was established by Lieut. Walker's party, and important information regarding the progress of the operations was rapidly signalled back. At this Station Lieut. Walker was killed about 8 a.m., but the party maintained the Station throughout the day.</p> <p>During the whole day good telephonic communication was maintained between "C" Group and Divisional Artillery Headquarters, and between the Group and adjacent Groups, as well as to the Infantry Brigade covered by the Batteries of the Group. The Guns had moved forward by 7 a.m. and communication established to Batteries. In this Attack communications were excellently maintained, and the work of the signal personnel employed was magnificently carried out.</p>	

[Signature] MAJOR
O. C. 1st AUST. DIV. SIGNAL COY. A. I. F.