

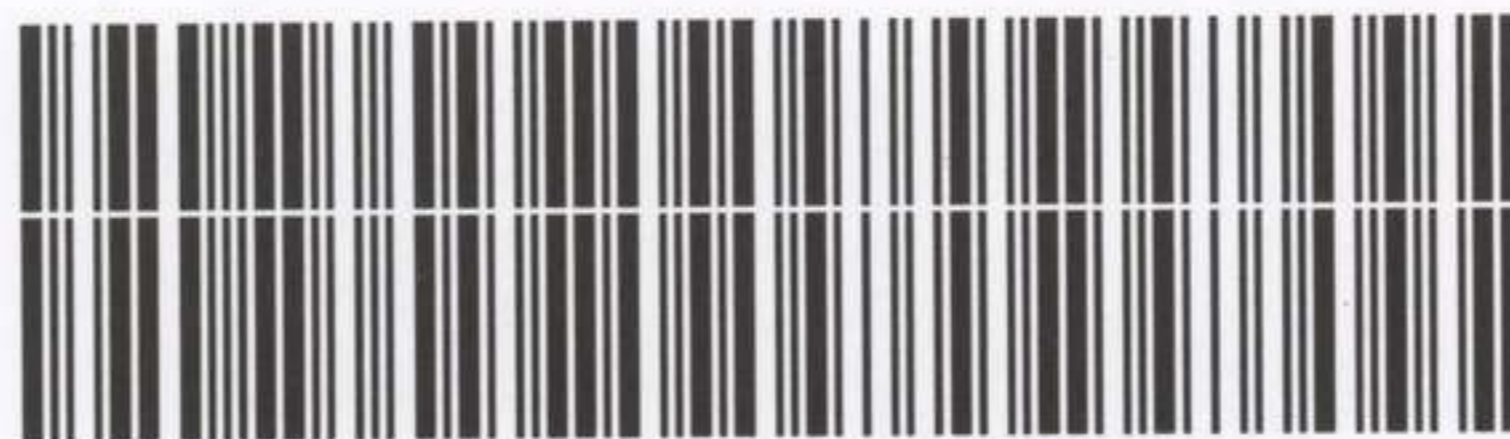
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Signals

Item number: 22/11/27

Title: 1st Australian Division Signals
Company

August 1917



AWM4-22/11/27

1st
 AUSTRALIAN DIVL.
 SIGNAL COMPANY.
 DSC 41
 15-9-17
 Date

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	AUGUST, 1917.		Divisional Headquarters Sections and Infantry Brigade Sections.	VOLUME 18
	1st		Divisional Headquarters at HAZEBROUCK. 1st Infantry Brigade at Le Nieppe; 2nd Infantry Brigade at St. Marie Cappel; 3rd Infantry Brigade at Lumbres. Usual Signal Routine carried out and Divisional Headquarters in communication with all Brigades, etc.	
	2nd		All Sections engaged in Training in all branches of Signal work. Experimental work was carried out with Fullerphones by No. 2 Section, and a demonstration in Fullerphone work was given by this Section to Signal Officers and N.C.Os. of the Infantry Battalions of the 1st Brigade. All Sections trained in Gas Drill, and Telephohists trained to speak over Telephones for short intervals whilst wearing the Box Respirator. On the 6th inst. the 3rd Infantry Brigade moved to STAPLE, the usual communications being established on arrival.	
	3rd			
	4th			
	6th			
	7th			
	8th		2nd Infantry Brigade moved to DOULLIEU.	
	9th		1st Infantry Brigade moved to SEC BOIS. Divisional Headquarters established at VIEUX BERQUIN. 3rd Infantry Brigade moved to Vieux Berquin. On completion of move the usual communications were established.	
	10th		Training by all Sections commenced. Classes in all branches of the work were held, including Visual Signalling, Power Buzzer Work, Buzzer Practice and Fullerphone work. Visual Signalling whilst wearing the Box Respirator was carried out. The Wireless Section engaged in training in Power Buzzer and Amplifier Work, as well as Wireless.	
	11th			
	12th			
	13th			
	14th			
	15th			
	16th			
	17th			
	18th			
	19th			
	to			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information AUGUST, 1917. Divisional Headquarters Sections and Infantry Brigade Sections.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29th 30th 31st		Under instructions from Divisional Headquarters, Classes in Elementary Signalling for Battalion Signal N.C.Os. and Officers were commenced by the three Brigade Signal Sections. The Course of Instruction comprised Visual Signalling, Buzzer reading, and Lectures on Signal Procedure and Telephony together with practical work in these two latter subjects.	

W. G. Gordon MAJOR
O. C. 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	Remarks and references to Appendices
	August, 1917.		Signal Sections attached to 1st Aust. Div. Arty.	
	1st		Personnel of Nos 1 & 2 Arty Sub-Sections engaged in maintenance of Communications for C Group Australian Arty during the initial attack in the YPRES Sector.	
	2nd		All Batteries of Group in Forward Area in touch with H.Q. by direct and alternate routes.	
	3rd		F.O.O. Station at Stirling Castle traffic disposed of by Visual using Lucas Lamps only.	
	4th		Line run from Yeomanry Post to Stirling Castle and all Batteries of Group re-registered on S.O.S. Barrage Line.	
	5th		Enemy counter attacking and barraging between the Sanctuary Wood and Yeomanry Post- All Lines kept in good repair during this period.	
	6th		F.O.O. Station removed from Stirling Castle to Clapham Junction and a new line was laid across the Menin Road in the direction of Surbiton Villa. Visual Station established at J.13.B.00.40. in old Trench.	
	7th		F.O.O. Station moved to Westhock Ridge to enable better observation. Communication between Westhock Ridge and Clapham Junction was very difficult owing to the Signallers being exposed without cover to 77m.m. fire.	
	8th		Very severe fighting and intense shell fire on both sides. All Lines kept intact.	
	9th		Situation fairly quiet. All Lines kept in good repair.	
	10th			
	11th			
	12th			
	13th			
	14th		Group Batteries re-registered on S.O.S. Barrage over the metallic line running through Sanctuary Wood to Clapham Junction.	
	15th		Attack Launched.	
	16th		Enemy Counter attack. All Forward Lines cut by heavy barrage fire. Visual utilised.	
		4.10 pm.	C. Group F.O.O. Line O.K. and all Batteries of C Group switched through.	
		4.32	F.O.O. Line cut, and working again at 4.40 pm.	
	17th		Situation quiet, and all Lines working satisfactorily.	
	18th		Group withdrawn to rest.	
	19th)	
	20th) Resting.	
	21st)	

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(Erase heading not required.) **1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	August, 1917.		Signal Sections attached to 1st Aust. Div. Arty.	
	21st		Returned to position in Action. All Lines restored.	
	22nd		Further attack on Inverness Copse launched, Communication good.	
	23rd		Positions gained but afterwards lost. All Lines kept up during this Operation.	
	24th		Situation quiet. Lines good.	
	25th		Counter Battery and Ordinary Battery tasks otherwise quiet in consequence maintenance of Lines	
	26th		fairly easy.	
	27th			
	28th			
	29th			
	30th			
	31st		<p>Group Headquarters moved to Halfway House and all Lines transferred.</p> <p>The most notable and outstanding feature of Group Communications during the Operations was the disposal of business between Group H.Q. and F.O.O.'s Stations through the medium of Visual Signalling. Owing to the state of the soil in this Sector it was impossible in the earlier stages of the Operation to lay a Line forward, therefore visual Signalling by French and Lucas Lamps was resorted to. The French Lamps were not as valuable as the Lucas because of their wide range of lateral visibility. Visual Signalling during these Operations was of immense value and was the only certain means of Communication in Forward heavily shelled areas. Throughout these operations 8 battery lines, 3 lateral group lines and 1 F.O.O. Line was maintained in addition to supplying the visual personnel. Casualties were heavy, and among the Honors, Sgt Young and Spr Stark were awarded the Military Medal, and Cpl Smith, C.J.D. a Mention.</p>	


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