

AWM4

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

Signals

Item number: 22/11/28

Title: 1st Australian Division Signals
Company

September 1917



AWM4-22/11/28

1st
AUSTRALIAN DIVL
SIGNAL COMPANY.

DSC 422
Date 4.11.17

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
	September, 1917.		1st Australian Divisional Signal Company.	
Vieux Berquin.	1st		Officer and N.C.O. went forward to gather information on Front likely to be held by Division. No. 2, Section at Sec. Bois, No. 3, Section at Vieux Berquin, and No. 4, Section at Doullieu.	
	2nd		Fullerphones working to the 3 Sections. Dump transferred to Bailleul.	
	3rd			
	4th)	Training of all descriptions carried out: Signalling, Morse and Semaphore, Power Buzzer, Amplifier and Wireless. At certain Box Respirators were worn to ensure that all were conversant with their use. As a diversion cricketing and swimming were indulged in.	
	5th)		
	6th)		
	7th)		
	8th)		
	9th)		
	10th)		
	11th		Advanced Office established at Scottish Lines	
	12th		Office closed at Vieux Berquin and opened at Scottish Lines at same time	
	13th		In communication with three Signal Sections.	
	14th		Making all preparations for taking over position in the line.	
	15th			
	15/16)	Work on bury from Clapham Junction to Cable Head commenced	
	16/17)	and 50 pairs satisfactorily working through on night of the 16th.	
	16th		Lieut. Wilson, No. 1, Section, while in charge of a party carrying Cable to the front line on the Clapham Junction - Cable Head Route was killed by shell-fire at Hooze. The carrying party was caught in heavy barrage and suffered many casualties. The N.C.O. i/c of the party re-organised the party and succeeded in taking Cable up to the front line.	
	17th		Office opened up at Walker Camp (H.27.B.7.7.) near Dickebusch with rear Office at Scottish Lines. Communication forward to Brigades was by Buried Cable, 6 feet deep, previously buried as far as Hooze, from there to the Brigades at the Crater 25 pairs were buried on the night of the 14/15th, thus linking up with Division. From Hooze to Clapham Junction 12 pairs had previously been buried and from there to a point in front of Glencorse Wood known as Cable Head (G.W., J.14.A.5.8. sheet 28) 50 pairs were buried on the nights of the 15th/16th, 16th/17th, thus completing communication to the front line in preparation for the impending attack.	
	18th		Wireless Stations established at Division, Hooze and Halfway House. All lines forward of Walker Camp taken over by Division and earthing badly.	

Two accompanying Maps, stamped & signed by O.C., attached.

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	19th		Owing to faulty buried route four metallic circuit lines were laid by No. 1, Section between Halfway House and the Brigades at Hooge. Work of distributing Linesmen, Operators, Runners, etc were arranged for the Operations of the morning of the 20th. No. 2, and No. 3, Signal Sections had pooled their personnel, and two Forward Brigade Stations xxx assembled at Cable Head with all gear ready for the advance. Cable Office opened and supplies of Cable and Technical Stores arranged at this point. Communication forward of Division to Brigades, and Brigades to Cable Head was worked by Fuller-phones. Divisional Visual Station was established at I.17.D.20.40, and communications from there to Division was by 'phone to Halfway House, and from there by Fullerphone to Division. Forward Visual Stations were also established at the YPRES RAMPARTS, BIRR CROSS ROADS, W.2 (half way between Hooge and Clapham Junction) and Clapham Junction. Motor D.R's carried Despatches as far as Brigade Headquarters at Hooge, and from there forward Runners delivered.	
	20th	4.30 a.m.	Cable Head to Clapham Junction route cut by shell-fire, repairs effected under very heavy shell-fire by 5.30 am.	
		5.30 a.m.	Zero hour. Forward Brigade Stations moved forward at 7.15 am. and established Forward Stations at J.14.B.8.8. and J.8.D.9.4. Telephonic communication to Forward Stations from Cable Head intermittent owing to heavy shell-fire, but good Visual and Power Buzzer Stations established. Brigade linemen constantly patrolling lines forward of Cable Head.	
		10.15 a.m.	Parties digging Communication Trenches across Clapham Junction - Cable Head route cut the cable in many places and the route had to be abandoned. The work of laying a direct laddered line to Brigade Headquarters at the Cr-ater immediately commenced, and was far enough advanced at 11 a.m. to continue telegraphic communication by Fullerphone. From this time on communication was maintained continuously throughout the Operation over this specially laid line. The whole of the Signal Service was utilised to cope with the extra rush of business necessarily thrown on it, and the business passed through the Divisional Office for the 24 hours of the Operation alone amounted to 710 telegrams and 510 packets.	
	21st		New Buried Route of 50 pairs put down between Clapham Junction and Cable Head. Business for the 24 hours amounted to 555 telegrams and 539 packets through the Divisional Office.	
	22nd		Buried Cable Route of 70 pairs extended on from Cable Head to a point in front of Glencorse Wood (J.14.B.8.8.)	

WAR DIARY

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or

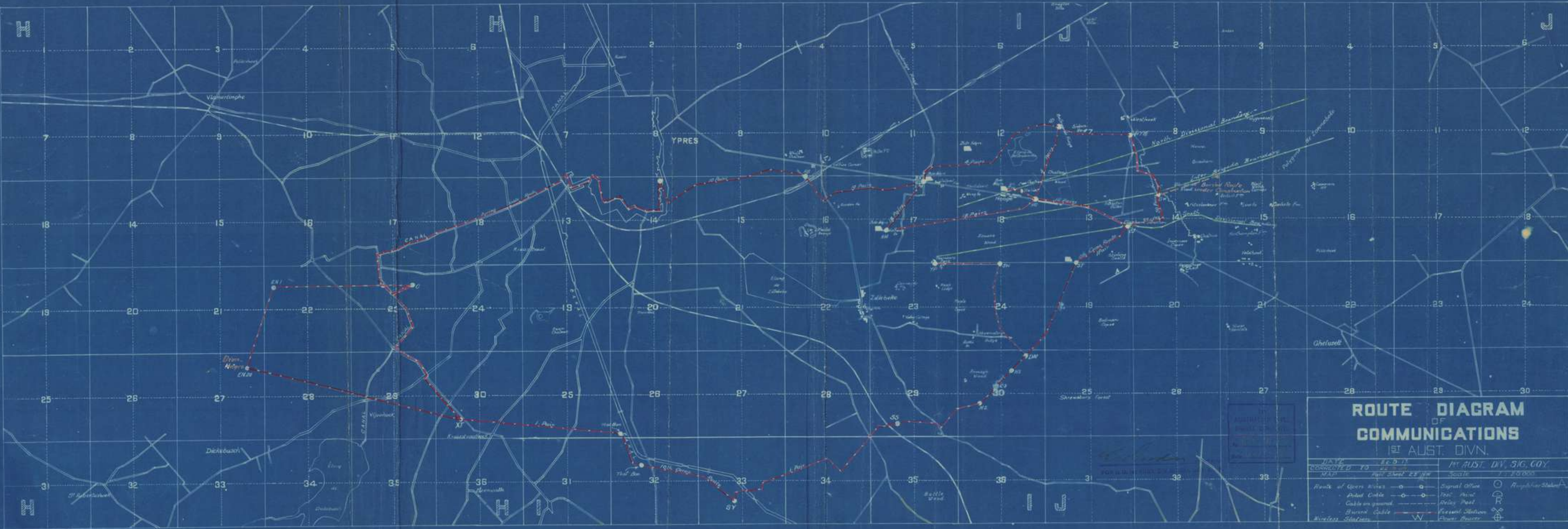
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	23rd		Relieved by 5th Australian Divisional Signals, and all Signal Communications handed over in good order. Removed to Reninghelst for the day,	
	24th		The Company removed to Steenvoorde with No's 2 ³ / ₄ , 3, and 4 Sections billeted in the town, and connected to Division by telephone.	
	25th)		The whole of the time spent in overhauling the Signal Gear, bringing the Stores up to Establish- ment and in preparation for the next stunt. The O.C. paid visits of inspection to all Sections.	
	26th)			
	27th)			
	28th)			
	29th)			
	30th		Advance Party went forward to take over Walker Camp (Dickebusch) in preparation for the next Operation.	

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



13 NOV 1917

HOOGE

SCALE 1:10000

Yards 500 400 300 200 100 0

