

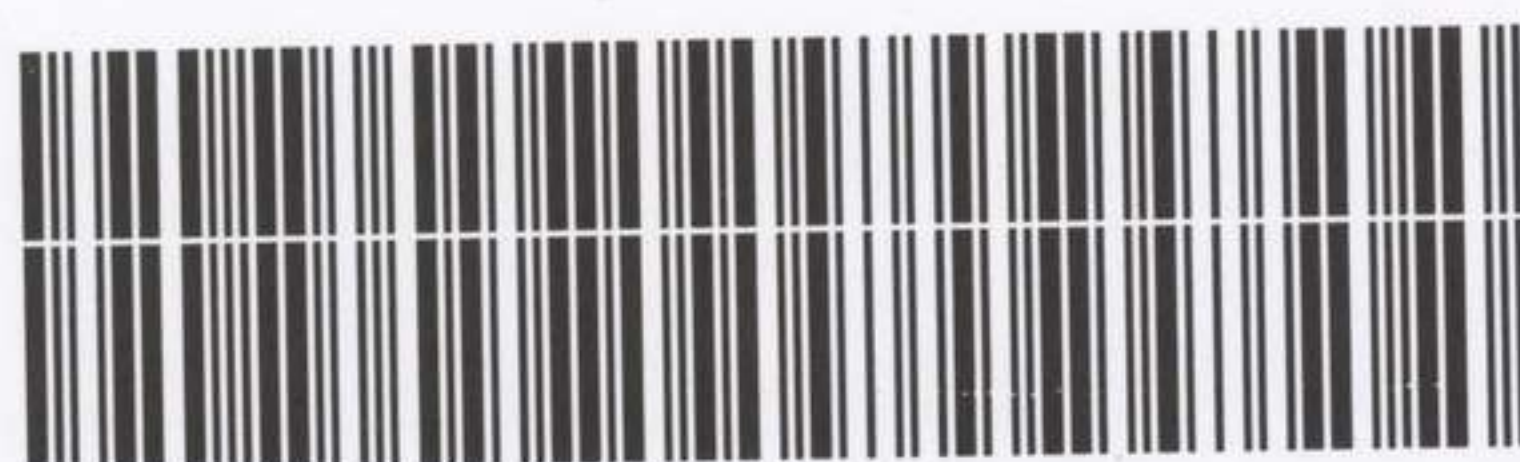
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Signals

Item number: 22/11/33

Title: 1st Australian Division Signals
Company

February 1918



AWM4-22/11/33

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MERRIS. February	1918.		<p>D.H.Q. at Dranoutze. Divisional relief was completed and command of area handed over to 5th Aust Division at 11 A.M. 1st Aust Div H.Q. established at Merris and Signal Office at 11 A.M. No1 Section with H.Q. Transport moved to Steent-Je as there were no stables at Merris, and billeted there under command of 2/Lieut C.J.D. Smith. Billets in Merris were poor as there were no bunks, and the men had to sleep on stone floors as no straw and palliasses were available. This village has been used on and off as aaH.Q. for a resting Division, but attempt had been made to provide bunks of any comfort for the men by previous Divisions billeted there. Brigade Sections moved with their respective Brigades, and are stationed as follows:- No2 Section with 1st Bde at Meteren. No3 Section with 3rd Bde at Waterloo Camp. No4 Section with 2nd Bde at Locre. The following reinforcements arrived:- 174 Sgt A.P. Fricker. Weather cold and foggy.</p> <p>2nd Fine day. Carpenter building bunks and latrines, and straw and palliasses obtained. Linesmen along route to Outtersteene, to repair which is in bad condition. Major Gordon inspected Bde Signal Schools, and found everything satisfactory, and men making good progress.</p> <p>3rd 3rd Fine Day. Work progressing on billets and on M.O. Route to Outtersteene. Local lines in town being put in order.</p> <p>4th Timber drawn for repairs to stables at Steent-Je and carpenter sent there. H.Q. Section commenced training in Signal Work, part of the time being devoted to rifle and squad drill. Weather mild and fine. No 134 Sgt E.R. Marsh awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre for distinguished conduct and devotion to duty, during operations of September, October, and November 1917, at Ypres, Belgium.</p> <p>5th Communications maintained, Fine day.</p> <p>6th Cloudy, Communications maintained. Work on stables progressing satisfactorily</p> <p>7th Cloudy and rain. Communications maintained.</p>	

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MERRIS.	8th		Cloudy and rain. Communications maintained. Route from Merris to Outtersteene repaired and put in good order. Football teams in training in afternoon.	
	9th		Communications maintained. Cloudy.	
	22nd		Lieut Neal and party sent out to test and bury joints on buried route Shovel Camp to Westoff Farm and make good any part of route, also mark it out with blue and white markers.	
	28th		Communications maintained. Cloudy. Capt V. D. Bowen M.C. reported for duty. Electric Light lorry departed for 4th Div Area.	

WAR DIARY APPENDIX

OF

1st Australian Divisional Signal Company.

FOR

FEBRUARY 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Handing over Report, Merris, dated 1st March 1918.
2	Copy of Quartermaster's Report.
3	Copy of Report of O.C. Signals 1st Aust Inf Bde.
4	Copy of Report of O.C. Signals 2nd Aust Inf Bde.
5	Copy of Report of O.C. Signals 3rd Aust Inf Bde.
6	Miscellaneous.
7	C.O.s Report.

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1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

HANDING OVER REPORT. MERRISS.

COMMUNICATION. Communication to Australian Corps at Fletre, and the Infantry Brigades at Meteren, Locre and at Waterloo Campis by Morse and Telephone to each on poled route, the maintenance of which the Division is responsible for as far as Outtersteene. Beyond this point, Corps Signals at Bailleul maintain.

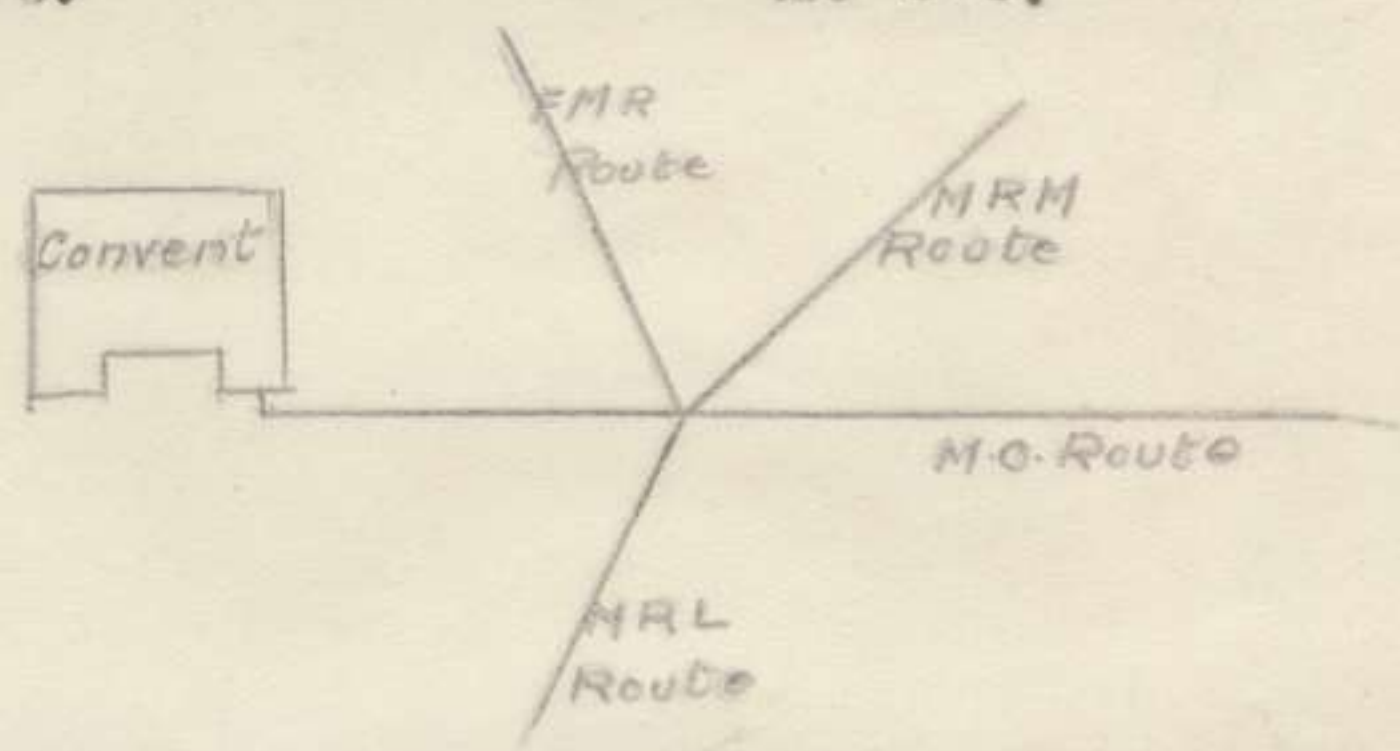
TELEGRAPH. AUO and the Infantry Brigades at Meteren, Locre and at Waterloo Campar-e in direct telegraphic communication.

TELEPHONE. Aust. Corps, Fletre, (2 circuits) and the Infantry Brigades at Meteren and at Locre, 1st Div. Arty, Bailleul, and the 1st Div. Ammn Column, Outtersteene, are in direct telephonic communication.

Communication to the Infantry Brigade at Waterloo Camp and to the Signal Company Horselines at Steent'je is thro' the Infantry Brigade at Meteren.

The following is the numbers of the routes to each Office:-

AUO	route	FMR 5-6.
AUO	"	FMR 9-10.
Inf. Bde Locre.	"	MO 1-2.
Inf. Bde Meteren.	"	MRM 3-4.
Inf. Bd-e Waterloo C.	"	thro' MRM 3-4.
1st Div. Art.	"	MO 3-9.
1st D. A. C.	"	MO 5-6.



The following is a list of the local subscribers:-

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| "G" | "Q" |
| ADMS | GSO. 2. |
| CRE | Sigs. Ord. Room. |
| APM. | "B" Mess. |
| Msge 'phone. | GOC and "A" Mess. |
| Area Cndt (2 rings) | Camp Cndt (3 rings) |

All line-s are in good working orde-r.

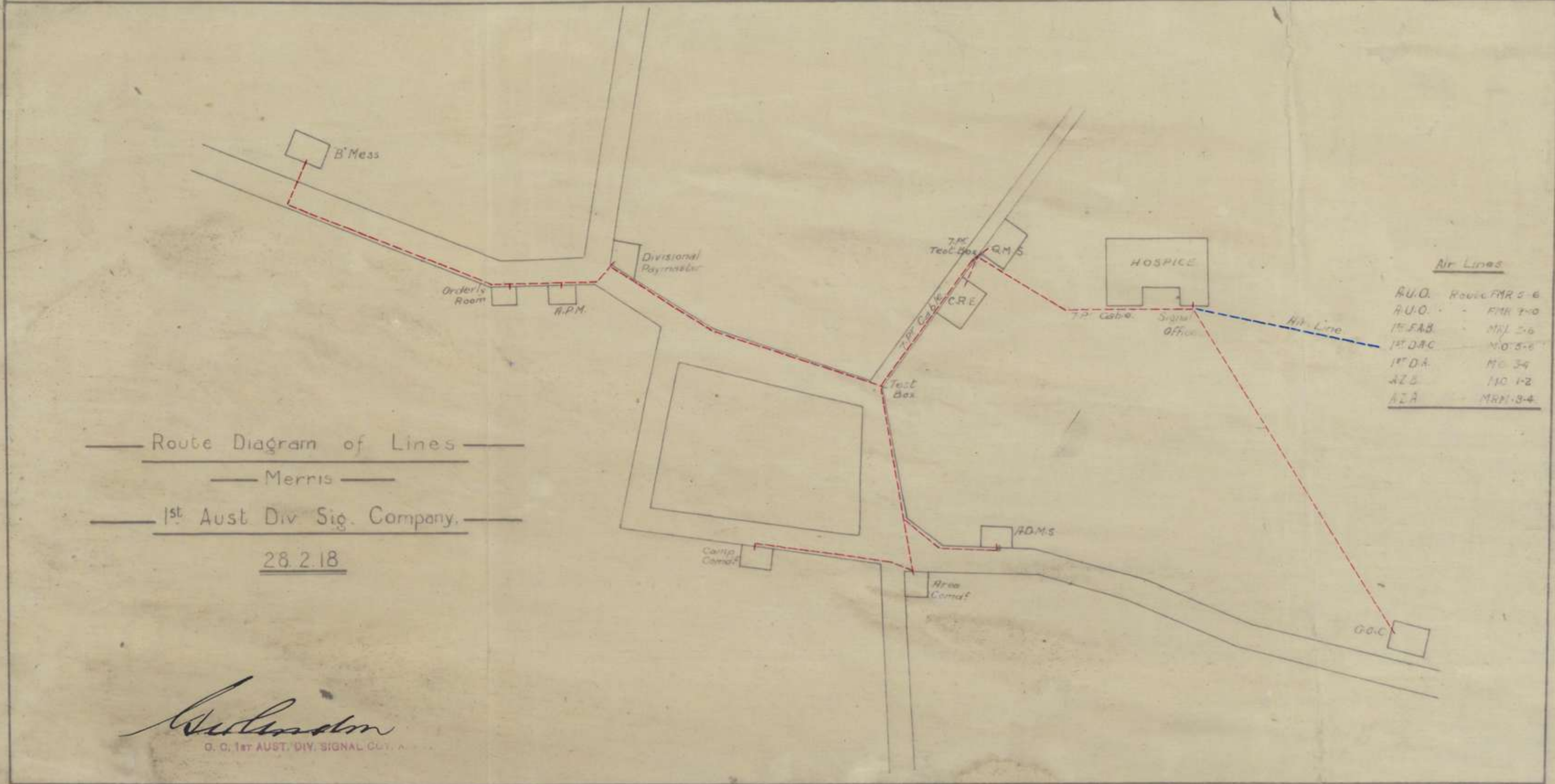
Merriss

Major.

O.C., 1st Aust. Div. Signal Company.

Merriss, 2nd March, 1918.

APPENDIX



Air Lines

R.U.O.	Roulet FMR 5-6
R.U.O.	FMR 7-10
15 FAB	MO 2-6
1st DAC	MO 3-6
1st DA	MO 3-4
AZB	MO 1-2
AZA	MRR 3-4

— Route Diagram of Lines —
 - - - Merris - - -
 . . . 1st Aust Div Sig. Company. . . .
28.2.18

W. G. Anderson
 O. C. 1st AUST. DIV. SIGNAL Coy. A.

App. 1.

APPENDIX I

INDEX

APPENDIX 2.

WAR DIARY.

February 1918.

Q. Ms Bransh.

Rations. Bread. During the month the issue was good: The issue being 2 men per loaf for days and 3 men per loaf for days.

Meat The issue was good and was varied by the inclusion of Beef, M & V Rations and Bully Beef.

Fodder. The oat ration for the month remained at 8 lbs per horse whilst the issue was 9 lbs per horse.

Petrol. The consumption by Motor Cycles, Car and Lorries with Electric Lighting Set was 778 gallons. Petrol consumption was slightly abnormal owing to long distance between Division and Bde H.Q.

Oil American "A" The expenditure of oil for lubricating purposes was 80 gallons.

Fuel A liberal issue, the allotment being, coal $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs and wood 2 lbs per man per day.

Boots. The Company demand for boots was nil. Repairs by Company bootmaker totalled 120 pairs.

Clothing. A fair amount of Australian pattern on issue from D. A. D. O. S.

Carbide. 120 lbs expended on head lights.

Burning Oil. Methylated Spirits 10 gallons.
Burning Oil 45 gallons.
Grease. 40 lbs.

Sanitation. Used on Latrines. Creosol 10 gallons.
Chloride of Lime. 2 drums.

Dripping. The amount rendered down and returned was 100 lbs.

Paper. Amount of paper returned was 130 lbs.
Cardboard 30 lbs.

APPENDIX 2 Continued.

MENU.

Breakfast. Porridge, Bacon and Tea.
 Dinner. Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, and Gravy.
 Tea. Bread, Butter, Jam, Cheese, Tea.

The menu was varied with Roasts, Meat and Vegetables, Stews, Cold Meat, Boiled Ham and Rice.

Miscellaneous.

Article.	In	Out.	Article	In	Out.
Boots A.	-	81	Cells Inert "O"	80	16
Tunics	13	42	" " "p"	30	21
Breeches.	21	41	" " "w"	125	85
Pantaloon.	80	49	" " "x"	250	144
Greatcoats.	26	10	" Lucas Lamp	12	8
Hats	24	25	Lucas Lamps.	1	1
Braces	51	-	Amplifier.	2	2
Puttees.	1	28	Trench Sets W/T	2	2
Jerkins.	1	7	Batteries. Z Type.	30	12
Cardigans	1	7	Accumulators.	-	24
Leggings.	8	1	Earth Mats.	1	1
Belts. S.B.	2	1	" Pins.	2	63
Palliasse	150	60	Buzzer Units.	2	2
Pants. M.C.	1	9	Hand Sets	5	5
Jackets M.C.	-	-	Bulbs E. Torch.	20	6
Coats M.C.	1	7	Sig Lamps French	-	4
Haversacks.	3	17	Fullerphones.	6	10
Towels.	3 5	-	P.O. 44	1	1
Helmets. P.H.	-	73 Salv.	P.O. 100	1	1
Box Respirators.	-	5	Phones D111.	13	21
Water Bottles.	-	4	Tents Shelter.	4	-
Compasses.	1	1	Labels Ward D.	200	-
Wheels C2 C100	-	1	Tape Adhesive.	85	14
Clippers Horse.	2	4	Compound.	41	-

APPENDIX 2 Continued.

Miscellaneous.

Article.	In	Out.	Article.	In	Out.
Guys Telegraph.	50	50	Brooms Bass.	4	-
" " Pickets	100	100	Brushes Horse.	15	-
Mattocks. E.T.	4	4	" Dandy.	12	-
Tuners Nol Spl.	1	1	Vices Hand & B.	2	2
Hammers R.E.	1	1	Web Equipment.	6	24
Barrows D univ.,	1	1	Blankets.	12	-
Plugs 201 and 301a	83	44	Rifles.	-	3
Cords.	36	12	Map Cases. M.C.	6	3
Terminals Prs.	30	-	Bags Nose.	80	80
Hop Poles.	12	-	Gum Boots.	-	13
Binoculars.	2	1	Chisels Cold.	2	2
Plugs. 803	36	34	Pistols.	3	1
M. Cycle Parts.	104	104	Panniers.	2	2
Swingle Trees.	-	2	Knives Clasp.	1	-
Ground Sheets	8	5	Wire. T13 yds.	440	330
			" D11 Twisted	21 miles.	10 1/2.
			" D V111	4	-

Returned to Salvage

Service Rifles.	1	Helio Stands.	1
Hats.	8	Frogs.	6
Water Bottle s.	3	Shirts.	2
Haversacks.	17	Dr awers.	4
Bandolier.	13	Singlets.	3
Water Bottle Carriers.	12	Packs.	4
Box Respirators.	1	Sig Lamp French.	4
P.H. Helmets.	13	Boots Gum.	12
Tunics.	10	Coats M.C.	6
Pantaloon.	11	Jackets M.C.	1
Greatcoats.	1	Pants. M.C.	8
Breeches.	1	Puttees.	3
Braces.	5	Jerkins.	1
Boots.	11	Cardigans.	1
Soyer Stoves.	1	Socks.	3
Map Cases.	1	Collars. Head.	11
Kettles Camp.	2	Towels.	3
Clippers Horse.	2	Swingle Trees.	2

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<p>APPENDIX 3.</p> <hr/> <p>Meteren. February</p>	<p>1918.</p>		<p>During the month, the Section were not in the line, being in Meteren. They were trained in visual signalling Station Work, Rifle Exercises, and Squad Drill, during forenoon of each day, the afternoon being devoted to sports.</p> <p>The Signal Office, was connected by phone, and sounder to Division, three Battalions, and Divisional Signal Company horse-lines, were also connected by telephone.</p> <p>Nothing unusual happened during the month.</p> <p>With reference to Fullerphones, the following faults are found to occur frequently in type P.0235</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Will not remain in adjustment for any length of time. (2) "B" Carbon point is very easily broken. (3) Will not give satisfaction if worked in conjunction with D 111 telephone. (4) Will not work over high resistance line. <p>Office pattern 1, when issued to Battalions, is found to be too difficult, for the Battalion Signallers to adjust, owing to Buzzer being fitted with four adjusting screws.</p> <p>Both this pattern and also office pattern is very bulky for Battalions to carry.</p> <p>The rations throughout the month were very good.</p> <p>The Signal School commenced during January under command of Lieut A. B. Cochrane, was continued till the 20th February.</p>	

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<p>APPENDIX 4.</p> <hr/> <p>LOCRE.</p> <p>February 1918. 1st to 27th. 28th</p>			<p>(a) Work done during month.</p> <p>Section training carried out at Locre. All technical equipment of Bde Section, Battalions, and M.G. Company overhauled by Mechanics.</p> <p>Handing over report prepared and handed to incoming Section.</p> <p>Section moved to La Clytte.</p> <p>Telephonic communication with all Battalions established.</p> <p>(b) Unusual occurrences during month. Nil.</p> <p>(c) Wear and tear of technical gear was unnoticeable during month.</p> <p>(d) Rations. The quantity and quality of the rations was good excepting for the vegetable issue which was very meagre.</p> <p>(e) Signal School. The course of the Bde Signal School, which commenced on the 25/2/18 continued throughout the month. On February 21st an examination was held and the Officers attending and half the men passed and were returned to their units. Two men were returned as unlikely to become efficient Signallers. The remainder of the personnel, 18 in number are to continue on the same course until March 8th inst.</p>	

APPENDIX 4

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APPENDIX 5.				
Shovel Camp.	February 1918.		<p>During the month of February this Section was out in rest. Rifle Parades were held each morning at 9.30, afterwards an inspection of huts. All Telephones, Fullerphones, Lucas Lamps, and gear were thoroughly overhauled, and put in good working condition. Several parades were held for practice with lamp reading, also with Fullerphones. Cables which had been laid previously, in connection with buried system for Reserve Defence Scheme were found defective between Westoff Farm and Shovel Camp boxes. These were tested through, and report forwarded.</p> <p>Communications.</p> <p>Communications were established with units of this Brigade, and maintained throughout the stay. Communication with A.Y.A. was established through A.Y.C. by telephone, and for Telegraph working through A.Y.C. to A.Z.A.</p>	

APPENDIX 5

app. 6.

This appears quite probable, in view of a statement of a prisoner of the 17th Res. Divn. that the roads in the GHELUVELT area - which include the MENIN-GHELUVELT road, a continuation of the LENIN-COURTRAI road - had recently been made passable right up to the front.

5. GAS.

A prisoner of the 1st M.G. Coy., 162nd I.R., 17th Res. Divn., captured on 7th Feb., when examined by the Chemical Adviser, stated that he was informed, at a Gas School in COURTRAI, three weeks ago, that Blue Cross Gas penetrates all masks and is made of "K" stuff. Green Cross Gas is made of phosgene and chlorine.

There are three kinds of Yellow Cross Gas :-

- (a) Yellow Cross Gas which is visible.
- (b) Yellow Cross I, (chlorine, phosgene and "K" stuff), is invisible.
- (c) Yellow Cross II - which has not yet been used.

Prisoner states it will probably be used in projectors and shells. It is invisible, odourless and will penetrate rubber masks. Some weeks ago, all rubber masks were recalled and leather ones substituted.

(Note: It seems probable that rubber masks are no longer being used on account of the shortage of rubber.)

6. HEADQUARTERS.

COURTRAI. - Headquarters of the WYJSCHAETE Group are situated in the large group of buildings at H.27.c.0.8. (corner of Rue de Gand and the Esplanade).

7. DIVISIONAL MANOEUVRES.

A reliable prisoner belonging to the 162nd I.R., 17th Res. Divn., stated that whilst in rest between 28th Dec., 1917 and 2nd Feb. 1918, the whole of the 17th Res. Divn., took part in large scale manoeuvres on three different occasions, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. These manoeuvres included the employment of contact aeroplanes, artillery, pioneers, Minenwerfer, M.Gs and Assault Troops, and were held in the area bounded by the following villages: WINKEL ST. ELOI (29.A.19.20) LENDELLE (29.A.18.c.) CAPPELLE ST. CATHERINE (29.A.30) and GULLEGHEM (29.G.15.21).

Blank S.A.A. and gun ammunition were used during these exercises which were said to be exceptional, this being the first time, to prisoner's knowledge, that the division has trained as a whole.

It was current topic that these manoeuvres were undertaken with a view to an approaching offensive in which the division was to take part. They were to be held in readiness for this attack, and had not expected to come into the line again.

Prisoner understood that the objective of these attacks was to be high ground behind certain portions of the British front. The attack was to be in the nature of a surprise, and a break through of about 6 kilometres was contemplated. About 3 divisions were to be employed.

The prisoner appeared ignorant of the locality to be attacked.

He mentioned the LENS - ARRAS Sector and also GHELUVELT and west of HOUTHEM.

With reference to the GHELUVELT area he stated that the MENIN road and other roads in this area have recently been improved, and that the pioneer park at GHELUWE had been moved 2 kilometres further forward.

8. CONSTRUCTION OF GERMAN TANKS.

According to a prisoner, recently captured by the French, a large number of tanks are reported to have been built in Germany, the drivers being drawn from the divisional mechanical transport service. The tanks are of two kinds, those armed with a gun or minenwerfer, and those with machine guns. The lower and more vulnerable portions have been strengthened, and the tanks can attain a speed of 6 kilometres (nearly 4 miles) an hour. From another source, the 5th Assault Battalion was reported to be carrying out training at LONGUYON at the end of January with six tanks, and the existence of tanks in the CARIGNAN area is also mentioned.

9. ALLOTMENT OF ARTILLERY TO GERMAN DIVISIONS ON A BATTLE FRONT.

A document, recently captured by the French, shows that, on the 1st October, 1918, the following artillery was allotted to the 14th Divn. then in line in the VAUCAILLON - LAFFAUX Sector :-

16 field batteries * 64 field guns and howitzers.

17 heavy batteries * about 31 heavy guns and howitzers.

This should be compared with the allotments to divisions on battle fronts, shown in Ia/44523, dated 6.2.18.

10. MOVEMENTS OF GERMAN DIVISIONS.

The following movements have been established :-

The 15th Bav. Divn. from reserve, has relieved the 228th Divn., north east of VERDUN.

The 115th Divn., from Fumonia, has arrived on the Western Front, in the area of the Second German Army.

This raises the total number of German divisions on the Western Front to 174.

11. GERMAN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

With reference to para. 7, G.H.Q. Summary, No. 405, and Fourth Army Summary, No. 53, dated 10th Feb., 1918, further corroboration has been received that German G.H.Q. is now at SPA.

12. DESCRIPTION OF A RAID CARRIED OUT BY OUR TROOPS AGAINST TURENNE CROSSING ON 15th FEB.

At 8.30 p.m. (15th February) our troops successfully raided the enemy's positions at TURENNE CROSSING (V.L.D.15.35). The raiding party, consisting of two officers and forty men, formed up astride the ADEN HOUSE (V.L.C.35.50)-TURENNE CROSSING road, and advanced under cover of a heavy barrage put down by Field Artillery, with their flank covered by an additional party of one officer and twenty men. The German wire, although thick, was eventually penetrated with the help of two Bangalore torpedoes. At this juncture, the enemy put down a barrage, both on his own wire and on the posts which the raiding party were about to attack. In spite of this, the level crossing was stormed and 11 prisoners, including one officer, were captured in a shelter situated in the south-west angle formed by the road and the railway. No trace of the remainder of the garrison could be found, possibly on account of the intensity of the British and German artillery fire directed on the crossing. Our casualties were slight.

13. DOVE SHAPED STRUCTURES BEHIND ENEMY'S LINES.

In the Fourth Army Summary of the 27th Jan. the probability of the numerous dove-shaped structures now appearing in large numbers behind the enemy's lines being used for ammunition storage was discussed.

Prisoners have stated that these structures are roughly erected corrugated iron shelters similar to our "Baby Elephant" shelters. They are known amongst the troops as "Flandernhütten", and are scattered about the country side in large numbers.

Where the ground is suitable, they are dug in to the depth of about a metre.

They are occasionally used by the troops as shelters and can accommodate two men.

The ends are open, but when used these are covered with a waterproof sheet.

There is a covering of earth on top, which renders these shelters splinter proof.

Prisoners have neither seen or heard of these shelters being used for the storage of ammunition.

14. GERMAN CAPTIVE BALLOON ORGANISATION.

(a) Organisation. A balloon section (Ballonzug) consists of 2 balloons. Four balloon sections are normally grouped to form a balloon detachment (Feldluftschiffer-Abteilung), the headquarters of which is normally at Group (Corps) H.Q. At Army H.Q. there is a Balloon Commander (Kobluft).

(b) Allotment. A captured order of the First German Army, dated 15.4.17, shows that a balloon section is allotted permanently to each division for artillery observation, and is under the orders of the divisional artillery commander for tactical purposes.

All balloons in excess of the above allotment remain at the disposal of the Group for special duties (long distance observation, contact work, etc.) or they may be allotted to divisions.

Within each group area all balloons, except those allotted to divisions for artillery observation (see above) are under the orders of the balloon detachment.

(c) Duties. The headquarters of the balloon detachment forms a balloon report centre for the Group, collects all results of reconnaissances, and forwards them to the Balloon Commander at Army H.Q.

When the enemy attacks on a large scale, the detachment staff is responsible for observing the progress of the hostile attack, and for passing this information to all artillery staffs.

The Balloon Commander at Army H.Q.:-

- (1) Advises the Army Headquarters staff in all matters affecting the balloons, and at once forwards all reports of tactical importance to that staff.
- (2) Keeps in touch with the Intelligence Section (report centre) of the staff of the Artillery General at Army H.Q.
- (3) Arranges for the protection of balloons.
- (4) Exchanges the results of reconnaissance with neighbouring Armies.
- (5) Supervises the work of balloon detachments.

15. GERMAN MINENWERFER GAS PROJECTOR BOMBARDMENTS.

A village in the French front line was recently subjected to a gas projector attack, which presents certain novel features:-

(a) The attack consisted of two bursts of fire, in which a total of between 200 and 250 Minenwerfer gas shell fell in the area. The actual symptoms of the attack presented no unusual features.

(b) Blind shell showed that the old pattern smooth bore 18 cm. Minenwerfer had been employed.

(c) From the grooves in the shell craters, a rough idea was obtained of the line of fire, which was seen to come mainly from two distinct directions.

app. 6.

(d) Photographs were then taken of the suspected areas. These revealed two sets of about a dozen trenches, regularly sited, perpendicular to the line of fire; the trenches were about 10 metres in length. The trench systems were about 1,400 yards from the place where the shell fell.

Photographs of the same area, taken 3 days before the actual projector attack, showed no signs of work in this area. There was, however, a wood in the immediate vicinity, in which the material may have been hidden.

There was a complete absence of tracks round the trenches.

(e) Further enquiries showed that the noise of hammering on iron had been heard in the German lines during the night previous to the projector attack.

The above facts should be of interest to those engaged on the study of aeroplane photographs.

22 ✓
Diary

Extract from a Dispatch from Field Marshal Sir
Douglas Haig, dated G.H.Q., 25th December, 1917.

SIGNAL SERVICES. - The Signal Service, which at the end of the Battle of the Somme had already grown into a great and intricate organisation, has had even larger demands made upon it during the past year.

Apart from the perfecting and maintenance of rear communications, special provision has had to be made for carrying our communications forward as our troops have advanced. The measures adopted to this end have been skilfully devised and admirably carried out. In many cases within a few hours of a successful operation large numbers of buried telephone circuits have been extended into the captured zone under very trying conditions, the provision of communications for artillery Forward Observation Officers, etc., proceeding simultaneously with the organisation of the new line. Thanks to the rapidity with which communications in the forward areas have been established information of hostile concentrations has frequently been transmitted by their means from the front in time to enable the artillery to break up impending counter-attacks.

The success which has attended the establishment of these forward communications has been largely due to the untiring energy and devotion to duty of the officers and men of the numerous small Signal Sections and Detachments. On them has devolved, in circumstances of great difficulty and danger, the execution of the complicated schemes of communication necessitated by the present form of warfare.

The Carrier Pigeon Service has also been greatly developed during the present year, and has proved extremely valuable for conveying information from attacking units to the headquarters of their formations.

Director of Army Signals,
General Headquarters,
11th February, 1917.

app. 6.

War Diary

APPENDIX *6.*

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS, 1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
No. 68/148.

Divisional Headquarters.
27th. February. 1918.

Sig Coy

With reference to D.H.Q. 68/148, It is brought to notice that the formation of an Australian Corps Signal Company marks another step forward towards the completion of an entirely self contained Australian force. This unit will be the communication medium between the Australian troops and the headquarters of Armies. It is a unit that by the standard of its usefulness will affect the judgment of the higher formations upon Australian efficiency to a considerable extent. It is therefore desired to allot to it only men of the highest qualifications. Brigade and unit Commanders are requested to keep this point of view in mind and to give the formation of the company the widest publicity in order to get a wide selection of suitable men.

Please add. -

Motor Cyclists.

to the list of special qualifications required.

W. Blamey

Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 22

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>MERRIS. February</p>	<p>Appendix 7 1918.</p>		<p>C.O.s Report.</p> <p>During the month of February the Division being in rest in Merris Area, the Company was employed in training and overhauling its technical equipment. Three Brigade Schools were held viz. one in each Brigade area under the Assistant Brigade Signal Officer, for the instruction of Battalion Signallers. The Officers and men under training took a keen interest in the work, and splendid progress was made. At this training, special attention was paid to Reading and sending on Buzzer and Lucas Lamp, the other subjects being, line work, testing and repairing faults, telephones, their use and construction, and simple tests for faults, reading and sending on flag, simple map reading, and Station Work. In nearly every case the men so trained were capable of passing the test for entrance to Army or Corps Signal Schools.</p> <p>No 1 Section of the Company was employed on Cable drill and wagon work; also in filling in and making good a buried route from Westoff Farm to Shovel Camp, Shovel Camp to Lindenhoeck, and leading in lines to test rack at Shovel Camp.</p> <p>On the 15th Inst., a buried route was commenced in the "C" Divisional Area, commencing at P test box near Vierstraat Cross Roads at N 11 b 9.3 to BSC test box at N 12 b 8.9. This route was completed on the 28th inst.</p> <p>On the 28th inst., a route from P test box N 11 b 9.3 to SG test box at N 16 a 1.1 was commenced. 250 yards of this were completed by evening, in all 1500 yards of trench being dug to a depth of 7 feet, and 52 pairs of cable being buried in the trench, and then filled in, the cable used being 7 pair brass sheathed, 7 pair iron armoured quad and twin armoured iron. This completed the work for the month. The weather for the month being generally fine. The health of the Company was good. Rations were good. Appended is the Quartermaster's report on clothing, equipment etc issued for the month. A Power Buzzer and Elementary Wireless Course was held at DHQ under the Wireless Officer and satisfactory progress was made by the students.</p> <p>Pigeon classes were held at Bailleul, under the auspices of the Corps, and a fair number of men trained.</p>	<p>APPENDIX 7</p>