

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

Tunnelling & Survey

**Item number:** 16/5/1

**Title:** Australian Corps Topographical  
Section

February 1917



AWM4-16/5/1



# AUST. TOPOGRAPHICAL SECT.

## ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS.

### A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E .

Australian War Records Section,  
103, Horseferry Road,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

In reply quote

1. AWE.

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A survey of the diaries and other historical records in the possession of this Section shows that very little information is available for the period between the formation of the Unit and its entry into active operations in the field.

This, doubtless, is due to the fact that Units seems to have received no definite instructions regarding diaries until they proceeded overseas.

Attached hereto are a number of headings under which this history could be written up. It will be appreciated if you will now in consultation with members of your unit, and those who since have been transferred, endeavour to supply details and return the origin to this office for filing with your Unit's records.

It is realised that this will be by no means easy and that the return of many 1914 men makes it still more difficult. It is however essential that this information should be collected in order that Unit's records may commence at the beginning, and it is confidently anticipated that you will, in the interests of the Unit's history do what you can to make the records of its origin complete. The Section will gladly give you any assistance it can.

*C. H. F. C. 11*

Brigadier-General,  
Collector Special Histories (Engineers),  
Australian War Records Section.

P. 12. 18

*H. W. R. S.*

*London. The Aust. Corps Topographical Section was formed in France in Feb 1917. Therefore these questions do not apply.*

*J. H. Buchanan*  
*of Aust Corps Topo Sect*

*Lawley*

*Seen P.A. with O of Affairs*

*12/18*

*Shaw*



*Confidential - original*

(1)

Army Form C. 2118.

FEBRUARY 1917.

WAR DIARY

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---

(Erase heading not required.)

1st. Anzac Topographical Section.

will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOLUME 8	Remarks and references to Appendices															
1st. Anzac Corps, H.Q. HENENCOURT.	5/2/17.	9am.	<p>1st. Anzac Topographical Section started</p> <p>ESTABLISHMENT:-</p> <table><tr><td>1 Officer.</td><td>(Subaltern).</td></tr><tr><td>3 Topographers.</td><td>(1 Sgt., &amp; 2 Corporals).</td></tr><tr><td>6 Draftsman.</td><td>(1 Warrant Officer, 1st. Class, 2 Sgts., 3 Corporals).</td></tr><tr><td>1 Litho. D'tsman.</td><td>(Sergeant).</td></tr><tr><td>1 Clerk.</td><td>(Corporal).</td></tr><tr><td>1 Orderly.</td><td>(Private).</td></tr></table> <p>Of the above 2 Draftsman (1 Sergeant &amp; 1 Corporal) 1 Clerk &amp; 1 Orderly belonged to Branch Intelligence Section attached to 3rd. Squadron, R.F.C., then at LAVIEVILLE.</p> <p>Transport on Establishment :-</p> <table><tr><td>1 Combination Motor Cycle &amp; Side Car.</td></tr><tr><td>1 Solo Motor Bicycle.</td></tr><tr><td>2 Push Bicycles.</td></tr></table> <p>Decided by General White, B.G.G.S., that Corps Topo., Section would use Litho. Press; to be made by Anzac R.E. Workshops, and materials necessary for litho work would be purchased from A.I.F., funds. Until this press was completed, litho press at 3rd. R.F.C., Squadron to be used.</p> <p>List of Maps produced during February attached.</p> <p>No other entries for February.</p>	1 Officer.	(Subaltern).	3 Topographers.	(1 Sgt., & 2 Corporals).	6 Draftsman.	(1 Warrant Officer, 1st. Class, 2 Sgts., 3 Corporals).	1 Litho. D'tsman.	(Sergeant).	1 Clerk.	(Corporal).	1 Orderly.	(Private).	1 Combination Motor Cycle & Side Car.	1 Solo Motor Bicycle.	2 Push Bicycles.		
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Do.	18/2/17.																			

*Iskuchanah Lieut.*

*ob. 1st Anzac Topo. Section*

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*Iskuchanah Lieut.*  
*Ob. 1st Anzac Topo. Section*



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Special Maps produced by 1st. Anzac Topographical Section. February 1917.

Section Map No.	Particulars of Maps.	Scale.	Method of production.	No. of copies.	Remarks.
1. } 2. }	Copies of captured German Maps, of GUEUDEECOURT Area.	1/10,000.	Blue & White prints.	14 of each map.	
3.	Altered Divisional Boundary through FLERS & LONGUEVAL.	1/20,000.	Ellam's Duplicator.	40.	
4.	Revised edition of No.3.	do.	do. do.	40.	
5.	Squares N.15.cd.16.c.d.) Sheet 1. 21. 22. )	1/5,000.	do. do.	100.	
6.	Squares N.27.b.d.28.29.a.c.) Sheet 2. 33.b.34.a.b.35.a. )	do.	do. do.	100.	
7.	LE BARQUE Sheet. Showing British Front Line, Enemy Trenches, Wire & Tramways, corrected to 23/2/17.	1/20,000.	Hand.	1.	Sent Map to Fifth Army. (Maps).
8.	Information Map showing Dumps, Headquarters, Tracks & occupied Trenches. LE BARQUE Sheet.	1/20,000.	Hand.	1.	Sent Map to Fifth Army "I".
9.	Map showing proposed new Divisional bound- aries forward of present front line.	LE BARQUE Sheet.	1/20,000. Hand.	10.	
10.	Map showing Corps and Divisional boundaries.	ALBERT Combined. Faint Print.	1/40,000. Hand.	4.	
11.	Alteration of Divisional Boundaries consequent on withdrawal of one Division from the line.	1/20,000.	Ellam's Duplicator.	40.	
12.	Combined Situation Map for whole Army area.	do.	Hand.	4.	
13.	Map showing BEUGNY-YTRES Line.	do.	Hand.	1.	

(cont'd.)

APPENDIX.



Special Maps produced by 1st. Anzac Topo., Section. February 1917. (continued.)

Section Map No.	Particulars of Maps.	Scale.	Method of production.	No. of copies issued.	Remarks.
14.	LE BARQUE Sheet showing German Trenches up to date.	LE BARQUE 1/20,000. Sheet.	Litho. Press.	300.	
15.	Situation Map, dated 27.2.17.	do.	do.	300.)	Number of future Situation Maps will be
16.	do. do. do. 28.2.17.	do.	do.	300.)	reduced to approx., 175 per issue.
17.	do. do. do. 1.3.17.	do.	do.	300.)	

APPENDIX.

"Copies of Maps of use for War Records purposes taken to LONDON (War Records Section) in July 1917 by Major Butler G.S.O. "I" 1st. Anzac Corps. No other copies now available."