

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

Tunnelling & Survey

**Item number:** 16/5/10

**Title:** Australian Corps Topographical  
Section

November 1917



AWM4-16/5/10



Original

24

WAR DIARY

I ANZAC CORPS TOPOGRAPHICAL SECTION. 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.

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(Erase heading not required.)

November 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>HOOGRAAF.</u> <i>Sheet 28.</i>	1st to 14th.		<p>Corps in line between BECELAERE and YPRES-ROULERS Railway.</p> <p><u>Office work.</u>            Drafting staff employed on routine mapping for General Staff, particularly on maps for "G" "Q" and "I" Branches to hand over to incoming Corps.            List of special maps prepared during period as per Appendix hereto. Any of use for War Records purposes have been taken to London.</p> <p><u>Field Work.</u>            Plane Table Survey <sup>completed</sup> continued of "Pill Boxes" in Corps Area. Total resected to date - 143.            Field Artillery Battery positions resected during period = 3            No of map boards supplied for same during period = 3            Notes on distribution of work amongst personnel etc., during period Corps was engaged in</p> <p>Third Battle of YPRES :-            Lieut H.S. BUCHANAN O.C. General supervision of indoor and outdoor work. Also supervision of work carried out by various Engineer Parties on the Corps Model.</p> <p>1448 Sgt N.H. FINLAYSON )            2294 Cpl L.J. SCOTT ) Topographers. Resection of Field Battery positions and surveys in Corps Area. The whole outdoor work was in the hands of these three N.C.Os.            5395 Cpl W.C. STAFFORD )</p> <p>8398 Sgt P.R. WIGHTMAN )            10258 Cpl S.R. MAISEY ) Drafts-            3778 Cpl R.H. MEAKIN ) men.            2827 Cpl L. BOTHAM ) Plotting enemy work from Air Photos. The two first mentioned N.C.Os were employed on this work for the whole of their time. The last two about half time. Balance of time employed on general drawing work.</p> <p>339 Sgt A. McPHERSON Draftsman. Employed on Litho tracings chiefly.            3068 Cpl W.A. LESLIE do Employed on Maps of British area chiefly.            2276 Pte H. ROBINSON do            8414 Dvr F.B. HUMPHRIS do ) General drafting work.</p> <p>(1)</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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XI I ANZAC TOPOGRAPHICAL SECTION. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

November 1917.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices														
			<p>23/815 W.O. Cl 1 G.T. LUCAS ) Drafts- ) Attached to Branch Intelligence section with Corps Squad-  10193 Sgt H.P. MCGEE ) men. ) ron R.F.C. They worked under the direct supervision of an  7899 Cpl C.V. DUNLOP Clerk. ) Intelligence Corps Officer. Their work was -  3337 Pte R.B. HENDRY Orderly. ) (1) Marking and distribution of Air Photos.  (2) Examination of enemy works on Air Photos.  (3) Rapid dissemination of such information to units in line.  (4) Preparation of Air Photos, Mosaics of Corps Front when required for use of General Staff.</p> <p>Spr R. DOUGLAS 8423 Orderly. General clerical work in office &amp; motor cyclist duties  2162 Sgt J.S. DUNSTAN Litho Printer. ) (delivering maps etc.)  2004 Dvr J. REDFERN Asst. " " ) All Litho printing required.</p> <p>Establishment prior to Third Battle of YPRES was</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Off.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">O/Rks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 (Draftsmen).</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">=====</td> </tr> </table> <p>Authorised supy. to estab. prior " " " " "</p> <p>This was found insufficient and was temporarily increased by  Making total number necessary to carry out work assigned to Corps  Topographical Section</p> <p>During the Third Battle of YPRES, it was unanimously agreed that the Corps Topographical Section had proved their worth. On several occasions the General Staff of the Corps asked themselves in my presence how they had ever managed efficiently without one.  As a recognition for our good work we were honoured by a special inspection by the Corps Commander, Lieut-General Sir W.R. BIRDWOOD K.C.I.E. etc., early in September and again on Boxing Day, December 26th 1917. On both of these occasions he thanked the Staff of the Topographical Section for the work we had done.  During October and November we were also honoured by special visits from the following members of the General Staff :-  Brig-General CHARTERIS Chief of Intelligence at G.H.Q.  Lt-Colonel MITCHELL Chief of Intelligence at Second Army Headquarters.  G.S.Os II Intelligence from IX Corps, X Corps and II ANZAC Corps.  Intelligence Officers from American Army.</p>	Off.	O/Rks.	1	13		2	1	15		3 (Draftsmen).	1	18.	=====		
Off.	O/Rks.																	
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## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## I ANZAC CORPS TOPOGRAPHICAL SECTION.

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~~XX~~

(Erase heading not required.)

November 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>One historical and rather amusing incident should be recorded here. Whilst I ANZAC Corps were resting at HAZEBROUCK in August 1917 I set about the compilation and printing of a map of the Isonzo (ITALIAN) Front. There was a lack of otherwork. When the map - which was in about 5 colours - was about 3/5ths complete the Corps moved into line to take part in the Third Battle of YPRES and the ISONZO Front map was shelved. Then the famous BOSCHE attack on the Italians and consequent break through took place. The opportunity was not to be lost. The map was finished and copies sent to units and to Intelligence Second Army. The map was published the day after the news of the attack reached France. The Army Commander Second Army (General PLUMER) was called to an Army Commanders' Conference at G.H.Q. during the next two or three days to consider what assistance should be rendered to ITALY. He took a copy of this map with him and this being the best map available at G.H.Q. at the time (of the ISONZO Front) the Army Commanders' Conference sat around it. So the I ANZAC Corps Topographical Section can claim to have rendered some slight assistance to ITALY in her time of need. The amusing part of the incident is, that the General Staff outside our own Corps was completely mystified as to how a small Unit such as a Corps Topo Section could produce such a good lithographic map the day after the event happened. They were not made aware that we had prepared the greater part of it many weeks before.</p> <p>Establishment for Transport was found quite insufficient for a busy period.            Authorised establishment was # 2 Combination Motor cycles and side car.            2 Solo Motor bicycles.            2 push bicycles.</p> <p>*One <sup>combination</sup> combustion and one solo attached to Branch Intelligence Section. The <sup>combination</sup> combustion doing duty with section was used constantly by Topographers for their field work. It would of course carry only two men which limited out field efficiency to 2/3rds of its strength. In addition a side car proved not strong enough for continual work <sup>in</sup> indifferent roads. Time lost while side car was in the workshops was considerable. A new establishment, which included a Ford Box car, for all B.E.F. Corps Topo Sections was then under consideration at G.H.Q. and an effort was made through the B.G., G.S. of the Corps to endeavour to get the Ford car supplied in advance. The reply from G.H.Q. was that the cars were not available.</p> <p>The solo doing duty with the Corps Topo Section was constantly employed either as a means of locomotion for the O.C. or for the delivery of maps. The push bicycles were of little use.</p>	
			(3)	







## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 24\* I ANZAC CORPS TOPOGRAPHICAL SECTION.

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~~XX~~November 1917.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Class of work in hand on 15/11/17.</u>            The immediate necessities on taking over were -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1). Preparation of large scale 1/10000 coloured and layered map of whole of Corps Area, both on British side and German side, for use as Staff maps by G.O.C., B.G., G.S., Operations and Intelligence. Those handed over by VIII Corps were not suitable.</li> <li>(2). Preparation of Secret Maps up to date, of British trenches. VIII Corps Topographical Section had produced some excellent ones but they were out of date and no more prints were available. It was decided to start afresh and plot the British Trenches from Air Photos.</li> <li>(3). Reconnaissance Survey of our own Corps Area up to within 2500 yards of the front line. VIII Corps Topographical Section had left a set of maps shewing surveys they had made, but they were found not correct in some particulars and a fresh survey was decided on.</li> <li>(4). Preparation and issue of Target maps for use of our Artillery. This had been met by VIII Corps Intelligence publishing monthly lists of Targets. It was our practice to issue such information in the form of maps.</li> </ol> <p><u>Conditions and Difficulties under which work was carried out.</u>            Conditions were good except that the lighting of the offices allotted to us was not of the best.            Our chief difficulty was and is, the lack of suitable transport. As referred to elsewhere in this diary, a side-car was not adequate nor strong enough for carrying out our field work. The constant laying up for repairs meant the losing of a lot of time.</p> <p><u>Summary of work done during period 15th - 30th November 1917.</u>  <u>Office Work.</u> Drafting Staff busily employed on preparation of Staff Layered maps for use of G.O.C., B.G., G.S., Operations and Intelligence. Also on preparation of Secret and Target Maps. Ordinary routine work entering up enemy work on Air Photos, also put in hand immediately.            List of Maps produced during November attached.            Copies of as many of these of interest for War Record purposes as are available, attached.</p>	
			(5)	

*Maps being sent direct to Australian War Records Section London.*



WAR DIARY

I ANZAC TOPOGRAPHICAL SECTION.

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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November 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																								
			<p><u>Field Work.</u> No of Field Batteries resected from 15/11/17 to 30/11/17 = 18.                      No of Map Boards supplied for same " " " " = 13</p> <p><u>Daily Strengths.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>At 1/11/17</td> <td>1</td> <td>Officer.</td> <td>14</td> <td>O/Ranks.</td> <td>3</td> <td>O/Ranks attd.</td> <td>=</td> <td>18</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>At 11/11/17</td> <td>1</td> <td>"</td> <td>15</td> <td>"</td> <td>3</td> <td>" "</td> <td>=</td> <td>19</td> <td>(1 Asst. Printer joined).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At 25/11/17</td> <td>1</td> <td>"</td> <td>15</td> <td>"</td> <td>1 Off.</td> <td>3 O/Rks "</td> <td>=</td> <td>20</td> <td>(1 Off temporarily attd. to relieve O.C. while on leave).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At 30/11/17</td> <td>1</td> <td>"</td> <td>15</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>=</td> <td>20</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>No evacuations nor casualties during period.</p> <p><u>Transport.</u> 1/11/17) 2 Combustion Motor cycles and Side Cars.                      to 30/11/17) 2 Solo Motor cycles, 1 push bicycle.</p> <p><u>Improvements made in Appliances or Organisation during month.</u></p> <p>N i l.</p> <p>No other entries for November.</p>	At 1/11/17	1	Officer.	14	O/Ranks.	3	O/Ranks attd.	=	18		At 11/11/17	1	"	15	"	3	" "	=	19	(1 Asst. Printer joined).	At 25/11/17	1	"	15	"	1 Off.	3 O/Rks "	=	20	(1 Off temporarily attd. to relieve O.C. while on leave).	At 30/11/17	1	"	15	"	"	" " " "	=	20		
At 1/11/17	1	Officer.	14	O/Ranks.	3	O/Ranks attd.	=	18																																				
At 11/11/17	1	"	15	"	3	" "	=	19	(1 Asst. Printer joined).																																			
At 25/11/17	1	"	15	"	1 Off.	3 O/Rks "	=	20	(1 Off temporarily attd. to relieve O.C. while on leave).																																			
At 30/11/17	1	"	15	"	"	" " " "	=	20																																				
			<p><i>J. Buchanan</i>                      Lieutenant.                      O.C., I ANZAC Topographical Section.</p>																																									



**WAR DIARY**

OF

*I Anzac Corps Topographical Section*

FOR

*November* 191*7***LIST OF APPENDICES.**

No.

Subject.

1. *List of Special Maps produced by Section during month of Novr 1917*



STATEMENT OF SPECIAL MAPS PRODUCED BY 1st ANZAC TOPOGRAPHICAL

SECTION FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1917.

APPENDIX

Appendix I

Section Map No.	Particulars of Map.	Sheet.	Scale.	Method of pro-duction.	No of copies.	Remarks.
295	Hostile shelling 13/11/17.	-	1/20000	Ellams Dup.	13	
296	" " 17/11/17.	-	"	"	26	
297	" " 18/11/17.	-	"	"	26	
298	Specimen Weekly shelling "F" Corps Area Oct 21/28th.	-	"	"	50	
299	Specimen Weekly shelling "F" Corps Area W.E. Nov. 5th.	-	"	"	50	
300	D.11.K.4. Edition 2 (showing also Patrol reports).	-	1/10000	Litho Press.	90	Handed over to II ANZAC "I".
301	Staff map layered.	Regular Issues.	"	Hand.	1	For B.G.G.S.
302	Corps & Div Boundaries "F" Corps.	"	1/40000	Hand.	6	
303	Samer Area.	CALAIS-ABBEVILLE.	1/100000	Hand.	1	
304	Corps & Div. Boundaries "F" Area.	Regular Issues.	1/20000	Hand.	2	
305	do do do do	"	1/10000	Hand.	1	
306	Supply & Ammunition. Re-filling points, Lorry parks etc.	Western Front No 2.	1/100000	Hand.	1	
307	Geological Map BELGIUM.	Part 1 & 4.	1/250000	Hand.	2	For W.S.O.
308	Adm. Map showing Roads, Hutments, Railways, duckwalks etc. in YPRES Corps area.	POPERINGHE YPRES GHELUVELT ZONNEBEKE	1/10000	Hand.	1	To hand over to II ANZAC Topo.
309	Map showing British work, Pill boxes, duckwalks, tramways etc.	YPRES.	1/10000	Hand.	1	For Maps, Second Army.
310	Hostile shelling 19/11/17.	-	1/20000	Ellams Dup.	30	
311	" " 20/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
312	" " 22/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
313	" " 23/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
314	" " 24/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
315	" " 25/11/17.	-	1/40000	"	30	
316	Corps & Div. Boundaries.	28 & 36.	"	Hand.	5	
317	" " "	Regular Issue.	1/10000	"	3	
318	Defence Lines.	28 & 36.	1/40000	China Clay.	7	
319	Water Supply MAP.	28 S.W. & 36 N.W.	1/20000	Litho Press.	52	For W.S.O.
320	Anti-Aircraft Defence.	HAZEBROUCK 5.A.	1/100000	Hand.	1	
321	Enemy Dispositions.	Regular Issues.	1/10000	Hand.	1	For Intellig.
322	Boundaries SAMER Area.	"	1/100000	Hand.	1	For 'Q'.
323	Boundaries of Rear area.	"	1/100000	Hand.	5	Genl. Staff.
324	Operations Staff Map.	"	1/10000	Hand.	1	" "
325	Situation Map (CAMBRAI) Part 1.	"	1/40000	Ellams Dup.	100	
326	do do do Part 2.	"	1/40000	" "	100	
327	Map of Corps area, O,10.d.1-8.	"	1/20000	Litho Press.	350	
328	Hostile shelling 26/11/17.	-	1/40000	Ellams Dup.	30	
329	" " 27/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
330	" " 28/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
331	" " 29/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
332	" " 30/11/17.	-	"	"	30	
333	" " 2/12/17.	-	"	"	30	

Over.



Section Map No.	Particulars of Map.	Sheet.	Scale.	Method of pro- duction.	No of copies.	Remarks.
334	Corps & Div. Boundaries.	36 & 28	1/40000	Ellams Dup.	20	
335	Bdies of Corps Sub-areas.	36 & 28	"	"	40	
336	Staff Map.	Regular Issues	1/10000	Hand.	1	G.O.C.
337	Corps & Div. Bdies.	"	1/20000	"	1	
338	Defence System.	"	1/10000	"	1	B.G.G.S.
339	Signal System.	-	1/20000	Litho.	50	5th Div.
340	Trench map of Corps Area.	O.10.d.18.	1/20000	"	250	
341	Signal System.	-	1/20000	"	60	3rd Div.
342	Enemy Dispositions.	O.10.d.18.	1/20000	"	50	Intellig.

*F. Buchanan*

Lieutenant.  
O.C. 1st ANZAC Topographical Section.