

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

Signals

Item number: 22/23/3

Title: 5th Signal Troop

September 1918



AWM4-22/23/3

Original

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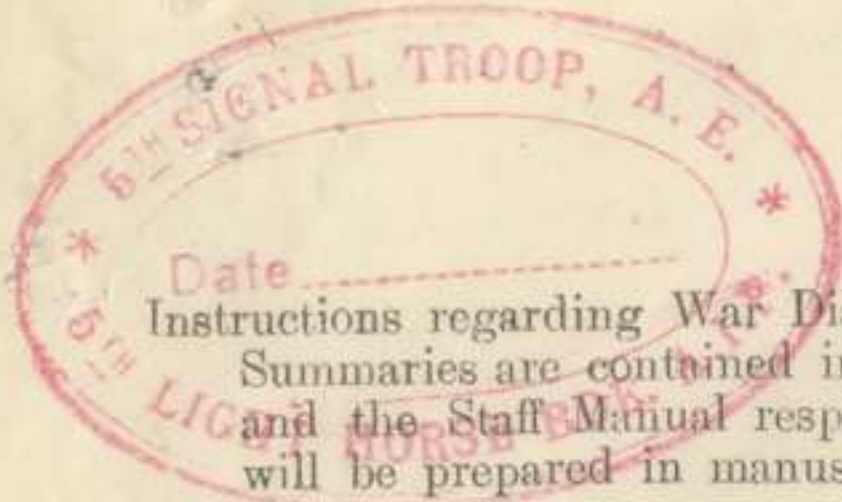
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War Diary for month September 1918.

5th Signal Troop A.E.

- SEP 1918



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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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
Surafend. Sheet XIII 071 N 12 A	1/9/18.		Despatch Rider Letter Service, per motor cycle, to G.H.Q. suspended, & from 31/8/18. will be direct to Australian Divn H.Q. Signal office	See appendix I
		1400	Telegraph instrument previously direct to G.H.Q., transferred to Aust Div H.Q. Signal office AVB, leaving telephone line only to G.H.Q.	See appendix II.
	2/9/18	0800 to 1130	Revised circuit diagram attached <u>W.M.D.</u>	
		1430 to 1545	Technical training of signallers, telephone, cable laying, visual signalling	
			Exercising & grazing horses. <u>W.M.D.</u>	
	3/9/18	0800 to 1100	Loop mounted training.	
		1500	Conference of signal officers of Aust Intd Divn Signal Sqdn, 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th Signal at the camp of the former, to decide on a uniform & combined method of inter Divisional signalling, in the field during operations, as per signalling manual of 1917, with exception of procedure used in France. <u>W.M.D.</u>	
	4/9/18	0800	Party of officers (Bde Signal officer & 15 th Regt Signal officer) & 6 other ranks reported to 14 th Squadron R.A.F. RAMLEN, as per instructions received from Bde H.Q. at 1300 3/9/18, for instruction in aeroplane contact patrol work, from 0800-1200. Officers were taken up in aeroplane to read signals sent from the ground, & to give them an idea how signals should be sent from the ground, the plane being in a certain position. The latter being of particular importance as the wings, or planes, may sometimes be obscuring the view of signal station from the observer, therefore signaller should know exactly when to send their messages. <u>W.M.D.</u>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	5/9/18	0800 to 1200	Further instruction at 142 nd Squadron R.A.F. to officers men in use of aeroplane signalling equipment (Contact patrols) <u>hand</u>	
	6/9/18 to		Nil <u>hand</u> .	
	9/9/18 10/9/18	0800 to 1115	Tactical exercise by Bde. Of 14 th & 15 th L.N. Regts & French Cavalry Regt. Two French signallers being attached to Bde signals for working to their Regt & two signallers from Bde signals to French Regt to work back to Bde. Communication maintained with units by heliographs. Afforded good training for signallers in Bde communication, similar to that carried out in operations.	
	11/9/18	1430 to 1600	Instruction to officers of French Regt in use of "Popham Panel", used for sending messages to aeroplanes from the ground. Two extra pack saddles drawn from cranes, & carried on "off" horses of wagons to supplement use of wagons in country too rough for wheeled traffic, where all equipment has to be packed. <u>hand</u>	
	12/9/18	0800 to 1100 1430 to 1530	Training of signallers with helio & flag, quick setting up of stations, quick movement from one place to another. Instruction to personnel of unit, in Popham Panel, with examples of working to aeroplanes. <u>hand</u>	

hand

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Surafernd Sheet XIII 071 N 12 A	13/9/18	0745 to 1600.	<p>at 0845 Dion concentrated about 3 1/2 miles N.W of Ludd for inspection by Dion bands, practicing converting of wagon loads to packs, then Dion field day. Communication maintained by the Bde by heliograph to Dion HQ & motor dispatch riders, & to 3rd Bde, (to which this Bde was in reserve) by heliograph & flag, also to Regts of the Bde. <u>Handwritten</u></p>	
	14/9/18		N.I. <u>Handwritten</u>	
	15/9/18		Received from Remount Depot 1 draught & 2 riding horses, completing establishment horse. <u>Handwritten</u>	
	16.9.18		One riding horse to 10 th M.V.S. All surplus mens clothing, blankets, kits etc. to Desert, re-inf Camp Ludd. <u>Handwritten</u>	
	17.9.18		Instructions received at 1400, Bde move at 1900.	
	18.9.18	0900 1900	<p>One OR to Deserps re-inforcement camp Ludd - guard kit etc of Troop. One OR to " " " - Urable mount when unit moved. Moved at 1915 & arrived Jewish Agricultural School (3 miles E of Jaffa, & on main Jaffa-Ramleh road) 2100, where Bde bivouaced. Attached to 60th Dion, 21st Bde for number of days. <u>Handwritten</u> Communication to 21st Bde by telephone, from Signal School (at agricultural college). Wireless telegraph set reported from Signal Sqdn Ansdw & attached for duty.</p>	
	19.9.18	0300 0500	<p>Moved at 1900 for MULEBBIS 8 miles NE of Jaffa, & arrived 2200, & bivouaced behind infantry front line. Rations & stores drawn at midnight. Communication maintained through Signal office at Mullebit, by mounted Draughty front Bde. <u>Handwritten</u></p>	
			<p>Two baskets, each containing 1 pair pigeons received from 60th Dion to use in case of necessity, as Bde was to operate independently. after infantry had taken enemy positions, Bde moved off 0520, & passed through breach made by infantry & proceeded towards TUL KERAM 17 miles farther N, on railway line. But coming under machine & gun fire, 3 pigeons were lost, one dying & two escaping, owing to cages breaking open. <u>Handwritten</u></p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
(Contd)	19/9/18	0800? 1545	<p>Owing to rapid movement of <u>Podé</u>, Wireless Wagon was left far behind, & did not overtake us.</p> <p>Reaching position NE. (1 mile) of TUL KERAM, endeavoured get touch with 60th <u>Divn</u> by helio, but could not raise them, although could observe infantry advancing across flat country towards TUL KERAM.</p> <p>Sent despatch rider with despatch at 1630. to <u>Divn HQ</u>.</p> <p>Got touch <u>Divn HQ</u> at 1830 by mounted orderly, <u>Divn HQ</u> being near TUL KERAM railway station.</p>	
	20/9/18	0200	<p><u>Podé</u> moved out for AJJE to cut enemy railway from TUL KERAM & NABLUS. Unable maintain communication, owing to not having wireless (which in any case could not have followed, even on packs, owing to nature of country), & impossible for any visual communication, being only British troops in vicinity.</p> <p>Rocks & stones very steep ascents & descents injured horse feet & backs to a certain extent; but they stood feet very well. Men all came through well.</p> <p>Returned to TUL KERAM by 1900, & bivouaced near <u>Divn HQ</u>.</p> <p>Drew rations & forage.</p> <p>Wireless set reformed <u>Loop</u> here.</p>	
	21/9/18	0500	<p>Moved out along NABLUS road at 0500 towards NABLUS. Communication maintained during advance on NABLUS by motor cycle to 60th <u>Divn HQ</u> (TUL KERAM) & after entry into town still 0800 22/9/18.</p> <p>Wireless erected near ANEBTA - 7 miles E of TUL KERAM, but owing to severe knocking about over rough roads, parts of instruments were damaged, which prevented wireless communication.</p> <p>Arrived NABLUS 1600, & wireless set was again in working order at 2045.</p>	<p>- SEP 1918</p>

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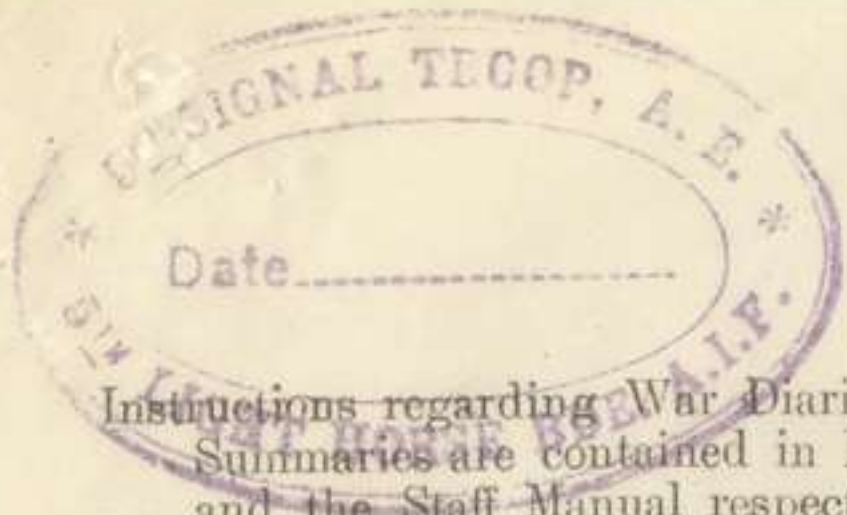
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Vol III

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NABLUS to JENIN	22/9/18		Marched at 0800 for JENIN arriving at 1900. No communication en-route. Turkish airline routes along roads in good order, only damaged where cut by our troops. Rejoined Anat-Intd Wdn at Jenin. Communication to D.H.Q. by Repts of Bde by lamp (electric). <u>Memo</u>	
JENIN.	23/9/18	0730 0900	Used Turkish airline for Comm to D.H.Q. & 14 th 15 th Regts. in use at 0730. Wireless message from Dawn reported back to the 2 nd Signal Squadron. D.H.Q. moved on to AFULE, & got in touch with their advanced signal office there at 0915, by telegraph, & also by helio <u>Memo</u>	
	24/9/18	1430 1930	Moved to ZERIN 5m SE of AFULE & 1 mile S of AFULE - BEISAN railway. 14 th Regt remained at JENIN & airline used from there to D.H.Q. Communication to D.H.Q. on airline by by running lead from bivouac & tele-imp. sw. also by visual. 15 th A.L.H. Regt detached to 4 th Bde, Comm to remainder Bde by mounted orderlies. <u>Memo</u>	
	25/9/18	1830	One riding horse destroyed owing to severe injury to fetlocks. Bde moved at 1830, & communication to D.H.Q. ceased at same hour. <u>Memo</u>	
	26/9/18		Reached KERF KENNA - 6m N of NAZERETH - at 0300. Advanced signal office D.H.Q. being at same village. Communication maintained by motor cyclist despatch riders, also at LUBIEH which was reached at 1215. Marched to TIBERIAS at 1315, & arrived at 1600. Horses being watered in Lake, & men having (later) a very much appreciated bath. Bivouac'd Western edge of town & in touch with D.H.Q. (at hotel) by 1730, on TIBERIAS - NAZERETH airline. <u>Memo</u>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27/9/18	0600	Bde marched at 0600 Northward toward ⁹ reached RUSH PINA at 1200 from which place Bde moved at 1400 to force crossing of JORDAN, at TISR BENAT YAKUB, in conjunction with 3 rd & 4 th Bdes. During time Bde was on W side of Jordan, communication to Dion by airline along main road, at 1615 moved at 1600 to cross river about 2 miles S of Ford. Country very rough, rocks & boulders, & very steep rocky hills to descend & ascend before reaching rocky plateau 2 to 3 miles E of River. In touch with Dion by lamp during night. BHA being on main road about 2 miles W of Ford & MARIUT	
	28/9/18	0500	Bde marched towards main Damascus road, about 14 miles E of Jordan. Reached road at 1200, travelling being very slow & dismounted owing to rocky nature of country. March continued along road to KANEITRA which was reached at 1600, & commn with Dion at 1700, BHA being at same village. Turkish airline used. One O.R. evacuated to hospital sick & two horses to M.V.S. <u>MARIUT</u>	
	29.9.18	0900	Rations & forage drawn from B1 echelon. Bde marched at 1600 leaving at 0800 for DAMASCUS but owing to 3 rd Bde having to clear up position in front, reached SASSA by 0600. Horses watered & fed, breakfast for men, & moved again at 0745 towards N. end of DAMASCUS. Communication maintained during this operation by helio to Dion. By lamp during night from hill, 1000 yards south of DUMAR in DAMASCUS-BEIRUT road (4 miles W of DAMASCUS) Bde moved to village of DUMAR & Turkish airline used to BHA. BHA being about 3 miles from DAMASCUS on KANEITRA Road. Telephone lines laid to 14 th Regt & 2 nd M.V. Z. M.G. Sqdn. BHA being in village of DUMAR. One O.R. evacuated to hospital sick <u>MARIUT</u>	
	30/9/18	1600		

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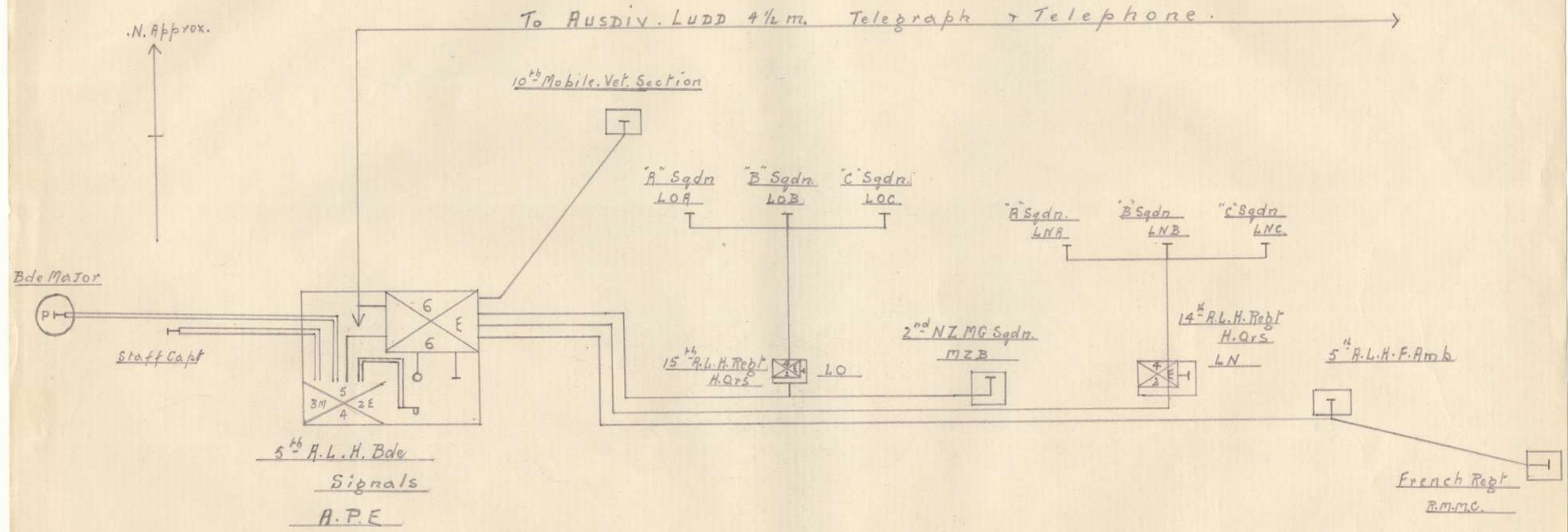
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O.C.'s Signal Troop A.E.

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Diagram of circuitation 5th A.L.H. Bde from 30-8-18 to 17-9-18 App II

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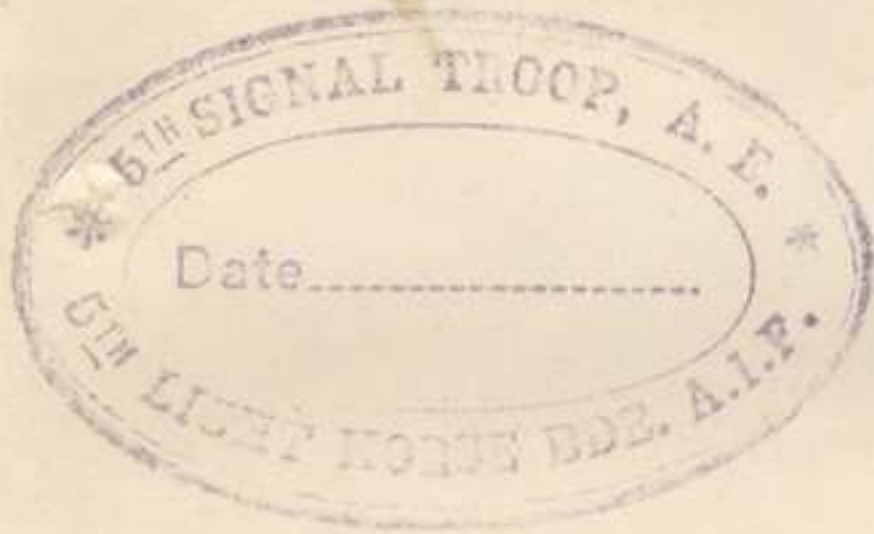
Collected by Douglas
of 5th Signal Troop A.I.F.



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D R L S Time table to & from Ausdiv 30th Aug to 15th Sept '18
Appendix I

Depart Divn	Arrive Bde	Depart Bde	Arrive Divn	Remarks.
0745	0800	0805	0820	To Divn, for Divn & any units beyond
1045	1100	1105	1120	From Divn, for Bde, & all units
1545	1600	1605	1620	in Bde



Malcolm H. Goughall Lieut
O/c 5th Signal Troop A.F.