

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

Signals

**Item number:** 22/12/21

**Title:** 2nd Australian Division Signals  
Company

September 1918



AWM4-22/12/21

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*2nd Aust Div Signal Company*

FOR

*September 1918*



*Complete*

Signature of Officer compiling

*[Handwritten signature]*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Handwritten signature]*

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

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WAR DIARY September, 1918-

Original  
Duplicate  
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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.

or  
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY.	1st		Traffic in Divisional Signal Office very heavy, mostly due to lengthy situation wires. At 6a.m. Zero hour, attack was resumed by the Infantry, and MT ST QUENTIN, which had been lost the evening previous, was recaptured with many prisoners. Considerable difficulty was experienced by Brigade Sections in laying and maintaining lines to Battalions, and Batteries across the Somme, the crossings being particularly heavily shelled. - 6 p-m- All Batteries of 4th.A.F.A.Bde ordered to move across the Somme, and take up positions in I.7.a. Div.Artillery Cable Detachment laid line from H.21-a.1.7- to H.12.b.8.4., and 4th.A.F.A.Bde Section established a forward Exchange in a shell hole at this point, and ran lines to batteries, there being no suitable dug-out accommodation in the vicinity. 5th.A.F.A.Bde Signal Section established a forward exchange in H.12 Central in preparation for their Batteries being ordered to cross the Somme. Inf.Bdes remained at same positions.	
CAPPY.	2nd.		7th.Inf.Bde passed through 6th.Aust.Inf.Bde during early morning. Further attack carried out by 7th.Aust.Inf.Bde at 5.30. a.m. 7th.Aust.Inf.Bde Section established an Advance Bde Exchange in Quarry at I.13.c.8.8. A Forward Divisional Exchange, in touch with B.W. was also established at this point at Zero hour. A cable wagon detachment ran three pairs of cable from end of poled cable route on West bank of river across the river, one pair running to Advanced Divisional exchange in Quarry, and two pairs to Advanced 7th.Bde Hqrs in dug-outs in HALLE. 4th.A.F.A.Bde Section obtained dug-out for the Bde Forward Exchange at I.7.a.1.1., and established exchange therein, in touch with all Batteries, and 4th.Artillery Bde. 5th.A.F.A.Bde moved to H.12.central and Signal Section arranged for line back to Advanced Div.Artillery Exchange. At 11 p-m- O.C.Signals, of this Bde was notified of an operation to be commenced at 4.30 p.m., and at once set out to lay lines to all Batteries, completing same by 3.30. a.m. after having had considerable trouble owing to heavy artillery fire from the enemy.	
CAPPY.	3rd.		All objectives having been obtained, Bdes in line commenced the consolidation of all positions captured on 2nd instant. Lines to all units being improved and disused lines reeled in. Owing to fairly heavy casualties in all Brigades, the relief of the Division is being hastened. Divisional Forward Exchange, which was shifted in Quarry in I.13.c.8.9. during the night, to dug-out in HALLE, withdrawn and returned to B.W.Sig Office.	
CAPPY.	4th.		Message traffic in Signal Office D.H.Q. decreased considerably. All lines forward working well. 6th Aust.Inf.Bde Section closed office at H.15.central and reopened at G.26.c.4.2. in direct communication with D.H.Q. at CAPPY at 5 p.m. Old lines bridged through to 7th.A.I.Bde office. 2nd.Aust.M.G.Bn. Section relieved in line by incoming battalion and office reopened in vicinity of CAPPY. Advanced Corps Office opened at ETINGHAM.	

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

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WAR DIARY

or

September, 1918-

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Sheet 2

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original  
Duplicate.  
Triplicate.

8  
4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY.	5th.		Forward Exchange at B.W. closed down and personnel returned to D.H.Q., and Brigades bridged straight through to Division. All brigades Sections instructed to reel in lines in use on being relieved, and carried as establishment. Wagons and equipment being overhauled by all sections in preparation for an inspection. All Brigades relieved in line and located as follows:- 5th.A.I.Bde. - H.19.a.7.0. 6th.A.I.Bde. - G.32.a.2.9. 7th.A.I.Bde. - G.15.c.4.5.	
CAPPY.	6th.		Considerable amount of traffic transmitted for flank divisions owing to poor lines back to Corps. Section inspections carried out by Section Officers, and shortages indented for. All men were bathed and clothes changed.	
CAPPY.	7th.	)	All Sections of Company still in rest, and section routine carried out.	
"	8th.			
"	9th.			
CAPPY.	10th.		O.C. Signals carried out inspection of all sections at their own lines during morning, preparatory to a Divisional Inspection Parade.	
"	11th.		4th. and 5th.A.F.A.Bde Signal Sections prepared wagons etc, for move into line again.	
B	12th.		Both 4th. and 5th.A.F.A.Bde Sections moved to TINCOURT area in support of 1st Division Artly. Orders received late at night that they would go into action on 13th. Lieut Horwood returned from 4th. Army Wireless Course, and took over 5th.A.F.A.Bde Section from Lieut Maynard.	
B	13th.		Officers 4th. and 5th A.F.A.Bde Signal Sections went forward to locate Battery positions and laid lines from Groups to Batteries, and infantry Brigades. Forward exchanges were established in each brigade area owing to Batteries being well forward of Bde Hqrs.	
"	14th.		Lines in 4th.A.F.A.Bde area were blown out during night. Considerable difficulty experienced in getting sufficient cable to establish good communication with Batteries. 2/Lieut Titchen rejoined Company from O.T.C.	
"	15th.		Lieut Maynard proceeded to 4th Army Artillery School (Wireless Course)	

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

WAR DIARY  
September, 1918-

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Sheet 3-

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY.	16th.		Major S.H. Watson, M.C. proceeded on 6 months furlough to Australia, and acting Command of Company taken over by <del>MC</del> Capt. F.U.J. Tinkler, M.C. Divisional Sports held near CAPPY.	
"	17th.		5th.A.F.A.Bde Signal Section established a new Brigade Signal Office at 14th. Battery Position, and laid lines to Artillery Group.	
"	18th.		5th.A.F.A.Bde Signal Section moved forward * 1 hour after Zero Hour to new Brigade H.Q at K.17.a.2.3., and laid line to Group Advanced Hqrs. at K.18.b.3.7.; also established Bde Forward Exchange near to which Battery lines were linked, and ready to lay as soon as Batteries moved into new positions in area L.2-c, and L.8.a., and C. Lines were laid to 4th.A.F.A.Bde. also to all Battery positions, Group 4th.A.F.A.Bde.	
"	19th.		5th.A.F.A.Bde Section laid line to 15th. Battery on their moving forward. Arrangements made for one Battery to link up with 4th. Bde as Brigade was moving forward.	
"	20th.		Communications to Batteries good, although area shelled heavily during the day.	
"	21st.		Communications to Batteries and Brigades working well. Company Sections inspected by O.C. and everything found most satisfactory.	
"	22nd.		All sections other than 4th. & 5th.A.F.A.Bde Sections still in rest, and section routine carried out. 5th.A.F.A.Bde salvaged cable, and laid line to Brigade wagon lines; this being a long line it was patrolled by mounted linesmen.	
"	23rd.		4th. and 5th.A.F.A.Bdes received instruction to <del>relocate</del> move into the line but before move could be effected order was cancelled. 2nd.D. H.A.H.Q. began to move to forward area but was recalled to CAPPY before reaching new location.	
"	24th.		4th. and 5th.A.F.A.Bde Lines working satisfactorily. All other sections in rest. Divisional Signal Office traffic normal, and lines working well.	
"	25th.		In order to acquire mobility in a high degree, all unnecessary gear was stored preparatory to move. Section routine, and training carried on throughout the Company.	

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

WAR DIARY

For September, 1918-

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Place.	Date.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY.	26th.		Artillery Brigades Signal Officers arranged scheme of Communications for forthcoming operations. Decided to instal a forward exchange for the 8 Batteries as they were all close together, and Headquarters of Brigades in the same place. They also arranged distribution of personnel for both sections. Two C.W. Wireless Sets, and personnel were attached to 5th.A.F.A. Bde from 1st.D.A. for duty.	
"	27th.		Orders received that the Division would move to the PERONNE area. Infantry bdes, and M.G. Sections to move with their respective Brigade Groups. Inf. Bdes., and M.G. Sections closed Signal Offices at 1900, and reopened at the same hour; 5th.A.I. Bde I.24.a.5.5., 6th.A.I. Bde at O.4.b.4.2., 7th.A.I. Bde J.19.c.4.5. and M.C. Bn. at BUIRE.	
"	28th.		C.W. Sets and personnel attached to 5th.A.F.A. Bde reported to 12th. Army Brigade under instructions from 1st.D.A. A Forward Exchange established for both 4th. & 5th.A.F.A. Bdes Batteries at L.4-c.95.95. and H.Q. exchange at L.10.a.5.2. Both forward and rear positions in communication 2200 and lines working well. All traffic to Brigades transmitted to 3rd Aust. Div. with whom all sections were in communication. Move of Brigades carried out between 1900 27th and 0600 28th.	
" & DOINGT	28th		2nd Aust. Div. moved from CAPPY to DOINGT taking over the latter office from 3rd Aust. Div. Signal office closed 1800 at CAPPY and opened up at the same hour at DOINGT. All Brigades in communication and working well. Traffic greatly increased. D.R.L.S. Service serving 180 units in the area. A portion of troop of 13th A.L.H. being attached for duty as mounted orderlies, to be allotted to sections as follows:- 2 to each A.I. Bde, 3 to D.A.H.Q., and 6 on D.H.Q. Machine Gun Section moved from BUIRE to Divisional area opening office at 1930. Brigades closed Signal Offices and reopened at: 5th.A.I. Bde E.22.cent.; 6th.A.I. Bde J.18.a.1.5.; 7th.A.I. Bde TEMPLEUX-LA-FOSSE, D.28.C.7.0.	
"	29th.		Division ordered to be ready to move at 2 hours notice to exploit any success gained by combined attack of Aust. and II American Corps. 15 other ranks of 13th.A.L.H. Regt. reported for duty. Signal Office traffic greatly increased. All communications working well.	
"	30th.		Company established Signal Stores Dump at ROISEL. Office traffic slightly increased. All lines working well to all sections and Aust. Corps.	

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## WAR DIARY

APPENDIX 5

OF

2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Provisional Signal Coy

FOR

September 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Signal Communication Order for attack on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October (3 Copies) |
| 2.  | Graph showing Message Traffic (1 Copy)                                      |
| 3.  | Graph showing Petrol Consumption and Strength of Personnel (1 Copy)         |

*Original*

APPENDIX 6

2ND  
AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
SIGNAL COMPANY.27/3  
29-9-18

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

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S E C R E T.

Headquarters,  
29th. September, 1918.

## S I G N A L    I N S T R U C T I O N S.

Re. 2nd. Aust. Div. Instructions No. 1. Series "E" of 26/9/18.

Following upon Phase II of above order, and any further instruction which may be issued relative to the 2nd. Aust. Division being used to exploit any success gained, the following is brief outline of the general signal arrangements for the operations:-

As the tactical situation demands, signal arrangements will be altered accordingly:-

1. TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH - LINES.(a) Forward from Division to Infantry & Art'y Bdes.

The O i/c, Lines, using No. 1. Section will lay and maintain two pair of cables from Division to Advanced Division which will become a locality exchange. Artillery and Infantry Brigades, etc. will be linked up to this point over each successive stage of the advance.

(b) Forward lines from Infantry Bdes to Adv. Bdes.

Brigade Section Officers will lay and maintain lines to Adv. Bdes Stations, which will become a locality exchange similar to the Advanced Division Exchange.

(c) Lateral Lines.

Signal Officers will decide whether the situation warrants, and supply of cable permits, the construction of lateral lines to flank formations. They should utilise alternate methods - wireless, visual, and D.R's, and thus economise in use of cable.

(d) Artillery Lines.

O i/c Signals, 2nd. Div. Art'y. in conjunction with O i/c Lines, 2nd. Aust. Division, will lay from Advanced Division Locality Exchange to Artillery Bdes.

(e) Cables.

Cables should be poled where possible owing to the fact that Tanks, and cavalry are operating in the same area. Location of locality exchanges, (report centres) should be circulated to O i/c Signals, 2nd. Aust. Division, and other branches of the service.

Any information regarding existing enemy lines found in the advance, will be sent to O.C. Signals, 2nd. Aust. Division in order that they may be utilised.



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No.1. Aust.Cable Section, ( Aust.Corps Signal Coy.) will co-operate with 2nd.Aust.Division to keep Australian Corps in touch with 2nd.Aust.Division.

## 2. WIRELESS.

(a) The principle to be adopted for wireless communication during the operations, is that Divisions leading in the attack should have command of the ether to the exclusion of other divisions in the corps. To effect this, instructions have been issued to all divisions, setting out the hours from which they will "go silent" in order that leading divisions will not be impeded by excessive jamming.

(b) Wireless traffic during the operations will be limited to messages of tactical importance - all unnecessary signals will be avoided.

(c) It is the duty of every Signal Officer to advise the staff of his formation of the rules regarding the use of Cipher, the responsibility of endorsing "Clear" messages, and to encourage the use of B.A.B. codes in preference to cipher.

(d) O.C. Wireless Section, 2nd.Aust.Division will arrange wireless communication within the Division, and establish an advanced charging station as far forward as possible to save carrying parties. Position of the latter should be circulated to flanking formations, so that the greatest possible use may be made of them.

(e) Attention is again drawn to those points reference wireless, discussed at Signal Officers Conference on previous occasion.

(f) Basic calls and key words of all formations co-operating in the corps, and on either flank are in the possession of O.C. Wireless Section.

## 3. VISUAL.

O.C. Headquarters section will establish a long range visual station in proximity to Advanced Division to communicate with any station in forward area - Station call "M V S".

Infantry and Artillery Brigade Signal Officers must take every advantage of topographical features, and the tactical situation to exploit the use of visual signalling.

## 4. DESPATCH RIDERS.

- (a) Motor Cyclists.
- (b) Mounted Orderlies.
- (c) Cyclists.

Consideration should be given to these methods. In some of the forward areas to be traversed, the use of Motor Cyclists may be restricted - in that case employment of Mounted Orderlies should be resorted to.

-3-

portion of  
Of the latter, one troop of 13th.A.L.H. is at the disposal of the Division for D.R. duties, and are being detailed to formations as under.

Infantry Brigades	2 <del>0</del> each.
2nd.Aust.Div.Art'y.	3
2nd.Aust.Div.H.Q.	6

6. PIGONS.

None are available.

6. LIAISON BETWEEN AIRCRAFT & INFANTRY.

Code calls and distinctive markings of R.A.F. machines have been issued to all concerned.

Popham Panels should be clearly displayed so that Contact machines will have little difficulty in locating them.

O.C. Headquarters Section will establish Dropping Station at Divisional Headquarters, ~~and~~ location of which will be wired to A.D. Signals, Australian Corps.

7. DUMPS.

Equipment Officer, 2nd.Aust.Div.Signal Company will establish a forward dump of signal stores, and cable at the advanced Division Exchange - moving same with each successive stage of the advance, as effectively as available Motor Transport will permit.

A Corps signal dump is located at ROISEL from which material can only be drawn under authority from A.D. Signals.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*[Signature]*  
Capt.  
O.C. 2nd.Aust.Div.Signal Coy.

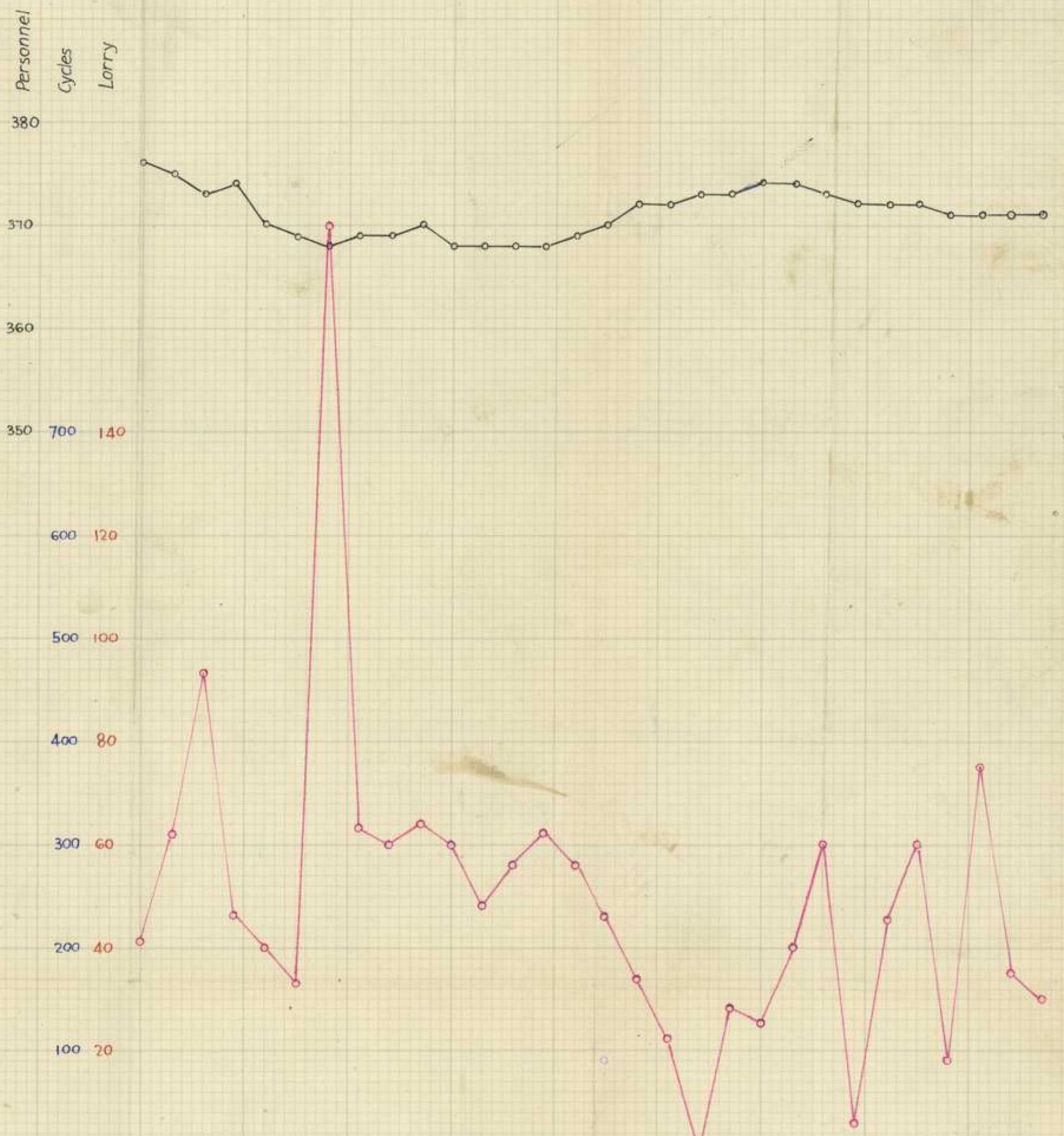
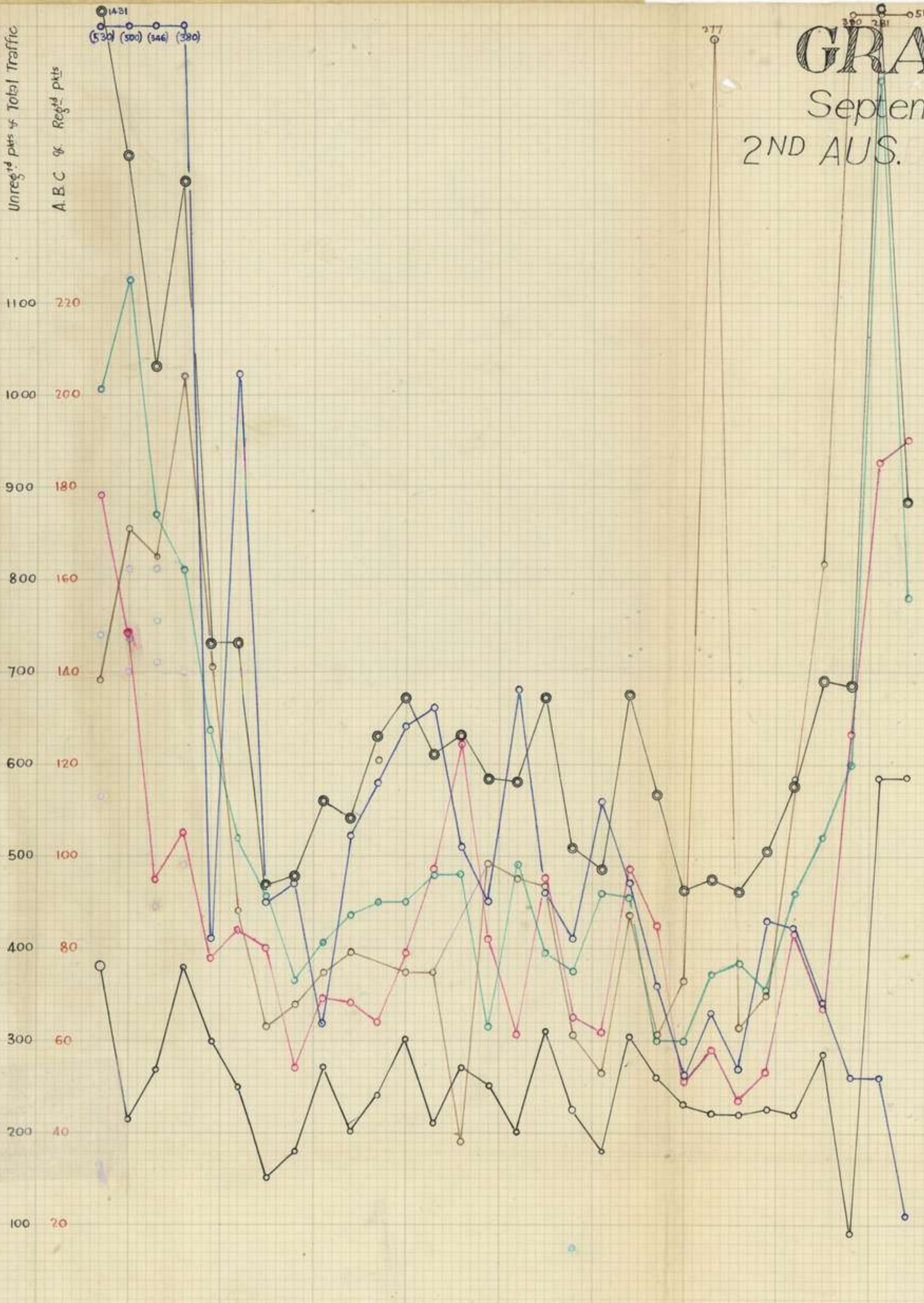
DISTRIBUTION.

Copy (1).	2nd.Aust.Division.	Copy (14).	File.
(2).	A.D.Signals, Aust.Corps.	(15)	
(3).	signals, 5th.A.I.Bde.	(16)	War Diary.
(4).	" 6th. "	(17)	
(5).	" 7th. "	(18)	spare.
(6).	" 4th.A.F.A.Bde.	(19)	
(7).	" 5th. "	(20)	
(8).	" 2nd.Aust.M.G.Bn.		
(9).	" 2nd.Aust.Div.Art'y.		
(10).	O.C.Wireless section.		
(11).	" Lines.		
(12).	" Headquarters section.		
(13).	Equipment Officer, 2nd.Aust.Div.Signal Coy.		

# GRAPHS

September 1918  
2ND AUS. DIV. SIG. COY.

9  
18



Day of Sept:-- 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>

A or Outward messages shown in red  
 B Transmitted - blue  
 C Inward - green  
 Registered Packets shown in brown  
 Unregistered - black  
 Total Traffic shown in double black

Day of Sept: 1918:- 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>

Strength of Personnel of Company in black  
 Mileage travelled by Motor Cycles in blue  
 Lorry - red  
 Total consumption of Petrol by Cycles Lorries gallons

64

