

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

Signals

**Item number:** 22/12/25

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

January 1919



AWM4-22/12/25



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

FOR

MONTH OF JANUARY. 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

*R. D. Harley Esq.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. M. Grant Maj*



CONFIDENTIAL.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

WAR DIARY

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

84

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARCINELLE.	1st.	JANY.	A double Pay has been authorised and paid to the men for the New Year.	
	2nd	B	Major J.M.Grant M.C. rejoined Company from English Leave and resumed Command of the Coy.	
	3rd.	"	Leave to Brussels for Officers and Men of the Company opened up.	
	5th.	"	Class for Commonwealth Clerical Examinations commenced at the Div. H.Q. and 18 men of this Unit attended.	
	6th	"	Thirteen (13) Mechanics and Electricians from Sections of Company reported into Head Quarters for Duty at the Charleroi Exchange and to proceed with the renovation of the Telephone Exchange and system of Charleroi.	
	7th	"	Work on Charleroi Exchange commenced in earnest - the repairing of this Exchange is being carried on as a part of the Education scheme for Training Junior Mechanics.	
	13th.	"	Court of Inquiry into loss of Motor Cycle No 280779, reassembled to take further particulars of the loss.	
	14th	"	Lieut. S.O.Thorley, handed over Machine Gun Bn Signal Section to Lieut. T.M.Price, and taken on strength of Headquarters Section.	
	15th.	"	A Party of 2 Sergeants and 30 other Ranks under 2/Lieut H.H.Ellis M.M. proceeded to Div. Reinforcement Wing for return to Australia for Demobilization. Company Pay.	
	16th	"	General Instruction No 3 Demobilization and Repatriation and Precedence Roll in accordance therewith being prepared by all Sections prior to despatch of the next Draft to AUSTRALIA.	
	17th	"	Lieut. A.Sladdin M.C. handed over responsibility of No 1 Section to 2/Lieut.H.Titchen, M.M. prior to leaving Company for 5th Aust. Div.	
	18th	"	Lieut. A.Sladdin M.C. proceeded to 5th Aust. Div. Signal Coy, as Captain and Officer Commanding. Court of Inquiry, Major W.S.Hosking D.S.O. M.C. 27th A.I.Bn, held to inquire into the loss of Motor Cycle No 282482 on charge to this Company.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.



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8  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARCINELLE.	19th JANY.		Court of Inquiry assembled at Company Headquarters, Marcinelle, to inquire into the escape of a Prisoner under Sentence. President Capt. Lucas M.C.	
	23rd.	"	Embarkation Quota No 2 consisting of 1 Officer, 2 Sergeants and 25 other Ranks assembled at Headquarters under Lieut. H.L.Hogarth,	
	24th.	"	Quota No 2 (3rd Draft from the Coy) left Unit for Reinforcement Wing for return to AUSTRALIA.	
	27th.	"	Notification received for withdrawal of 1 Cable Section detachment to be handed in to D.A.D.O.S. 2nd Aust. Div. complete and Personnel thus received to be distributed amongst Sections of the Company evenly.	
	30th.	"	Section Equipment, Technical and Superfluous being collected at Company Headquarters for checking and storing preparatory to breaking up of or Demobilization of Company.	
	31st.	"	Notification sent out to Section for forwarding of 3 Sergeants and 30 other Ranks from Coy, to assemble at Coy, Headquarters on 1st Feby. to proceed on Draft to AUSTRALIA with Embarkation Quota No 6. Report	
<u>REPORT ON RENOVATION OF CHARLEROI EXCHANGE DURING MONTH OF JANUARY.</u>				
<p><u>Cable Head in Basement.</u> This was very much disarranged by the Germans in as much as all cross connecting was done by them in the Basement. Many Cables were pulled off others cut and deranged. Every Cable Head consisting of from 200 to 400 line and a total of 12 Cable Head, were completely overhauled and Wires reconnected. The main distributing frame was in good order except for a few connections which were resoldered. On the intermediate distributing frame, many Cables were pulled off the Blocks and connections were bad, but these were all rectified.</p> <p><u>Multiple Feed.</u> Many faults located and removed in the Multiple of 2160 lines and strips of Jacks which were broken, renewed.</p> <p><u>Local Subscriber Signalling Apparatus.</u> The whole of the 2160 line relays were tested and faults rectified. Some relays were burnt out necessitating the winding of same.</p>				
<p><u>Exchange Switchboard.</u> All A and B positions were thoroughly overhauled,</p>				



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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARCINELLE.	Jany.	31st.	<p>tested and all faults rectified. Cords, Keys, Relays, connections, and wiring were in a very bad state, but are now O.K. Long Distance Switchboard. This Installation was tested and overhauled completely. Thirty long distance Lines were tested in their entirety as well as the inside Apparatus. Two of Fuses and Phones. Two to three hundred Fuses were repaired to enable Exchange to work. About 30 Telephones were overhauled and put in working order and the rest are being repaired as soon as possible.</p> <p>Lines. The total of 26 distributing Poles each consisting of from 150 to 250 Lines have been thoroughly tested right to the Exchange and all faults which occurred in the Basement fixed. This entailed much work as the Boxes (Poles) are situated anywhere within 10 Kilometres of Charleroi. This was one of the principal repairs effected. A little language difficulty was experienced at first when working with the Belgian Civilian Mechanics, but this was eventually avoided by the parties working separately.</p>	soon
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84

**WAR DIARY**OF  
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.

APPENDICES.

FOR

MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.

**LIST OF APPENDICES.**

No.

Subject.

1. Suggestions for establishment of Transport for Divisional Signal Company A.I.F. organization.
2. A Letter received from the Director of the Charleroi Exchange re work completed by men of this Company.



From :- 2nd Aust Div signal Company.  
to 84 Chief signal Officer  
Australian Corps.

Appendix ①

2ND  
AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
SIGNAL COMPANY.

Ref T28/21 of 11th inst.

Transport

1. The following suggestions are based on the strength of a Divisional Signal Company under the present organization (A.I.P.)
2. In every case where a wagon limbered G.S.R.E. is supplied that class of vehicle to be replaced by a wagon limbered G.S. Experience has proved that the former wagon is the most troublesome type of vehicle, and is quite unsuitable for the class of work encountered in the Field.  
The same remarks apply to Wagons G.S.R.E. which might be replaced by wagons G.S.
3. H.Q. Section.

Present Transport	H.D. vehicles.	
1 Wagon G.S.R.E.	2 Wagons limbered G.S.R.E	1 Water Cart.
Present Transport	M.T. vehicles.	
1 3 Ton lorry	1 Touring Car	
Proposed Transport.	H.D. Vehicles.	
1 Wagon G.S.	1 Water Cart	1 Travelling Field Kitchen.
Proposed Transport	M.T. Vehicles.	
2 3 Ton Lorries	1 Box Car Tender*	1 Trailer for baggage*(eg Sig. offices appurtenances)
	1 Water Tank Trailer *	

(\* = Of a pattern similar to those supplied to R.A.F.)
4. Wireless Section.

Present Transport.	
(A) Horse drawn vehicles	Nil
(B) M.T.Vehicles.	1 Box Car 150wt.
Proposed Transport	
(A) Horse drawn vehicles	Nil
(B) M.T.Vehicles	1 Box Car 15 Cwt 1 3 Ton Lorry*

(\* = similar pattern as supplied to R.A.F.)
5. No 1 Section

Present Transport.	
Horse drawn vehicles	4 wagons limbered G.S.R.E
Proposed Transport	
Horse drawn vehicles	4 wagons limbered
Horse drawn vehicles	1 wagon G.S. (for baggage & supplies)
6. Nos 2,3&4 Sections(each).

Present Transport	
Horse drawn vehicles.	1 wagon limbered G.S.R.E. 1 Maltese cart
Proposed Transport Horse Drawn	
1 wagon G.S. & 1 wagon G.S. limbered	(The latter for baggage and supplies)
7. No,5. Section .

Present Transport Horse drawn	
1 wagon limbered G.S.R.E	
Proposed Transport Horse drawn.	
2 wagons limbered G.S. (One for baggage and supplies)	
8. R.A.H.Q.

Present transport horse drawn.	
1 wagon G.S.R.E.	
Proposed transport horse drawn.	
1 wagon G.S. and 1 wagon limbered G.S. ( the latter for baggage & supplies	
9. F.A.Bde Sections(each)

Present transport horse drawn.	
1 wagon limbered G.S.R.E.	
Proposed transport horse drawn.	
2 wagons limbered G.S.(One for baggage & supplies).	
10. It will be observed that an increase in wagons of Bde Sectns has been suggested for the purpose of carrying necessary baggage and supplies. Although provision for each is made on Mobilisation Table it has been found in practice that the Bdes are unable to supply the necessary transport. Furthermore it is most desirable that Sections of the Coy detached from Headquarters should be in a position to move quite independent of assistance from the formation to which they are attached

Major. *Imbrant May*



Charleroy le 7 février 1919.

## Appendix 2



N° 510  
1 ann.

Monsieur le Colonel, Directeur du Signal-See,  
4ème Armée Anglaise.

J'ai l'honneur de vous remettre sous ce pli, selon la demande qui m'en a été faite, le relevé des travaux de réparations aux installations téléphoniques du réseau de Charleroy, effectués par l'équipe des militaires Australiens que vous avez bien voulu, spontanément, mettre à ma disposition.

Il résulte de cette nomenclature que ce personnel a fait preuve de beaucoup d'activité et j'ajouterai que je suis entièrement satisfait, à leur égard, sous tous les rapports.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Colonel, avec l'expression de mes remerciements, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

L'Ingénieur, Chef de réseau,

*H. P. Puseur*



Positions auxiliaires.

Mise en ordre des commutateurs: plusieurs rangées de jacks de ligne avaient été déplacées par les Allemands, d'autres avaient été enlevées; les Australiens ont remis les installations dans la situation d'avant la guerre.

Essais des relais d'appel - réglage de ces relais - réparation de ceux qui étaient détériorés - essais des lignes intérieures entre le répartiteur principal et les commutateurs - essais des lignes de jonction des positions auxiliaires.

Essais des lignes de service.

Vérification des clés d'écoute, clés d'appel et compteurs des positions auxiliaires et levée des dérangements constatés dans les installations - Rétablissement des connexions aux blocs du répartiteur intermédiaire (de nombreux fils avaient été coupés par les Allemands).

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Positions locales.

Vérification des clés, cordons et compteurs des positions locales et levée de tous les dérangements constatés au cours de cette vérification.

Essai de tous les multiples. Cette opération a fait découvrir de nombreux dérangements. Remplacement de nombreuses rangées de jacks dans le multiple. (généralement ces modifications étaient nécessitées par la détérioration du jack à l'extrémité de la rangée)

Vérification des lignes de service.

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Réparation d'une centaine de cordons.

Réparation de plusieurs centaines de fusibles.

Réparation des appareils téléphoniques du magasin.

*Rétablissement*



Rétablissement des connexions aux têtes de câbles - de nombreux fils avaient été détachés par les Allemands, d'autres avaient reliés entre eux.

Essai de tous les circuits souterrains entre les poteaux de dispersion et le répartiteur.

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Vérification des positions interurbaines et des pupitres de contrôle.

Essai des circuits intérieurs entre le répartiteur et les tables interurbaines.