

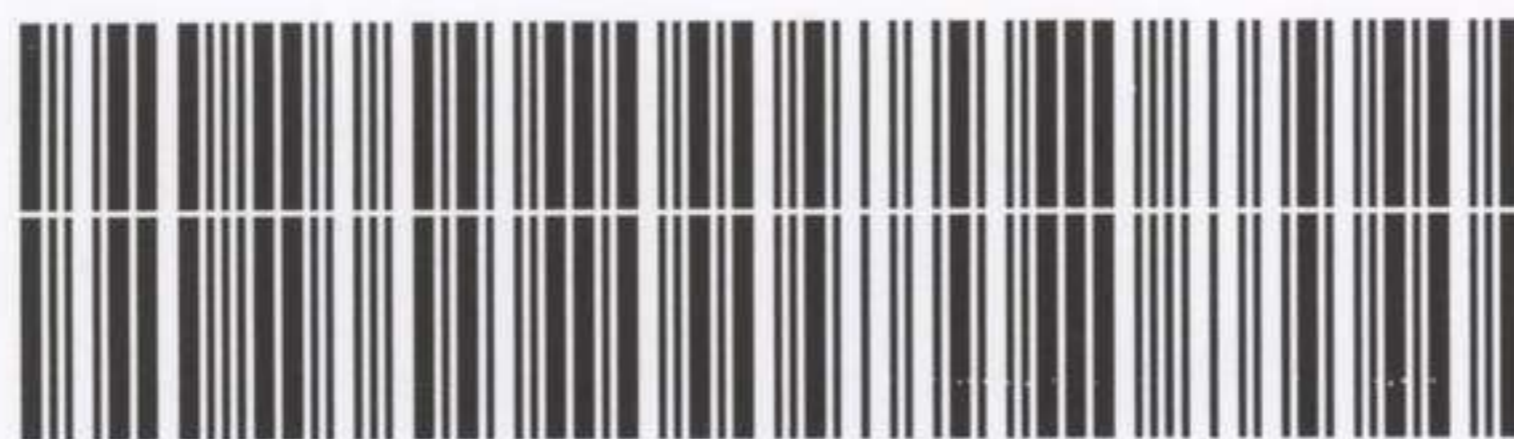
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Signals

Item number: 22/13/12

Title: 3rd Australian Division Signals
Company

October 1917



AWM4-22/13/12

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRANDHOEK	1/10/17		<p>Division relieved 3rd. British Division. Rear bury commenced under Lieut. Miller. 7th. Arty. Bde. H.Q. moved from RAMPARTS to MILL COTT and office established at 5 p.m. During night line to AYCR (BRANDHOEK) gave intermittent service but fault cleared by morning. No. 4 Section (10th. Brigade) in support. 9th. Brigade (in line) office at RAILWAY HOUSE, and 11th. Brigade (in reserve) at POPERINGHE.</p>	
"	2/10/17		<p>No. 4 Section (10th. Bde.) opened office at SQUARE FARM and communication established by telephone with AYCR and Brigades. 9th. Brigade forward lines troubled by heavy shell fire.</p>	
"	3/10/17		<p>Dull and showery. 11th. Brigade (No. 3 Sect.) moved up to line. Only single circuit available to each Brigade from D.H.Q. Traffic at heavy pressure. 9th. Brigade intermittent during morning. Wireless station of latter in touch with MILL COTT. 10th. Brigade unable to raise Division during afternoon and traffic diverted per 9th. Brigade, also at BORRY FARM, where new H.Q. xxxxxxx (10th. Brigade) opened at 1.45 p.m. Satisfactorily in touch with Division and 9th. and 11th. Brigades. D.R.L. Service O.K.</p>	
"	4/10/17		<p>No. 3 Section (11th. Brigade) moved back to BRANDHOEK and rear office established. Two Divisional offices at RAMPARTS MENIN GATE, YPRES, and at BRANDHOEK front and rear respectively. Total traffic 1,525 messages. Divisional offensive (Reports attached as Appendix 1.)</p>	
"	5/10/17		<p>9th. Brigade moved from line. Office closed 10.50 a.m.; at 4 p.m. personnel left for back area. Office opened WINNIZEELE 8-p.m. 11th. Brigade in line. Communication with Brigade Forward Station assisted by alternative route. Otherwise communications satisfactory. During night 199th. Brigade established at former location of 9th. Brigade, SQUARE FARM line utilised by 10th. Brigade.</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
BRANDHOEK	6/10/17		<p>At 2 a.m. MOM (on left) advise relief complete and at 2.20 10th. Brigade-in touch with new Brigade. At 3 a.m. 10th. Brigade handed over and at 9.30 a.m. office established in rear near BRANDHOEK. 11th. Brigade also relieved at noon and by 4 p.m. communication established at new H.Q. near BRANDHOEK. Divisional relief, except Artillery, complete. D.H.Q. opened WINNIZEELE at 10 a.m. by Sig. office staff. Remainder of personnel and transport located at BRANDHOEK pending further operations. A.F. B. 213 shows:- Struck off strength - Cpl. J.G. Merrin, wounded 29/9/17; Cpl. F.J. Jones, wounded 2/10/17; Spr. W.E. James, wounded 4/10/17; Spr. W.E. Green, wounded 4/10/17; Spr. H. Dunn, wounded 4/10/17; Spr. W.S. Touchell, wounded 4/10/17; Sgt. G. Batty to Sig. Ofc's. Cadet Course, England, 5/10/17; Spr. A.T.R. Halls, wounded 5/10/17; Sgt. H. McCarthy to Abbeville Signal Depot for further training, 1/10/17. Taken on strength - 2/Lieut. W.J. Summers from Rfcts. 5/10/17; 2/Lieut. L.V. Smith from Rfcts. 6/10/17; Sgt. H.R. Hughan, Sapper P.J. Leyden & Dvr. W.P. Salkeld from Abbeville-Sig. Depot, 6/10/17; Dvr. H.A. Read as Sapper from 33rd. Battrn. 6/10/17. Rejoined from Hospital - 2/Cpl. R.M. Taylor 1/9/17. Promotions, etc. - T/Dvr. Such L.F. to be Driver vice Butler dated 7/10/17, T/2/Cpl. J.M. Nelson reverts to Spr. on return of Brownsmith, dated 16/9/17, Cpl. E. Milliken to be Sgt. vice Batty dated 6/10/17, L/Cpl. V. Allson to be Cpl. vice Milliken dated 6/10/17; 2/Cpl. M. Fahey to be T/Cpl. vice Jones dated 3/10/17; L/Cpl. H. Chadwick to be T/2/Cpl. vice Fahey dated 3/10/17.</p>	
WINNIZEELE	7/10/17		<p>7th. Arty. H.Q. moved forward from MILL COTT to near BORRY FARM, D.25. a.7.5. Communication with all batteries established from new position at 10 a.m. Through to 3rd. Div. Arty. 8th. Arty. in reserve near GOLDFISH CHATEAU.</p>	
"	8/10/17		<p>Buried lines put through from 7th. Arty. Sub-Sect. to Liaison and O.P. with visual alternative.</p>	
"	9/10/17		<p>Visual communication established by 7th. Arty. Sub-Sect. with F.O.O. Much trouble with buried route forward but subsequently O.K. 11th. Brigade closed BRANDHOEK and lines established near MILL COTT beyond YPRES.</p>	

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WINNIZEELE	10/10/17		<p>9th. Brigade office closed WINNIZEELE 5 p.m. and moved to MENIN GATE, YPRES. 10th. Brigade arrange D.R.L.S. to MILL COTT to clear units bivouacked in vicinity of DRAGOON FARM. Telephone communication also with units through "L" panel point at MILL COTT. 11th. Brigade advanced party moved forward and commenced taking over line in forward area at 11 a.m. 9 p.m. Brigade moved up and H.Q. established in dugouts on ZONNEBEKE ROAD at D.26.a.80.50, Sheet 28. Communications to Battalions O.K.; also to Rear Brigade and Division.</p>	
YPRES	11/10/17		<p>Dull and gloomy. At 7 a.m. 9th. Brigade party moved forward to position. Relay posts established. At 5 p.m. Sig. office established in dugout on ZONNEBEKE ROAD - location D.26.a.80.50, Sheet 28. In touch with Battalions and Division - the latter by morse and phone, and phone to 11th. Brigade. Owing to line troubles 11th. Brigade obliged to transmit traffic through 9th. Brigade. Heavy shelling and muddy conditions making line work very difficult. Similar experience with 10th. Brigade who established office at LEVI COTTAGE at noon. Communication maintained forward by runners and visual. Surface lines mainly unsatisfactory. Circuits to rear held fairly well. 11th. Brigade established same location as 9th. Brigade at 5 p.m. Lateral communications previously arranged O.K. - by advance party.</p>	
"	12/10/17		<p>Heavy showers. Divisional offensive. 11th. Brigade in support. (Reports of O.C. Signals and Brigades attached as Appendix II). Total traffic handled at D.H.Q. office, RAMPARTS:- Messages forwarded 446, received 389, transmitted 298, Total 1133. 7th. Arty. attempt visual communication with F.O.Os. - Not successful as lamps knocked out by shell fire.</p>	

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	13/10/17		<p>Showery. Owing mud and shell fire 9th. Brigade experienced line troubles but communication maintained satisfactorily. 10th. Brigade relief commenced in evening. Equipment carried to rear by pack mules. All spare personnel assisting stretcher-bearing. 11th. Brigade communications O.K. New line laid to 43rd. Battn. at 8 a.m. A.F. B. 213 shows:-- Struck off strength - Spr. H.N. Brinkworth to Hospital 8/10/17, Spr. J.F. Mather to Hospital 8/10/17, Spr. B.E. Hosking wounded 10/10/17, Sgt. T. Dale, Spr. H. Buckley & Spr. F.J. Ferguson wounded 12/10/17. Taken on strength - Spr. B.D. Skelton from Hospital 8/10/17, Spr. S. Lanch, L.F. Manning, A.S. Cottier from Sig. Depot, Abbeville, 8/10/17; Sprs. G.M. Mouat, W.H. Little, T.W. Mower, M.H. Griffith, A.C. Tansell, A.L. Hager, W.M. Fair, W.T. Faulkner from Sig. Depot, Abbeville, 6/10/17, Pte. E.B. Nelson as Sapper from 5th. AMD. B.D. 12/10/17. Promotions, etc.:-- Cpl. R.K. Patrick to be T/Sgt. vice McCarthy dated 2/10/17, 2/Cpl. A.L. Tully to be T/Cpl. vice Patrick, L/Cpl. H.M. Williams to be T/2/cpl. vice Tully, and Spr. G.A. Christensen to be L/Cpl. vice Williams, dated 2/10/17.</p>	
"	14/10/17		<p>Buried route between BY (7th. Arty.) and ZE dissed. Surface lines resorted to. At 2.45 9th. Brigade out of touch with AYC on both circuits. Messages for D.H.Q. transmitted via 11th. Brigade. All lines O.K. at 11.30 p.m. with heavy traffic. 10th. Brigade relief completed at 8 a.m. Office established in rear near BRANDHOEK at 9 a.m. 11th. Brigade laid new line to SEINE HOUSE (44th. Bn.) Lieut. F.J. Tuckett (No. 4 Sect.) killed in action.</p>	
"	15/10/17		<p>Dull and showery. 9th. Brigade lines fairly satisfactory and coping with heavy traffic. Visual station out of touch at times owing to poor visibility. 10th. Brigade left BRANDHOEK for BLEQUIN in Rest area. 11th. Brigade, at midnight, took over former lateral buries of 9th. Brigade.</p>	
"	16/10/17		<p>9th. Brigade had slight line troubles. Improvement in visual communication. 10th. Brigade established at BLEQUIN in rest. 11th. Brigade report 9 p.m. bary to Division blown out. Traffic diverted. At 4 p.m. lateral lines handed over to relieving Brigade.</p>	

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	17/10/17		11th. Brigade at 9 a.m. report communication established with Division; another new line to SEINE HOUSE (44th. Bn.)	
"	18/10/17		9th. Brigade relief commenced at 4 p.m. Moved to SOUTH YPRES. 11th. Brigade relaid line at 3 p.m. to SEINE HOUSE. Brigade O.P. handed over to 9th. Brigade. At 8 p.m. bury from 11th. Brigade to ZE blown out. Aerial run to ZE temporarily and communication re-established at 9 p.m.	
"	19/10/17		11th. Brigade relaid, at 4 p.m., further line to SEINE HOUSE. Heavy-shelling in that vicinity.	
"	20/10/17		New line relaid to SEINE HOUSE at 6 p.m. R.A.H.Q. Detachment moved to Artillery Headquarters, HAZEBROUCK. B.213 shows:- Sprs. H.N. Lowe and C.H. Sykes from Abbeville Sig. Depot, 12/10/17; Spr. H.G. Ferguson as power buzzer personnel from 34th. Bn. 29/9/17. - pte. P.L. Smith as Sapper from Anzac Provost Corps 18/10/17. Struck off strength:- Lieut. F.J. Tuckett killed in action 14/10/17; Lieut. C.H. Simpson wounded (gassed) 18/10/17; Spr. W.J. Davey wounded (gassed) 18/10/17; Sprs. C.R. Scott & A.J. Foster, wounded in action 14/10/17; Spr. L. Newton sick 14/10/17, Spr. H. Davis wounded 16/10/17, Spr. J.R.F. Dewar sick 16/10/17, Spr. W.H.L. Cruikshank wounded 18/10/17, Dvr. E.J.R. Drake wounded (shell-shock) 18/10/17. Admitted Hospital - Spr. J.R. Russell 18/10/17, Spr. R. Gilbert, 18/10/17, Spr. E.L. Keage 18/10/17, Spr. A.I. Noble 18/10/17. Rejoined from Hospital Spr. J.R. Russell 18/10/17. Promotions, etc.:- 2/Cpl. H. Chadwick vice Pynor dated 19/10/17. L/Cpl. H.S. Martin to be 2/Cpl. vice Chadwick 19/10/17, Spr. J. Fletcher to be L/Cpl. vice Martin dated 19/10/17.	
FRUGUEMBERGUES	21/10/17		9th. Brigade moved to rest area at CAMPAGNE-LES-BOULONNAIS. Established 9 p.m. O.C. No. 4 Sect. (10th. Brigade) to open Brigade Signal School to train extra personnel. 11th. Brigade report all lines 'dis' at 10 a.m. Line to Division and ZE O.K. at 11.30 a.m. and all lines O.K. at 2 p.m. 6 p.m. new line to SEINE HOUSE. At 7 p.m. Brigade relief effected. Office established in back area near BRANDHOEK.	

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VITRES FAUQUEM BERGUES	22/10/17		11th. Brigade moved to ELNES in rest area and Signal office established 8 p.m. 7th. and 8th. Artillery Brigades moved into rest area near LA CRECHE.	
"	23/10/17		11th. Brigade's communications established, morse to AYC.	
"	24/10/17		Nothing of importance to report.	
"	25/10/17		Nothing of importance to report.	
"	26/10/17		Nothing of importance to report.	
"	27/10/17		Cable Detachments laid line to 38th, 39th, and 40th. Battalions. Line through by 2.35 p.m. B.213 shows:- Struck off strength - Spr. R. Gilbert sick 16/10/17; L/Cpl. F. Moss, Sprs. J. Somerville, A. E. Wade, wounded (gassed) 19/10/17; Sprs. C. Huxley, P. Moffatt, W. E. McLeod wounded (gassed) 18/10/17; Spr. V. R. Anderson sick 21/10/17, Spr. E. L. Keage sick 16/10/17; Spr. D. J. Small wounded 18/10/17, Spr. R. Williams wounded 20/10/17, Spr. A. I. Noble sick 18/10/17, Spr. S. G. Griffiths Sick 25/10/17, Spr. A. R. Yeoman sick 26/10/17, Dvr. H. H. Rugner sick 20/10/17. Taken on strength - Sgt. F. W. Howie Spr. W. S. Touchell from Abbeville Sig. Depot, 22/10/17; Sprs. W. Sparks, J. C. Wallace, A. J. Robins from " " " 15/10/17; Spr. T. J. Gregg, G. L. Weeks, H. T. McCann, A. C. Meyer from " " " 18/10/17; Pte. A. McKenzie from 39th. Bn. as Power Buzzer personnel 24/10/17; Sprs. A. Lambert & L. S. Glenn from 2nd. Army Wireless Co. 27/10/17. Appointments, etc. - Cpl. B. V. Blanch to be T/Sgt. vice Dale 13/10/17, 2/Cpl. Brownsmith to be T/Cpl. vice Blanch, Spr. J. M. Nelson to be T/2/Cpl. vice Brownsmith, dated 13/10/17; Dvr. J. Vassie reverts Spr. own request 31/9/17; Spr. F. T. Mundy to be Dvr. vice Vassie 1/10/17; T/Sgt. W. J. Jameson reverts to L/Cpl. on return of Howie, 21/10/17; Dvr. E. J. R. Drake reverts to Sapper own leaving unit 18/10/17; Cpl. F. J. A. Frawley reverts to Spr. at own request 24/10/17; Spr. E. B. Nelson to be Dvr. A. I. F. Order 785 19/10/17; L/Cpl. J. Honan to be Cpl. vice Frawley dated 25/10/17; Spr. D. S. Gilmour to be L/Cpl. vice Honan 25/10/17.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
FRAUQUEMBERGUES	28/10/17		10th. Brigade report 200 yards of cable cut out and removed from one leg-of line to 38th, 39th, and 40th. Battalions near SENLECQUES. Out of communication from 3.50 p.m. till 4.55 p.m. Sergt. S. Fountain and Sergt. M.S.H.Gifford recommended for direct commissions; Sgt. F.R.D. Rogerson for Cadet Course. sSergt. J. Willats to 9th. Bde. Signal School as Acting Instructor.	
"	29/10/17		Command of unit changed over from Major T.C. Wilson to Captain (Major on taking over) R.G. Hamilton, M.C., from 5th. Aust. Div. Sig. Co. Major Wilson proceeded to England to command A.R.S.U. Depot, SHEFFORD.	
"	30/10/17		Medical Inspection and inoculation of unit.	
"	31/10/17		Corpl. S.F.E. Liebert to 9th. Brigade Signal School as Acting Instructor.	

R.G. Hamilton
Major
G.C. 3rd. Div. Signal Coy. Ad. Co.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COY.Report on Communications for XPRES OFFENSIVE.October 4/17.

APPENDIX 1

On taking over from 3rd. British Division on 1st. October it was found the state of forward communications was unsatisfactory.

The Brigades in line were dependent on long runs of surface cable which were frequently cut; and the only alternative was visual. This was slow on account of having to pass through a chain of transmitting stations.

CABLE BURIES.

2nd. Anzac Corps constructed forward main buries of 70 pairs from BAVARIA HOUSE to ZEVENKOTE. From BAVARIA HOUSE back to the Ramparts, MENIN GATE, the buries were inadequate, and line very earthy.

One Brigade H.Q. was situated at BORRY FARM, on the main route, where 14 pairs were looped out; the other two at D.26.a.7.5 and THE HUT, D.26.c.1.3, off the buried routes.

A lateral cable bury was run from ZEVENKOTE (ZE) through VR (D.26.a.7.5), POTSDAM (PM) to THE HUT-(LR), under Divisional arrangements, on-nights of 1st. and 3rd. October. An attempt was also made to increase the number of lines between BAVARIA HOUSE (BH) and MILL COTT (O) by a bury; but this was not completed in time. Overland lines were, however, run between these points, and maintained during the operations.

Owing to earth faults in back sections, and inadequate number of lines, only one pair was available for each Brigade; and these could not be superimposed on except, in one case, to 10th. Inf. Bde. This held for some time but failed on the afternoon of 4th. instant.

TRAFFIC.

Great difficulty was experienced on Zero day handling the heavy traffic through the two Divisional offices at RAMPARTS and BRANDHOEK. Messages totalled 1,535.

On one occasion only slight congestion occurred. Through the excellent work of the Headquarters staff, the business was, however, handled expeditiously, and no serious block occurred.

The speaking on the circuits was at times very bad owing to leakage, heavy induction due to wet weather, and faulty insulation. Messages had frequently to be buzzed through.

VISUAL.

Visual Stations were established, but on account of the long chain of transmission, were not satisfactory. Very little was effected by this method to Brigades.

OTHER METHODS.

D.R. Motor Cyclist service was established as far as BAVARIA HOUSE, where 3 special cyclists were stationed to deal with urgent despatches from Brigades.

Forward of BAVARIA HOUSE, despatches were taken by runners to Brigade H.Q. who supplied the men for that purpose.

Wireless Sets were stationed at Brigade H.Q., and Corps Station at MILL COTT.

This means was, however, very little used as telephone communication held throughout.

PERSONNEL.

In consequence of "Q" Staff being stationed at BRANDHOEK, and Advanced Headquarters at RAMPARTS, MENIN GATE, the personnel of the Company was taxed to its utmost to furnish sufficient staff to man the two offices. All ranks rose to the emergency and worked for long periods to cope with the business.

Brigade reports follow:-

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.No. 2 BRIGADE SECTION.

Advanced Brigade Headquarters station was taken over on night of 1/10/17.

BURIED ROUTES.

The existing communications could not be utilised as our Battalion Headquarters were at different positions. New lines had to be laid. These held very well, and, although frequently cut by shell-fire, were easy to maintain. Divisional circuit caused considerable trouble owing to weak line, and, apart from this, one line was not sufficient for the amount of traffic going through. In addition, for the greater part of the time, traffic was being despatched for either 10th or 11th Brigade; and also 7th Brigade, 1st Anzac, whose bury was blown up.

POWER BUZZER AND AMPLIFIER.

Previous to Zero night, power Buzzer and Amplifier Stations were working to Battalion Headquarters. Splendid signals were obtained. Eventually these instruments were handed over to attacking troops. One set was blown up previous to Zero night at 36th. Battn. 's Command Post.

VISUAL.

Visual Signalling (Lucas Lamp) was utilised to Division (via transmitting stations) and to units of the Brigade. It proved very useful.

On Zero day Visual Station picked up units of the 11th. Brigade, N.Z. Brigade, and Artillery, and messages were transmitted to their destination, a copy being sent to 9th. Brigade staff for information.

One unit used signalling flag during a phase of the operation owing to Lucas lamp being used elsewhere. The signals were picked up clearly through the telescope.

It is suggested that, in future, flags be carried by forward parties, where ground is suitable.

WIRELESS.

Two Wireless sets were established at my station - one from the R.F.C. for aeroplane contact work - but were not required. Each tested O.K. with directing station. Prior to the operation aeriols were frequently cut but after Zero they were not touched.

CIRCUITS.

Circuits maintained previous to Zero were:-

- (a) Direct line to each Battalion H.Q.
- (b) Direct line to M.G. Company.
- (c) Direct line to flank Brigades.
- (d) Two alternative routes to Division.
- (e) Direct line to 10th. and 11th. Brigades.

All lines were surface-until Zero day when buries were used to 10th. and 11th. Brigades and, finally, to Division.

CABLE SUPPLY.

Great difficulty was met with in getting wire to Brigade H.Q., and forward. As carrying parties are difficult to obtain, and Signal staff and runners need all the rest they can get, it is suggested that two pack mules be allotted to the Brigade Section for use during operations.

GENERAL.

Improvements I consider necessary for good communication are:-

- (a) Two good lines to Division and to be tested O.K. 24 hours before Zero.
- (b) Pack animals for use of Brigade Section.

(c)

143

(2)

Appendix No. 1

- (c) Six Lucas Lamps per Brigade Section - Two for Brigade Headquarters; Two for Brigade Central Visual Station; Two for Brigade Forward Station.
- (d) Extra telescopes.
- (e) Runner routes and various Headquarters to be clearly marked by a sign-board.

143

ELEVENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.No. 3 BRIGADE SECTION.

Brigade entered line and took over Brigade H.Q. at D.26.a.7.5 at 5 p.m. on the 3rd. instant.

BURIED ROUTES.

Buried lines entered dugout, but did not terminate on any terminal board. Some delay was experienced in getting through to Division as lines had not been bridged in ~~the~~ ZE panel. Two Battalions were on buried route to POTSDAM and two were in dugouts 750 yards East of Brigade Headquarters. Ground Cable was laid to these.

Communications after Zero were as shown in diagram issued with S/O Offensive Circular No. 12.

Lines to Division were very weak. - Sounder could not be worked successfully. This fact caused congestion of traffic on Divisional line.

CABLE HEAD.

This was not used as Brigade Forward Station was nearer to Brigade Headquarters.

At 4 a.m., Brigade Forward party under Lieut. LARKIN, 41st. Battalion, moved to position of assembly. All assembled safely at 5 a.m. At 5.30 a.m. enemy barrage came down and Lieut. LARKIN was killed and Forward party scattered. N.C.O. in charge, Corporal JAMESON, collected men and equipment and went over at 6 a.m. Forward Station was reached at 7.50 a.m., and Communication to HILL 40 was established by Visual.

GROUND CABLE.

Ground Cable was laid to Forward Station (3,000 yards from Brigade), as per S.S. 148, with 3 Relay posts each 400 yards apart. Some difficulty was experienced in maintaining this line owing to enemy barrage. Communication was opened on this line at 11.25 a.m. and, except for short intervals, was maintained until the second line was laid at 5 p.m. After that hour it was practically uninterrupted. Right Brigade Forward Station was not connected by lateral line:-

- (1) Owing to difficulty in getting cable up. (Cable was dumped nearly 4000 yards behind Forward Station and 2000 yards from Brigade Headquarters)
- (2) Casualties to personnel.
- (3) Enemy barrage along railway line.

VISUAL.

O.P. was established on HILL 40 and connected by telephone to 2nd. Relay post. This O.P. was established, primarily, to receive from Brigade Forward Station and also to receive all Signals sent from the front, S.O.S., etc. This Station was very useful and obtained Communication with Forward Station at 3.5 a.m., and used Runner to Brigade until line was laid to them.

PIGEONS.

Not used; weather unsuitable.

RUNNERS.

Good when employed. Not much work for them, as lines and visual accounted for most of the traffic.

Amplifier and P.B.

(8)

AMPLIFIER AND
POWER BUZZER.

Brigade Forward Station arrived minus H. T. Battery only. P.B. was established at once, but rear station did not receive signals. Reserve H. T. Battery was despatched to Forward Station, but without result. No signals could be received by them. Later, I went forward and examined instrument; so far as I could see, everything was O.K. Wireless N.C.O. also examined apparatus and pronounced everything in good condition. The Amplifier did not get anything from Forward Station, but could work to Cable Head, Right and Left Brigades.

WIRELESS.

Was in communication with directing station and could have been used if required. There was no occasion to use it.

AEROPLANES.

Did not attempt to communicate.

On the whole, Communications were very satisfactory. Battalions used Visual and Runners only, with excellent results. One Battalion took P.B. forward, but this was not established as it reached its destination minus Accumulator and E. pins. Accumulator was smashed by shell fire.

TENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.No. 4 BRIGADE SECTION.CABLE ROUTES.

Two lines were run out from Cable Head to assembly point prior to Zero hour. The Forward party, under Lieut. S. H. BIRRELL, Signal Officer, 37th. Battalion, moved out behind last wave of first attacking Battalion (37th.). Lines were laid as they moved up; but, owing to intense enemy barrage, these lines were cut to pieces.

Casualties necessitated the cutting out of the first relay station.

Cpl. Houlden and Spr. Tuckett returned from 2nd. relay station to Cable Head and repaired 16 breaks in one line. As they moved back further breaks occurred behind them and efforts to maintain this line were then suspended for a time.

At 1 p.m. a fresh line was run out from Cable Head to 2nd. relay, and, a little later, a second one was established. From this time until Brigade relieved telephone communication was maintained, two lines being generally available.

Cable Communication was maintained from Brigade Forward Station to Forward Battns., and back to 2nd. relay station (ZH), practically the whole time.

Owing to shortage of cable a line could not be laid to Right Brigade Forward Station until second day of battle.

RUNNER SERVICE.

This was very effective, and the only means of communication between second relay and Cable Head until 9.30 a.m., when visual was established between second relay to Brigade.

PIGEONS.

Of no use; unsuitable weather.

VISUAL.

Visual was very effective, particularly between second relay station and Brigade. Messages from this point to Brigade, sent on Lucas lamp, came through very rapidly.

POWER BUZZER, WIRELESS & AMPLIFIER.

Power Buzzer was not effective; primarily owing to casualties to personnel carrying equipment. A station was set up at Brigade Forward Station, but no messages were received by amplifiers at Brigade or Cable Head. The former station was also late in setting up.

Wireless was not required. I personally visited the Wireless Station and became convinced that it would be impossible to effectively use this method, as instrument was on ground surface and in close proximity to the guns.

Under similar conditions this would also apply to the Amplifiers. The advisability of sending amplifiers to Brigade Forward Stations might be considered as, owing to the amount of equipment to be carried, something is bound to be lost owing to casualties.

The Forward Station was very carefully organised by Lieut. BIRRELL and I am convinced that it was not the fault of the personnel that all instruments did not get through.

(Signed) T. C. Wilson

Major.

C.O. 3rd Divisional Sig. Company.

17/10/17.

3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY.YPRES OFFENSIVE - OCTOBER 1918.NOTES ON COMMUNICATIONS.

Reference Map Sheet 28 N.W.

S 26/61

APPENDIX 2.POSITION OF HEADQUARTERS.

Divisional Headquarters, Ramparts, YPRES.
 6th. Infantry Brigade (VR) D. 26 a. 7.5
 10th. Infantry Brigade (LG) LEVI COTTAGE.
 14th. Infantry Brigade (VR) D. 26. a. 7.5.

Rear Office (BRANDHOEK) not opened as "Q" Staff accommodated at RAMPARTS. 2nd Anzac Corps assumed control BRANDHOEK office as an Exchange, only taking over existing subscribers on to their board. Additional lines were thereby set free between HUG and RAMPARTS. Telegraph was worked to Corps on DC Duplex Set and coped with traffic.

BURIED LINES.

In the interim between attacks of 4th and 12th October, considerable improvement was made to the Buried system. It was extended to BORTHOEK as Cable Head, and the back section between RAMPARTS and BAVARIA HOUSE was strengthened by a new bury.

As a result of this, two circuits were available for each Brigade and telegraph was successfully worked to each Headquarters.

The speaking on the lines was much better and business was expeditiously dealt with. No delays occurred.

Considerable trouble was experienced at some of the forward panel joints in getting the proper pairs put through owing, chiefly, to the incompetence of some of the men at these points; and also that pairs on lateral bury to VR had not been put on board and identified. This, however, was overcome before Zero, and lines were then working well.

VISUAL.

Not used between Brigades and Div. Headquarters.

FIGURES.

Weather conditions unsuitable.

D.R. MOTOR CYCLIST SERVICE.

On account of congestion of traffic and bad state of roads, motor cyclist service was impracticable past MILL GOTT. A relay station was consequently established at that place and despatches sent on by mounted D.Rs. to Brigade Headquarters at VR. Despatches for Artillery Units were also collected and dropped at BAVARIA HOUSE. Forward of VR Headquarters runners only were employed, 10th. Brigade collecting and depositing despatches at that place.

WIRELESS AMPLIFIER & POWER BUZZER.

As per Wireless Officer's report attached.

GENERAL.

As far as communications were concerned to Brigades, far less trouble was experienced than on the previous occasion, and less traffic was handled, the total for the day being 1,133 as against 1,525 for October 4th.

Special note was made by Corps of the excellent work done by the jointing party supplied by this Company in connection with buried cable scheme.

The party comprised Cpl. Chadwick, Sappers/Chancellor, Russell, Hollow and Adams, who worked under most trying conditions, frequently under heavy shell-fire and sniping, to complete the work which so materially helped the communications.

Wireless & Brigade reports follow.

143

REPORT ON W/T & AMPLIFIER STATIONS.WIRELESS STATIONS.

October 10th, took over W/T Stations from 66th. Division. One W/T Station (Call NG) stationed with 8th. and 11th. Brigades at D.26.a.6.6 in communication with directing station (call DC). One W/T Station (Call EM) stationed with 10th. Brigade at D.31.a.7.3 in communication with DC.

A few W/T messages were sent prior to the morning of the attack.

During the night of 11/10th, messages were sent. Early on the morning of the attack directing station was 'dis' by shell-fire, but a message was sent from 10th. Brigade to the directing station of Left Division (Call YU) and from thence was transmitted to the Right Division.

On the afternoon of the 10th, line communication from the 10th. Brigade was 'dis'. Several messages were sent via W/T. On the night of the 10th, 10th. Brigade vacated their Headquarters to move out of line. Their W/T Station was withdrawn next day, thus leaving one W/T Station with 8th. and 11th. Brigades, who occupied the same dugout.

AMPLIFIER & POWER BUZZER STATIONS.

On the afternoon of the 10th, Amplifier and Power Buzzer Stations were posted, and instruments and stores for Forward Brigade Stations tested and handed over to Forward Brigade Station officer. Also one Power Buzzer Station complete to one Battalion of each Brigade to carry forward.

An Amplifier and Power Buzzer was installed at 10th. Brigade Headquarters and manned by Wireless personnel. One man from Wireless personnel was posted in charge of each Brigade Forward Station.

FORWARD BRIGADE STATIONS.

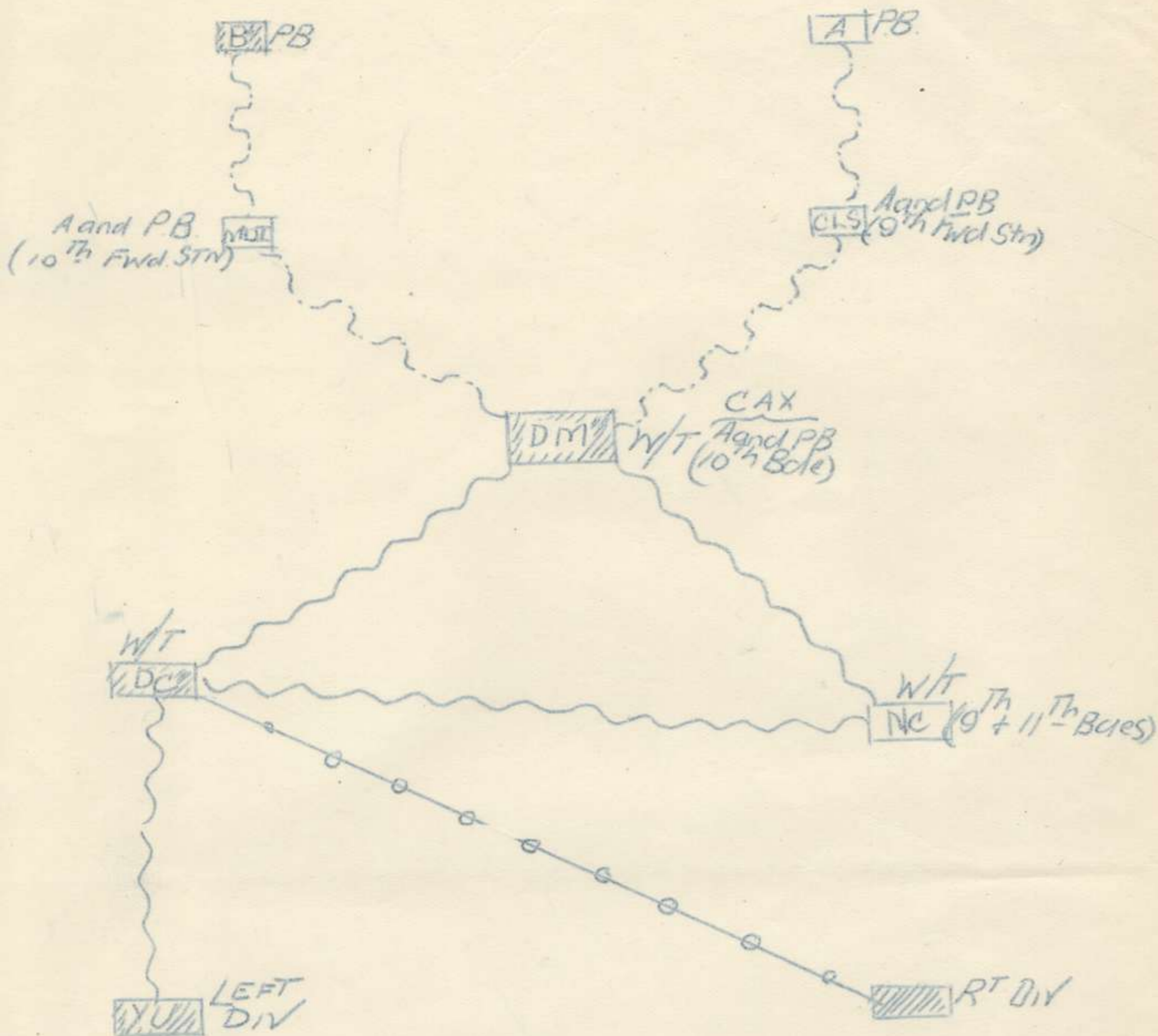
Right Brigade Forward Station did not reach its destination as the party was dispersed by shellfire. Much of the equipment was destroyed. The operator in charge, with one other operator, reached a point near TRE COYT. The instruments they were carrying were left in a dugout at D.16.b.7.2 and they returned to Brigade. The next day a party was sent out to recover the stores but the dugout had been heavily shelled and all the stores destroyed.

Left Brigade Forward Station was installed at D.16.b.6.6 and signals were exchanged with 10th. Brigade, but it proved impossible to receive messages owing to jamming by telephones. Both Amplifiers were in perfect order and "buzzer" signals were R? both ways, but the telephone jamming entirely drowned them.

On the night of the 10th, the 10th. Brigade vacated their Headquarters to move out of the line for rest. W/T., Amplifier, and P.B. stores were brought back to Divisional Headquarters.

(Plan of Communications attached.)

COMMUNICATION SCHEME



(Signed) W. J. SUMMERS 2nd LIEUT.
 3rd AUST. DIVISION
 WIRELESS SECTION

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.COMMUNI-
CATIONS.

Communication established prior to Zero was as follows:-

- (1) A Visual Station at HILL 40 working to SEINE and in communication by telephone via bury with Brigade H.Q.
- (2) A Runner^{chain} established via 3 relay posts to SEINE.
- (3) A telephone was laid to SEINE but no sooner had communication been established than the line was cut in many places by enemy shelling. It was impossible to maintain this line.
- (4) Pigeons were supplied to all Units prior to ZERO.

BRIGADE
FORWARD
STATION.

The Brigade Forward Station personnel followed the first wave but owing to casualties only a small percentage arrived.

Smoke and mist prevented the working of the visual. Telephone lines were being continually cut, leaving pigeons and runners as the only sure means of communication.

The remaining personnel of the Brigade Forward Station were advised by a Lieut.-Colonel to report back to Brigade Headquarters. This they did; arriving back at 8 p.m.

Whilst this situation was obscure pigeons and runners were used.

TELEPHONE.

3 attempts were made to lay lines via relay (runner) post. Shelling prevented maintenance of these lines. As soon as possible a line was laid from BOETHOEK to SEINE. This line, although subject to heavy shelling, held very well.

On morning of the 14th. instant 3 Battalion Headquarters were established and immediately were placed in telephonic communication with Brigade Headquarters.

VISUAL.

Until late in the afternoon of the 13th. instant visual to SEINE from HILL 40 worked satisfactorily. The SEINE end report that messages by them were not received by visual station. A relief of 4 new men was sent but still no messages were received. An N.C.O. was sent to SEINE to locate the trouble. He aligned the lamp and came back to HILL 40 but could get no signals. Ordered that new cells be put in place of those in use and Lucas Lamp became O.K. As telephones were in use visual was only used for practice messages.

PIGEONS.

Pigeons were largely used during the early stages and many important messages were received at Divisional Headquarters and transmitted to here. It was found that the supply of pigeons was insufficient.

GENERAL.

The operations proved that 3 Lucas Lamps per Brigade Signal Section are not sufficient to maintain communication successfully as a transmitting station may be required. Would suggest that the establishment in this respect be increased by 2 lamps.

WIRE. Suggest that 1 mile of metallic wire be supplied to Battalions, before entering the line, as it is impossible to get wire forward when once the Battalion is in the line owing to lack of personnel available for carrying parties. It is suggested, too, that wire be coiled round portable drums before issuing.

BURIED CABLE. To establish and maintain communication successfully it is essential that the cable be buried as far forward as possible. During the last operations there was a surface line of 2½ miles to maintain. Wire should be dumped at Brigade Headquarters where it can be got at easily.

POWER FEEDER & AMPLIFIER.

POWER BUZZER & AMPLIFIER. Suggest that this party does not go forward until first objective is gained; but wait until situation allows of them proceeding with a possibility of having few casualties, thus ensuring the essential parts of the equipment reaching the objective.

BRIGADE FORWARD STATION. That which applies in the case of Power Buzzer and Amplifier applies equally in this.

RUNNERS. During the operations Runners were used as guides, sometimes as many as 5 being away on this work at the one time. In order to prevent any possibility of interference with communication would suggest that each Brigade Headquarters have men attached to act as guides.

Experience proves that to ensure the establishment of good communication early notice of lines required should be given to allow of full preparation.

143

TENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters established at LEVI COTTAGE, 11/10/17 and communications through at noon. Previously, at 8.0 a.m., D.R.L.S. service arranged and working in conjunction with Runner posts to 8th. and 11th. Brigades; to Divisional Headquarters by telephone and Morse; to N.Z. Brigade on left through WH panel point, thence buried route.

BURIED ROUTES.

Consequent upon the addition to and improvement in buried system between AYC and BAVARIA HOUSE, and the extension of Cable Head to BOMTH-ER, two circuits were available instead of one as on October 4th. This greatly facilitated communication.

On morning of 11th, AYC line was temporarily dissed at ZE panel. Inconvenience was experienced throughout the offensive owing to Corps and Artillery linesmen working in the panel points. Heavy shell-fire made difficult the maintenance of line to G.O.C's. dug-out.

Surface lines forward were mainly unsatisfactory. They were difficult to trace in the mud and ~~under~~ *incidentally* broken by shell-fire. 37th. and 38th. Battalions were in touch with Brigade by this means.

VISUAL.

Not used to Division. Stations were established forward with Lucas Lamp. Communication was very successfully maintained with 38th. Battalion and Brigade Forward Station throughout the operations.

POWER BUZZER.

Proved unsuccessful. Amplifier Station at RWZ had to be advised by 'phone at times when Power Buzzer in forward area was calling or sending.

PIGEONS.

Satisfactory. In every case pigeon messages were received at the left and transmitted to Brigade within reasonable time.

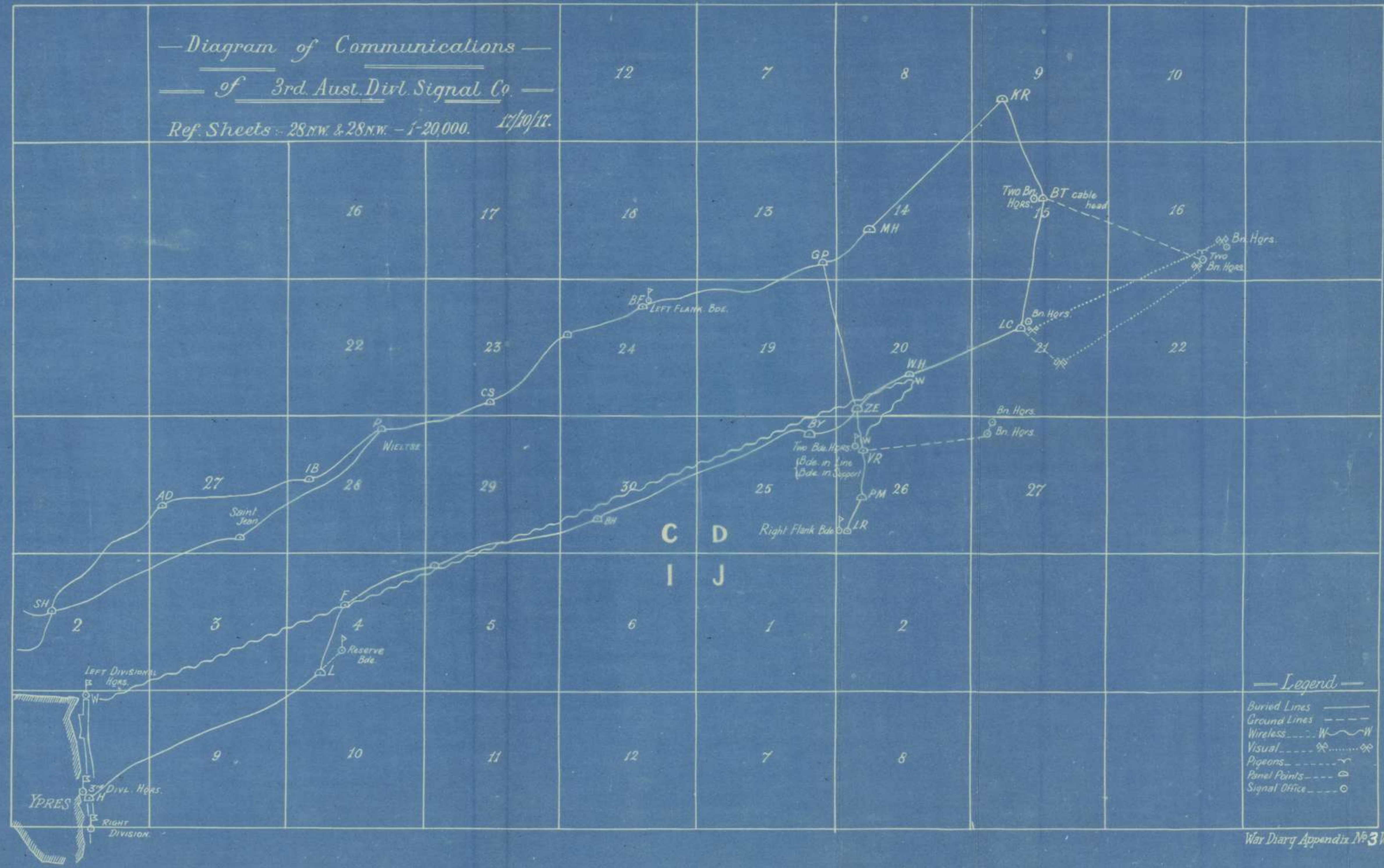
RUNNERS.

Posts were established at HAMBURG, 2nd Relay Post and Brigade Forward Station. Careful supervision had to be exercised owing to the difficult ground and the nature of the routes. Although no inconvenience was caused frequent delays occurred. To link up with D.R.L.S. service ^{at 11th Bde.} a post was also established there to forward despatches to Brigade.



Major.
O.C. Signals, 3rd. Australian Division.

— *Diagram of Communications* —
 — *of 3rd Aust. Divl. Signal Co.* —
 Ref. Sheets: 28NW & 28NW - 1-20,000. 17/10/17.



— *Legend* —

- Buried Lines —————
- Ground Lines - - - - -
- Wireless W ~~~~~ W
- Visual X..... X
- Pigeons ○..... ○
- Panel Points ○
- Signal Office ○