

**AWM4**

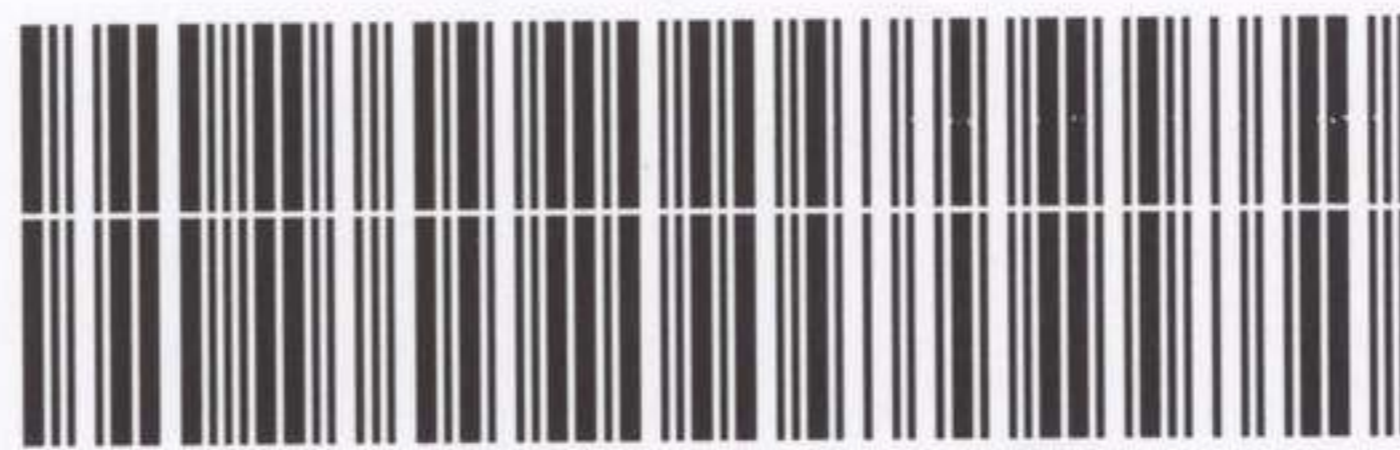
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Signals

**Item number:** 22/18/3

**Title:** 2nd Signal Squadron

May 1917



AWM4-22/18/3

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form G. 2118

MAY 1917

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.

			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
EL SHAUTH	1/6/17		Reconnaissance by 2 Bdes, the 6 <sup>th</sup> Mounted and 4 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Bde to AIR ESANI area. - Div HQ at EL SHAUTH and Adm. HQ at GOZ MARRUOK. - Communication east of EL SHAUTH by visual.	
ABASAN	2/5/17		B. Troop laid lateral line to 230 <sup>th</sup> Bde from Bde HQ at EL SHAUTH. 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde Sig Troop busy on trench communications. Div HQ returned to ABASAN about 1500, all Sig Sqn personnel withdrawn to same place.	
ABASAN	3/5/17		Trench pins and poles sent out to EL SHAUTH - Party employed poleing local cables. - 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde moves camp to TEL EL MARAKEB, 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Bde returned to ABASAN and were connected up by cable.	
ABASAN	4/5/17		Election pole of Aust. personnel of Sqn - 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde took over trench lines from 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde, which returned to ABASAN and are connected up by cable.	
ABASAN	5/5/17		Party of B. Troop at EL SHAUTH poleing lines to Anzac Mtd Div and 230 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Telephone lines to OC. ASC moved to new position at KHAN YUNUS.	
ABASAN	6/5/17		1. Service Car. Bde left Division to join Palestine Defence Force. - Airline pair built from Oco. Col to Div. HQ. to work sounder superimposed on telephone, cable pair to Khan retained for additional telephone work. - Party poleing at EL SHAUTH.	
EL GAMLI	7/5/17	2400	Party of B. Troop poleing lines at EL SHAUTH. - Div. HQ moved to EL GAMLI at 1830 - Signal office established here working back to ABASAN thro EL SHAUTH. - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde and N.Z. Mtd Rifles engaged in reconnaissance in direction of BEERSHEBA, with 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde in support.	
EL GAMLI	8/5/17	0700	Heavy mist descended breaking visual communication which had been established with 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde. the lamp of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde had been seen, but distance too great for comm.	
EL GAMLI	9/5/17		No communication possible with N.Z. Mtd Bde. Mist cleared, Div HQ moved forward to KH EL FAR. - Visual party under Lt THRELFALL accompanied B. Troop extended cable from GAMLI to FAR, but reeled it up immediately as Div HQ closed down at FAR and returned to ABASAN. Bde & divisional troops returned to previous bivouacs.	
EL GAMLI	10/5/17		5 <sup>th</sup> Bde moved to TEL EL MARAKEB and 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde return to ABASAN, and are connected up by cable.	
EL GAMLI	11/5/17		No change, Major HILL visited EL SHAUTH. Lines laid by 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde Sig. Troop to connect up GAMLI work.	
EL GAMLI	12/5/17		No change. Party from B. Troop working on line from EL SHAUTH to EL GAMLI.	
EL GAMLI	13/5/17		No change.	
EL GAMLI	14/5/17		6 <sup>th</sup> Bde relieved 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde at EL SHAUTH, 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde return to ABASAN and are connected up.	
EL GAMLI	15/5/17		Majors BIDDER and HILL visited EL SHAUTH	
EL GAMLI	16/5/17		D.A.C. moved camp to near ABASAN, line laid by B. Troop to connect them with C.R.A.	
EL GAMLI	17/5/17		Test of signallers of the Divisional Artillery carried out.	
EL GAMLI	18/5/17		Experiments with Fullerphones carried out between EL SHAUTH and Div. Sig. Co.	
EL GAMLI	19/5/17		Test of Artillery Signallers Co.	
EL GAMLI	20/5/17		4 <sup>th</sup> Bde moved to MARAKEB	

# WAR DIARY

#18/2  
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ABASAN	16/5/17		No change	
	17/5/17		6 <sup>th</sup> Bde handed over EL SHAUTH to the N.Z. Bde, and returned to ABASAN	
	18/5/17		SHAUTH line reeled up. Sgt. J. FREELAND, Aust. Engrs of B Troop awarded the Military Medal.	
	19/5/17		Line from SHAUTH to 230 <sup>th</sup> Bde. reeled up	
	20/5/17		3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde moved to MARAKEB and come in on same cable as 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde.	
	21/5/17		Various local cables reeled up	
	22/5/17	1500	B and D Troops less details left camp for GAMLI - Lt MARKS in charge of rear office.	
		1830	Above arrived at GAMLI and camped	
	23/5/17		Division engaged in demonstrating against BEERSHEBA, to draw attention from the demolition of Turkish railway, south of that place.	
LAKEBAT at 680.		0230	Squadron left GAMLI, and reached point selected for Div. HQ at 0430. - Des. Col	See Diagrams Appendix No 4.
		0500	Cable detachment had been picked up at GAMLI the previous night, and joined to new Hd qrs. Communication established with Desert Column by cable and with 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Bdes by helio.	
		0520	In communication with all Bdes by helio. Line laid to 60 pr. Battery at KARM.	
		0600	Des. Col. Visual Sta communicated with. - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde. in touch with Bde of Anzac Divn. All attempts to communicate direct by visual with the Anzac Divn and the 74 <sup>th</sup> Divn failed, in one case because the Div <sup>l</sup> Magnos had not been set up in the appointed place.	
		1630	Communication was maintained with Bdes throughout the day except during short spells of cloudy weather - also for a short time with N.Z. Mtn Rifle Bde.	
		1730	Bdes ordered to withdraw to GAMLI and bivouac here.	
		1740	Communication with Bdes broken off, but retained with Desert Column.	
		1930	Squadron commenced march back, communication maintained with Des. Col. while reeling up several messages being taken on the way back.	
GAMLI			Sqn reached GAMLI and bivouaced.	
	24/5/17	0700	" left " for ABASAN. - All Bdes returned to previous camps during morning.	
ABASAN	25/5/17		6 <sup>th</sup> Bde moved to MARAKEB, 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde returned to ABASAN.	
	26/5/17		No change.	
	27/5/17		Stac. moved to near FARA, line to them reeled up.	

*[Signature]*

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29	28/5/17	1000 1030 1115 1300	<p>Division moved to FARA to relieve the Angac Intd Division. Signal office closed at ABASAN. Bde lines reeled up except that to MARAKEB. Office opened at FARA in same camp as the Angac Division. - Thro' at this time to Desert Column by sounder with telephones, and to 4<sup>th</sup> Bde at TEL EL FARA. Thro' to 5<sup>th</sup> Bde on arrival. Thro' to 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bdes on arrival. Later, telephone circuits run to G &amp; Q Staffs.</p>	<p>See Diagrams          Appendix          N° 4.</p>
	29/5/17		<p>Telephone circuits run to Anti aircraft gun, CRE, CRA, DAC, and O/C Signals. 4<sup>th</sup> Bde line poled right through. Excavation made for signal office.</p>	
	30/5/17	0330	<p>Visual station established on <del>TEL EL FARA</del> to work to 5<sup>th</sup> Bde engaged in reconnaissance. Cable laid to 53<sup>rd</sup> Division at ABU KATLI - Cable from ABASAN to KHAN YUNUS reeled up.</p>	
	30/5/17		<p>Signal office moved to dugout. - Poles collected from old line to FARA. Cable laid to O.C. Supplies. - Visual station established on TEL EL FARA at 0340 to work to 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde operating in direction of MUNKEILEH. Communication maintained until return of Bde to camp.</p>	

*Allice*  
 Major Es  
 O.C. Sig. Squ. 1MO.

CIRCUIT DIAGRAMS - MAY 1917

REL  
4 MAY 1917

OPERATIONS OF 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY

FARA - MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>



*Handwritten signature and date: J. H. ... May 1917*