

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

Signals

Item number: 22/28/8

Title: Signal Section, Australian Engineer
Training Depot

August 1918



AWM4-22/28/8

WAR DIARY



AUSTRALIAN ENGINEER TRAINING DEPOT (SIGNAL SECTION).

FOR

AUGUST

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject. TRAINING.

There being very little change in personnel of Depot, Training was carried out in continuation of previous month's syllabus. Speeding up practices in all branches were carried out, and long distance field work was done in surrounding country.

Schemes in Brigade and Divisional Signalling communication were carried out at frequent periods, beginning with Brigade schemes in stationary warfare whereby all Signalmen "B" were made acquainted with their duties. For this purpose dug-outs on buried-cable system were utilised, and all such circuits worked.

Divisional schemes were held in accordance with attached copy of scheme orders. After each scheme a review of duties was made and all defects pointed out, likewise the object of various duties performed. Very satisfactory results were obtained towards the end of the month.

The Training of 49 telegraph operators who marched in on 29th July, was carried on with the object of making these men fully qualified in Army methods of telegraph procedure. Practice in Fullerphone operating and theory of Fullerphones were fully dealt with.

Visual practice was performed by this squad daily, and a course of training in linemen's duties, cable jointing etc, was commenced.

ANTI-GAS TRAINING.

Small box respirator drill was carried out by all ranks, and all practice duties were periodically performed whilst wearing the helmets. All men in the Depot are trained in anti-gas measures, receive lectures on same, and have passed through gas chamber at Hitchin.

The total number of untrained men sent to Imperial schools of Instruction during the month was 26; distributed in the following trades :-

Signalmen "B"	5,	Field Linemen Dismounted	6.
Signalmen "A"	2,	Field Linemen Mounted	13.

The number of men returned from Imperial Schools trained in one signal trade only - 48.

The latter were immediately placed in squads for further training in general signal service duties.

Attached are weekly returns showing numbers by trades of both trained men and those undergoing training, and programme of training as carried out in this Depot.

Lieut.,

Officer in Charge Training,

Engr. Tng. Depot, Signal Section.

CLIFTON, Beds.

446
TENTATIVE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL, TELEPHONE, and TELEGRAPH SCHEME.

Divisional scheme embracing visual, telephone and telegraph working in the field will take place on 21st inst.

Ad Rear Div.H.Q. will be established at Signal Office Clifton.
Advanced Div.H.Q. " " " " Clifton Lodge.
Disposition of troops in Divisional Sector will be as follows :-
2 Brigades each with 2 Battalions in "The Line"

2nd Aust Inf. Bde. will occupy right Brigade sub-sector and will establish H.Q. at Southill - Broome and Sandy - Stanford Roads, with 8th Bn H.Q. on the Right 500 yards along Western side of Sandy Road, and 5th Bn H.Q. on left 500 yards North-west of above X Roads.

1st Aust Inf Bde will occupy left sub-sector with Bde H.Q. at first junction of roads on Right in Southill entering from West, with 1st Bn H.Q. on Right, approx 600 yards along East bank of creek, and 3rd Bn H.Q. on Left on Eastern side of Old Warden Road, approx in line with Southern end of lake.

British Front Line runs approx from Southill Railway Stn round the North side of Lake south of Warden Park along East bank of creek to road at East corner of Warden Park, thence due East along road and across country to Biggleswade.

Operations will commence at "zero" hour, which will be 10.30am.

N.C.O's i/c Stations will synchronise watches at 9.0am. All stations must be in position not later than 10.15am. During Operations two test S.O. messages (one by visual and one by telephone) will be sent from ~~Advanced~~ ^{Rear} Div H.Q. for promulgation to Battalions. These messages will require an urgent reply. Times will be taken by N.C.O's i/c Stations and comparisons made later. Visual signalling must be utilised for traffic as much as possible. N.C.O's will compile sufficient messages to keep stations actively employed. All messages sent and received must be registered in the usual manner. These registers and files to be handed to Lieut Johnson immediately on return to Camp. N.C.O.i/c Advanced Div H.Q. will endeavour to get in touch with both Bde H.Q. by visual signalling during the morning.

Cable detachments. w/ // // // "A" Detachment, Sgt Townsend in Charge, will run one earth return vibrator line from Adv Div H.Q. to Right Bde H.Q. via Eastern outskirts of Stanford, and a lateral line from Right Bde to Left Bde.

"B" Detachment, Cpl Gramp in Charge, will run an earth return vibrator line from Adv Div H.Q. to Left Bde H.Q.

Meals. Work will be suspended from 12.30pm till 1.30pm for lunch.

Transport. C.S.M. to arrange transport for equipment and rations.

Calls. Station Code. The Rear Div H.Q. "AYA", Adv Div H.Q. "AYAR"
Right Bde H.Q. "AZB", Left Bde H.Q. "AZA"
Right Bn, Right Bde - "HR". Left Bn, Right Bde - "ER".
Right Bn, Left Bde - "AR", Left Bn, Left Bde - "CR".

Personnel & Equipment. All N.C.O's to carry a map.

Rear D.H.Q. - 1 N.C.O. (sigmr), 3 Operatrs, 3 Orderlies, 1 Sounder Set, 1 Magto Telephone.

Adv D.H.Q. - 1 N.C.O., 6 Operators, 3 Orderlies, 3 Sigs "B", 1 I.R., 1 Sounder Set, 1 Magto Telephone, 1 4 X 3 Buzzer Unit, Helio, Lamps and Flags.

Each Bde H.Q. - 1 N.C.O., 12 men, 6 Small flags, 2 D3 'Phones, 1 Helio, Lucas lamp, 4 X 3 Buzzer Swithh, Bar carrier, 1 Mile D1 Cable.

Each Battn H.Q. - 1 N.C.O and 6 men, 1 Lucas lamp, D3 'phone, 4 Flags.

(40) A. Johnson Lieut 95th
O/C Training

PROPOSED WEEKLY SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR
---WEEK ENDING 24th AUGUST 1918---



MONDAY

MORNING

Stable Routine etc; Route Marching, Company Drill, Physical exercises; Station work - Lamp & Flag; Cable Jointing; Cable Wagon work; Sde Section Scheme; Office Telegraphists class.

AFTERNOON

Stable Routine etc; Driving Practice; Gas Drill; Lecture on Gas shells; Visual; Cable Wagon Drill & Office Telegraphists Class.

TUESDAY

MORNING

Stable Routine etc; Physical exercises, Route Marching, Company Drill; Lucas Lamp & Visual Drill; Lectures on Signal Office Routine and Instruments; Office Telegraphists Class; Cable Wagon work.

AFTERNOON

Stable Routine etc; Cable wagon Drill; cable jointing; Lucas Lamp & Visual work; Lecture on Discipline & Routine Orders; Office Telegraphists class.

WEDNESDAY

MORNING

Stable Routine etc; Gas Drill; Lecture - War Aims; Physical Exercises, Route marching & Company Drill; cable jointing, Grid system; Station work - Lamp & Flag; Cable Wagon Drill; Office Telegraphists class.

AFTERNOON

Stable Routine etc; Driving Drill; Lecture on Instruments; Cable Jointing - Grid System; Station work - Lamp & Flag; Office Telegraphists Class; Cable Wagon work. ✓

THURSDAY

MORNING

Stable Routine etc; Care of Horses; Physical Exercises, Route Marching & Company Drill; Station work - Lamp & Flag; Divisional Scheme; Office Telegraphists Class.

AFTERNOON

Stable Routine etc; Divisional Scheme; Station work - Lamp & Flag; Office Telegraphists Class.

FRIDAY

MORNING

Stable Routine etc; Testing Box Respirator; Route Marching and Physical Exercises; Lecture - Gas Measures.

AFTERNOON

Stable Routine etc; ~~EM~~ Cable jointing - grid system; Cable Wagon Drill; Station work - Lamp & Flag.

SATURDAY

MORNING

Stable Routine etc; Physical Exercises, Route Marching, Company Drill; C.O's Inspection, and A.M's Inspection; Rifle Exercises.

(Sgd) A. Waring, Lieut A.E.
Officer i/c Training.
A.E.E.D.(33).

Clifton, Beds
15.8.18.

446

446
AUSTRALIAN ENGINEER TRAINING DET. SIGNAL SECTION

31st
EXPANDED WEEKLY SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR
ENGINEER TRAINING DET. AUGUST 1918.

MONDAY

MORNING

Stable routine etc; Physical Exercises, Route Marching, Company Drill; Lucas Lamp & Visual Drill; Lectures on signal office routine and instruments; office telegraphists class; cable wagon work.

AFTERNOON

Stable routine etc; cable wagon drill; cable jointing; Lucas lamp and visual work; Lecture on discipline & routine orders; office telegraphists class.

TUESDAY

MORNING

Stable routine etc; Divisional Communication Scheme.

AFTERNOON

Stable routine, etc; Divisional Communication Scheme.

WEDNESDAY

MORNING

Stable routine, etc; Physical exercises; Rifle Exercises; Testing Box respirators; Lecture - Gas measures; Telegraphists class.

AFTERNOON

Stable routine, etc; cable jointing - Grid system; cable wagon drill; station work - Lamp & Flag; office telegraphists class.

THURSDAY

MORNING

Stable routine & care of horses; Physical Exercises; office telegraphists class; Bde Section Forward Communication Scheme during offensive operations from Trench Warfare, (2 squads, all day).

AFTERNOON

Stable routine etc; cable wagon work; office telegraphists class; Bde Section Forward Communication Scheme (as in morning).

FRIDAY

MORNING

Stable routine etc; Gas Drill; Lecture - War aims; Rifle Exercises; Physical Exercises; Route marching; cable jointing - grid system; station work - Lamp & Flag; cable wagon drill; office telegraphists class.

AFTERNOON

Stable routine, etc; Driving drill; Lecture on Instruments; cable jointing - grid system; station work - Lamp & Flag; office telegraphists class; cable wagon work.

SATURDAY

MORNING

Stable Routine etc; Physical Exercises; Route marching & Company Drill; Commanding Officer's Inspection.

CLIFTON, Beds.
22.8.18.

(809) G.H. Dixon, Lieut.-A.E.
Officer i/c Training A.I.F.

