

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

Signals

Item number: 22/17/13

Title: 1st Signal Squadron

March 1917 Includes duplicate



AWM4-22/17/13

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

31

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
Sheik Lowaid	March 1 st -8 th		<p>Squadron moved with Dwnl Hdqrs from Sabkhet to new camp on beach. Existing lines were extended to new office + arrangements made enabling old + new offices to close + open at same hour. The daily visual posts for working with outposts and reconnaissance parties were stationed on selected points suitable to the new position.</p> <p>Motor cyclists being unable to cross sand dunes were temporarily attached to light bar Patrol for rationing + connected by telephone.</p> <p>A detachment consisting of motor cyclists, visual signallers + telephonists was sent out with daily Reconnaissance force to maintain communication back to D.H.Q. In order to conform to locality of operations visual transmitting stations were posted on suitable points. Two transmitting stations were usually necessary to work with reconnaissance parties working from 15 to 20 miles from D.H.Q. Telephonic communication was maintained via El Arish - Gaza telegraph line (repaired by linemen with cable).</p> <p>Sqdr. + D.H.Q. moved to Shumar camp. All lines reeled up except two, taken over by incoming troops. New lines laid to Bdes. in their new positions. Outpost line taken over by infantry from mounted troops.</p>	<p>Major of</p>

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Army Form C. 2118.

2.3.5
2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shunmar	March 9 th -24 th	25 th	All horses & mules shod in readiness for travelling over hard ground. Squadron, with Divnl. Hdqrs & three Bdes. marched out at 0230 - arriving at bivouac, DEIR EL BELAH at 1015. Brigades established their hdqrs close to D.H.Q. & were connected for the night by telephone. Orders received at 2200 to move out with D.H.Q. & column at 0230 & all preparations made.	
		26 th	Marched out in accordance with orders, intention being to circumvent Gaza & prevent escape of prisoners. Instructions issued for all enemy telegraph lines to be cut. Cable detachment with laying line from Desert column marched in rear of column to minimise danger of damage to cable by artillery & transport. Motor cyclists joined column at 0730. Heavy mist prevented all attempts at visual communication until 0815, when a station was detached from column at El Hawadi, 1/2 a mile west of Gaza-Biersheba road. This station gained touch with Imperial Intd. Divn, I. b. C. Bde & 158 th inf. Bde.	Major etc

WAR DIARY

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March 1917 (Erase heading not required.) Signal Sqr. A + N.Z. MTD. DIVN.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Beir el Belah	March 26 th		<p>The latter subsequently moved on behind high ground & lost touch. Divnl. Hdqrs. established at BEIT DURDIS at 1015. Prop station moved on to a suitable position & acted as transmitting station between Imperial Intd. Divn. & D.H.Q. The former subsequently moved to a position enabling direct communication to be established. Line laid by cable detachment to 2nd L.H. Brigade on right flank & detachment remained with Bde. to extend line when they moved forward. Line also laid to Imp. Intd. Divn. visual communication was opened & maintained all day with I. b. b. Brigade, N.Z.M.R. Bde, 22nd MTD. Bde & the outpost line to East & South East. At 1430 D.H.Q. moved to new position two miles near Gaza. Lines extended or diverted to new position and visual communications re-opened. Telephone & visual stations kept touch with all stations from old position until new posts were established. Wireless station erected at D.H.Q. worked all day jamming enemy signals from station in Gaza & from aeroplanes. N.Z.M.R. Bde & 22nd MTD. Bde. moved forward to attack Gaza & were kept in visual communication continuously a line was laid giving telephone communication as soon as their Bde. Hdqrs took up position.</p>	<p>Major</p>

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March 1917

Signal Squadron A 914. 2 Intd Divn.

3
+
5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Deir el Belah March	26		Lines were laid from C.R.A. to the supporting batteries. Orders for withdrawal received at dusk & helios were replaced by lamps & communications maintained until troops moved back to point of assembly for march home.	
	27 th		Telephone & visual communications closed at 0100 on 27 th & column marched back to Belah. Divnl. Hdqrs & Signal Squadron established established temporary bivouac on position occupied previous day. Two subsequent moves were made during afternoon & Hdqrs. finally settled on hill about 2 miles South of Belah. Two brigades took over outpost line & communication by visual & cable was established between Divnl. Hdqrs. & outpost commanders.	
	28 th		Divnl. Hdqrs. moved to new position 1 mile from beach. Outpost line was extended & lines laid to Brigades who had also moved to new positions near beach. Outpost line was taken over by Imperial Intd. Divn. every second day. Telephone & visual detachments were sent out to Hdqrs of Op outposts on the days that the line was taken over by this Division. These detachments maintained continuous communication with Divnl. Hdqrs.	
	31 st		Divnl. Hdqrs & Signal Squadron moved camp to a position on beach. Lines reeled up & re-laid to Brigades & outpost position & visual communication with outpost commander established direct from new position.	

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TRIPPLICATE

SIGNAL SQUADRON. A.E.

FROM 1st MARCH

TO 31st MARCH 1917.

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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1.2.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheik Towaid	March 1 st - 8 th		<p>Squadron moved with Dwnk Hdqrs from Sabkhet to new camp on beach. Existing lines were extended to new office + arrangements made enabling old + new offices to close + open at same hour. The daily visual posts for working with outposts and reconnaissance parties were stationed on selected points suitable to the new position.</p> <p>Motor cyclists being unable to cross sand dunes were temporarily attached to light bar Patrol for rationing + connected by telephone.</p> <p>A detachment consisting of motor cyclists, visual signallers + telephonists was sent out with daily reconnaissance force to maintain communication back to D.H.Q. In order to conform to locality of operations visual transmitting stations were posted on suitable points. Two transmitting stations were usually necessary to work with reconnaissance parties working from 15 to 20 miles from D.H.Q. (Telephonic communication was maintained via El Arish - Gaza telegraph line (repaired by linemen with cable).)</p> <p>Sqdn. + D.H.Q. moved to Shannar camp. All lines reeled up except two, taken over by incoming troops. New lines laid to Bdes. in their new positions. Outpost line taken over by infantry from mounted troops.</p>	Major ofc General

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shunmar	March 24 th - 25 th - 26 th		<p>All horses & mules shod in readiness for travelling over hard ground. Squadron, with Divnl. Hdqrs & three Bdes. marched out at 0230 arriving at bivouac, DEIR EL BELAH at 1015. Brigades established their hdqrs close to D.H.Q. & were connected for the night by telephone. Orders received at 2200 to move out with D.H.Q. column at 0230 & all preparations made. Marched out in accordance with orders, intention being to circumvent Gaza & prevent escape of prisoners. Instructions issued for all enemy telegraph lines to be cut. Cable detachment with laying line from Desert column marched in rear of column to minimise danger of damage to cable by artillery & transport. Motor cyclists joined column at 0730. (Heavy mist prevented all attempts at visual communication until 0815, when a station was detached from column at El Hawadi, 1/2 a mile west of Gaza-Beersheba road. This station gained touch with Imperial Mtd. Divn, I. B. C. Bde & 158th inf. Cde.</p>	<p>Major [unclear] of [unclear]</p>

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March 1917 (Erase heading not required.) Signal Sqn. A + N.Z. MTD. DIVN.

533

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Beir el Belah	March 26 th		<p>The latter subsequently moved on behind high ground & lost touch. Dwnl. Hdqs. established at BEIT DURDIS at 1015. Prop station moved on to a suitable position & acted as transmitting station between Imperial Intd. Divn. & D.H.Q. The former subsequently moved to a position enabling direct communication to be established. Line laid by cable detachment to 2nd L.H. Brigade on right flank & detachment remained with Bde. to extend line when they moved forward. Line also laid to Impi. Intd. Divn. Visual communication was opened & maintained all day with I. b. b. Brigade, N.Z.M.R. Bde, 22nd MTD. Bde & the outpost line to East & South East. At 1430 D.H.Q. moved to new position two miles near Gaza. Lines extended or diverted to new position and visual communications re-opened. Telephone & visual stations kept touch with all stations from old position until new posts were established. Wireless station erected at D.H.Q. worked all day jamming enemy signals from station in Gaza & from aeroplanes. N.Z.M.R. Bde & 22nd MTD. Bde. moved forward to attack Gaza & were kept in visual communication continuously a line was laid giving telephone communication as soon as their Bde. Hdqs. took up position.</p>	Major Major

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March 1917

Signal Squadron A 414.2 Intd Divn.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dive d Belah	March 26		Lines were laid from C.R.A. to the supporting batteries. Orders for withdrawal received at dusk & helios were replaced by lamps & communications maintained until troops moved back to point of assembly for march home.	
	27 th		Telephone & visual communications closed at 0100 on 27 th & column marched back to Belah. Divnl Hdqrs & Signal Squadron established established temporary bivouac on position occupied previous day. Two subsequent moves were made during afternoon & (Hdqrs. finally settled on hill about 2 miles south of Belah. Two brigades took over outpost line & communication by visual & cable was established between Divnl. Hdqrs. & outpost commanders.	
	28 th		Divnl. Hdqrs. moved to new position 1 mile from beach. Outpost line was extended & lines laid to Brigades who had also moved to new positions near beach. Outpost line was taken over by Imperial Intd. Divn. every second day. Telephone & visual detachments were sent out to Hdqrs of 04 outposts on the days that the line was taken over by this Division. These detachments maintained continuous communication with Divnl Hdqrs.	
	31 st		Divnl. Hdqrs & Signal Squadron moved camp to a position on beach. Lines reeled up & re-laid to Brigades & outpost position & visual communication with outpost commander established direct from new position.	

Quayle Major/c