

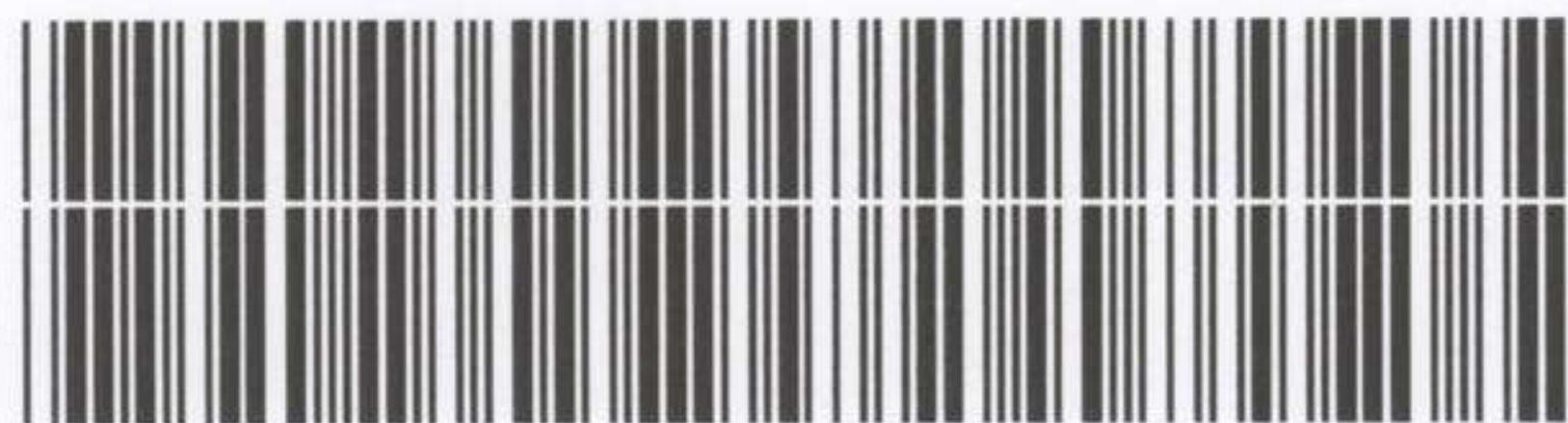
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Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/35/13

Title: General Staff, Headquarters
Australian Corps

January 1919



AWM4-1/35/13

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11-293

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

GENERAL STAFF, AUSTRALIAN CORPS HEADQUARTERS.

FOR

January

1919

Signature of Officer compiling

A. W. Wardell. Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Ed. Blamey C. G.

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.)

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| HAM SUR HEURE | Jan. | 1st | Instructions issued for concentration of 3rd Australian Division at HAUTMONT. (Vide Appendix 1) | App.1 |
| | | 7th | The Field Ambulances within the Corps Area to be further reduced, vide General Staff Circular No.41 (Appendix 2) | App.2 |
| | | 17th | The Field Artillery of the Corps is reduced to four gun batteries and all equipment and horses of 3rd, 6th and 12th Army Brigades, A.F.A. is returned to Ordnance and Remounts, vide General Staff Circular No.42 (Appendix 3) | App.3 |
| | | 23rd | Owing to reduction in strength of personnel of the Corps, the Cable section of each Signal Coy (except the 3rd Aust. Div. Signal Coy) is reduced, vide General Staff Circular No.43 (Appendix 4) | App.4 |
| | | 29th | Instructions issued for the disbandment of Headquarters, Corps Artillery, the Army Field Artillery Brigades coming under the command of the Divisions to which they are allotted for demobilisation, vide General Staff Circular No.44 (Appemdix 5) | App.5 |
| | | 30th | Instructions issued regarding organisation during demobilisation, vide General Staff Circular No.45 (Appendix 6) | App.6 |

W. B. Lamey
Brigadier-General
General Staff.
Australian Corps.

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WAR DIARY

OF

GENERAL STAFF AUSTRALIAN CORPS HEADQUARTERS.

FOR

JANUARY

1916.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Australian Corps Order No 187 - Concentration of 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery |
| 2. | G.S. Circular No 41. Reorganisation of Field Ambulances. |
| 3. | G.S. Circular No 42. Reduction of Field Artillery. |
| 4. | G.S. Circular No 43. Reduction of Signal Coys. |
| 5. | G.S. Circular No 44. Disbandment of H.Q. Aust Corps Artillery. |
| 6. | G.S. Circular No 45. Organisation during Demobilization. |
| 7. | G.S. Circular No 46. D.R. Letter Service. |

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,
1st January, 1919.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS ORDER NO. 187.

1. The 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery will be concentrated in HAUTMONT under instructions to be issued by the G.O.C.,
2. Completion of moves rendered necessary by this order will be reported to this office.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sturges
for
Brigadier-General,
General Staff,
Australian Corps.

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12. G.O.C.,
13. File,
- 14 -16. War Diary
- 17 -21. Retained.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS,

136/400

Headquarters,
7th January, 1919.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR NO. 41.

REORGANISATION OF FIELD AMBULANCES.

1. With reference to General Staff Circular No. 40, dated 16th December, 1918, it has now been decided that the Field Ambulances within the Australian Corps will be further reduced.
(Authority: - D.A.G. 51/70 dated 3rd January, 1919.)

2. The two section organisation will be maintained. "C" Section will be eliminated. The establishment of the remaining sections will be as laid down in War Establishments, Part VIIA for "A" and "B" Sections respectively with the following additions to each section :-

- 1 motor ambulance with driver and orderly;
- 1 G.S. Wagon with driver and two Heavy Draught horses.

These will be attached to "A" and "B" Sections from the disbanded "C" Section.

3. Personnel and material rendered surplus by this reorganisation will be disposed of in accordance with instructions contained in General Staff Circular No. 40.

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136/417
 Australian Corps.
 17th January, 1919.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No. 42

1. Owing to the reduction in strength in personnel of the Artillery units of the Australian Corps consequent on the return to AUSTRALIA of a number of long service men, increasing difficulty has been experienced in carrying out the work entailed in connection with the care and maintenance of horses and equipment.
2. It has been decided therefore to carry into effect the following measures forthwith. (Authority G.H.Q. O.B.2301E. dated 13 th January, 1919).
 - (a) Return to Ordnance and Remounts respectively of the equipment and horses of the 3rd, 6th and 12th Army Brigades, Australian Field Artillery.
 - (b) Reduction of the remainder of the Australian Field Artillery to four gun batteries.
 - (c) Return to Ordnance of the equipment of the Medium Trench Mortar Batteries of the Corps.
3. (a) Instructions regarding the disposal of personnel thus released are being issued by A.I.F. Headquarters.
 (b) Detailed instructions regarding the disposal of surplus equipment, stores and horses will be issued separately.
4. The Corps Commander desires that these decisions should be made known, at once, to all ranks concerned.

A. Milligan Lt Col
 for
 Brigadier-General
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 Australian Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

70/211.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No. 43

Headquarters
23rd Jan'y 1919REDUCTION IN STRENGTH OF SIGNAL COMPANIES.

1. Owing to the reduction in strength of personnel of the Corps and Divisional Signal Companies, increasing difficulty has been experienced in carrying out the work entailed in the care and maintenance of horses and equipment.
2. (a) It has been decided therefore, as a temporary measure of relief, to return to Ordnance and Remounts respectively, the equipment and horses of one Cable Section in each of the following units:-
 Australian Corps Signal Company
 1st Australian Divisional Signal Company
 2nd Australian Divisional Signal Company
 4th Australian Divisional Signal Company
 5th Australian Divisional Signal Company.
 (b) The 3rd Australian Divisional Signal Company will be maintained, for the present, at War Establishment.
3. (a) Personnel rendered surplus by this reduction will be distributed amongst the remaining Sections of each Signal Company.
 (b) Instructions regarding the disposal of surplus equipment, stores, and horses, will be issued by the Administrative Branch of the Corps.

S. L. Williams
 for Brigadier General,
 General Staff,
 Australian Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

5/980

Headquarters,
29th January, 1919.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR NO. 44.

1. Headquarters, Corps Artillery will cease to function as from 1st February, 1919. Instructions as to the disposal of personnel will be issued separately.
2. Australian Army Field Artillery Brigades will pass under the command of divisions to whom they are allotted in the demobilisation grouping as laid down in the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation General Instructions No. 9, Annexure "A", dated 18th January, 1919, forthwith.
3. The Brigade Signal Sections of Army Field Artillery Brigades will be concentrated at KARBAIX under arrangements to be made between Chief Signal Officer, Australian Corps and Commanding Officers of Army Field Artillery Brigades. These sections will be attached to Australian Corps Signal Company and their final disposal will be arranged by the Chief Signal Officer.
4. Matters affecting Heavy Artillery will be dealt with by the B. G., Heavy Artillery, who will deal direct with Corps Headquarters.
5. G.O.C., R.A. will ensure that all records are properly completed and returned to base.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR NO. 45.ORGANISATION DURING DEMOBILISATION.

1. With reference to Repatriation and Demobilisation General Instructions No. 9, Annexure "A", dated 13th January, 1919, the principles governing the grouping of divisions are as follows:-
 - (a) The group should be as large as possible to allow of a complete divisional quota in each case being sent from a single group. The quota should consist of men from as few units as possible. This is essential in the interests of discipline on the return journey, and it is also in accordance with the wish of the Australian Government that men should be returned by units as far as practicable.
 - (b) The divisional quota will be sent from each group of the division in strict rotation. As few groups as possible should be formed in order to ensure that there is not too great an interval of time between the despatch of the successive quotas from each group.
The grouping of divisions will be organised to ensure, as far as possible, that these conditions are fulfilled. Instructions from these headquarters can only lay down the general lines, and the distribution of units to groups are matters for consideration by Divisional Commanders. Minor modifications of the grouping must be made under the authority of Divisional Commanders as the conditions in each division require.
2. Divisions will be organised in three groups. Where circumstances demand the Divisional Artillery, and such other units as it may be desirable to attach to it, may be formed as a fourth group. The organisation of the fourth group will be a temporary arrangement only, and as the reduction of horses and other special circumstances permit the artillery brigades should be distributed to other groups. Where this is done some departure from the principle laid down in paragraph 1 (b) may be necessary.
3. Demobilisation under the Divisional Group organisation should commence as soon as the demobilisation of men who enlisted in 1916 commences.
4. The organisation in three groups will be maintained as long as the numbers in the various groups demand. Later the groups in each division will be reduced to two and dispensing with a headquarters, and at a later stage will be reduced to a single group.
5. The Corps Commander desires that Divisional Commanders should now give their attention to the detailed organisation of their respective groups. Divisions will also work out a progressive scheme for the reduction of the divisions until each division is reduced to a single group.

* * *

In preparing the scheme Divisional Commanders will bear in mind the fact that the demobilisation of M.T. and H.T. personnel is reducing the capacity of the transport and supply services rapidly. The diminution of numbers in divisions requires that the areas occupied by divisions should be contracted. This contraction will be worked out to ensure that divisions are gradually concentrated towards their respective railheads. Units should not be required to move more often than is unavoidable.

Two copies of each Divisional Scheme will be forwarded to Corps Headquarters.

6. It has been laid down in A.I.F. Order No. 1523 that units should be amalgamated as soon as the number falls 40% below the strength of establishment. When units are amalgamated representatives of the staff of headquarters which cease to function will be attached to the staff which administers the combined unit.

This principle will be followed with groups which amalgamate, and later with divisions which amalgamate.

Each unit will retain its identity and the members will wear the colour patches of their present unit.

7. As soon as two units have been combined the unit equipment of a single unit will be employed for the amalgamated unit and the equipment of the unit which ceases to function will be returned to store. The cadre of the unit which ceases to function, vide Repatriation and Demobilisation General Instructions No. 9, Annexure "A", dated 18th January, 1919, will remain in charge of this equipment until such time as it is all returned. The complete equipment of a unit must be returned at one time.

With reference to Field Ambulances the Section will be regarded as a unit for the return of equipment.

8. It is essential that arrangements should be made to ensure a sufficient supply of special personnel such as cooks and transport drivers to maintain the efficiency and contentment within the unit until the unit has been demobilised. A large proportion of personnel of this nature are men of long service and will be withdrawn in their turn in a greater proportion than the men of the unit. In order to overcome this difficulty men of late enlistment should be attached for duty as cooks, drivers, &c. forthwith, and receive instruction in their duties. Where this involves men of one unit being employed in another unit they may be either transferred or attached. The interests of the men should be considered as far as possible in order to allow them to return to AUSTRALIA as members of their present units, and the policy will be to 'attach' rather than to 'transfer'. Where it is desirable in the interests of the man to effect a transfer, for example, in the case of a private becoming a driver, this may be done under the authority of Divisional Commanders.

9. A number of reinforcements are now on their way to divisions. It is for Divisional Commanders to determine the allotment of these men to units according to present and future requirements, and it is desirable that they should go direct to the units to which they are allotted instead of being transferred at a later stage.

10. In determining the number of medical personnel to be sent with each quota, Field Ambulances should not be reduced below the strength of a full "A" Section plus "B" Section transport until such time as a unit or group has fallen below 50% of establishment.

/s/ 11. The Sanitary Sections

11. The Sanitary Sections consist largely of long service personnel and these men must be considered for repatriation in their turn, as far as conditions permit. In order to meet the difficulty Divisional Commanders will arrange to attach as many late enlistment men as may be necessary to the Sanitary Sections. Men so attached will be employed under the orders of the Commanders of Sanitary Sections and may be transferred to the Sanitary Sections to replace men due for demobilisation, as soon as the O.C. Sanitary Section is satisfied that they are capable of carrying out the duties.

Commanders of Sanitary Sections are not to be demobilised without the authority of D.D.M.S. of the Australian Corps.

E. B. Blaney

Brigadier-General,
General Staff,
Australian Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

175/499.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No. 46.

Headquarters,
31st January 1919.

D.R. LETTER SERVICE.

1. The following rules for the D.R. Letter Service are re-published for information:
 - (a) It is for official correspondence only
 - (b) It is not to be used for correspondence for which the Army Postal Service is sufficient.
 - (c) No packet will be carried which cannot be contained in a normal sized envelope, (i.e. not larger than 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ "). The carrying capacity of a D.R. is limited and larger packets can only be carried by the Signal Service when other packets do not constitute a full load.
 - (d) The address must include the name of the formation from whose signal office the packet is to be delivered to the addressee.
 - (e) All envelopes must be handed into a signal office and must be marked "D.R.L.S." on the right-hand top corner, supported by the signature of an officer. Each envelope should also have an identification number, and, if possible, the office stamp of the office sending it out.

The above normal D.R.L.S. should meet the requirements for all except the most urgent correspondence.

2. In cases where a special despatch rider must be sent with correspondence, the envelope must be endorsed "Special Despatch Rider" and signed by an officer having authority to frank a "Priority" message. Envelopes marked "pressing" or "urgent" will be sent by ordinary D.R.L.S., but will be specially delivered from the signal office to which addressed.

3. REGISTRATION The signal service will only register important letters. All secret or confidential letters come under this category. All letters to be registered will be marked by the sender with a large "R", red in colour, and at least $\frac{3}{8}$ " in height, on the outside of the envelope, and will be signed by an officer. Letters not so marked will not be registered by the signal office. Rubber stamp or hectographed signatures will not be accepted.

4. All packets and letters not complying with the above instructions will be refused acceptance at the signal office at which they are being handed in.

5. The restrictions placed upon the sending of telegrams under the provisions of General Staff Circular No. 6 dated 3rd February 1918, para. 3, sub-paras (i) and (ii) are now removed. The sub-paras quoted read as follows -
 - (i) Only telegrams upon which action has to be taken within 24 hours of the time of writing the message will be sent over the wires. All other messages will be sent under cover of D.R.L.S.

/ (ii).

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(ii) In the case of multiple addresses, the action portion will be sent over the wires, the information portion being sent by D.R.L.S.

S.H. Milligan Lt. Col.
for Brigadier General,
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