

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

Signals

**Item number:** 22/15/16

**Title:** 5th Australian Division Signals  
Company

May 1917



AWM4-22/15/16

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.

SHEET No. 1.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>The Dingle Near Contalmaison S 27 B 3-8 (France 57 D.S.E.)</p>	<p>1-5-16 &amp; 6-5-16.</p>		<p>Coy in rest with Division at The Dingle. Work of clearing Area of derelict Cable continued. The amount of Cable recovered during these days totalled 96 miles.</p> <p>On 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst, Lieut Collier of this Unit, reported to 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Div Inf Coy, for temporary duty, consequent upon casualty of Lieut Pentoul of that Coy. Lieut Collier returned to this Unit on 5<sup>th</sup> Inst.</p> <p><u>Divisional Shows.</u> On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May Athletic Sports and Horse Shows were held. This Coy. was well represented in both Athletic &amp; Horse events and participated in the prize money.</p> <p>A Sub. Signal Office was established on the Show Ground &amp; all messages transmitted from Div H.Q. Office &amp; delivered from here; the office was also available for the dispatch of Telegrams &amp; necessary Telephone Conversations.</p>	

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No. 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dingle	7-5-17.		No. 3. Section accompanied 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde to relieve Brigade of 2nd Div. Took over Bde office at H18A 5.6 at 6.30 Pm.	[initials]
	8-5-17.		No. 3 Sectn. moved forward to NOREUL (C10C9.1) arriving 8.30 Am No 4 Sectn. took over from No. 3. at H18A 5.6 at 8 Am.	
			<u>Weather</u> Fine up to date, rain set in overnight, clear by middy, roads only temporarily affected, but not to materially delay DRLS.	[initials]
	9-5-17		No. 2. Section took over from No 4 Sectn (H18A 1.9) at 8.30 am. No 3 Sectn took over Comms from 3 <sup>rd</sup> A. I. Bde at C10C9.1 at 4 am	[initials]
Monument Commemorative H15 C4.3 Vaula C26 D 2.5 France 54 D.	10-5-17		Div. Office at Dingle handed over to 2nd Aust Div. - and we took over Communications at C26 D 2.5 and H15 C4.3 at noon.	[initials]
			<del>Summary of Events and Information</del>	
	12-5-17		No 4. Sectn took over from 2nd A. I. Bde. Lys at 2.30 am. No 2 Sectn took over from Lys 175 <sup>th</sup> Bde at C29A 0.2 at 11 Pm. No 4 Sectn handed over to Lys 175 <sup>th</sup> Bde - midnight 12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> .	[initials]

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Sheet No. 3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13-5-17 to 21-5-17		During period of active operations when Bdes were actually in line, summary of Comms. etc. are attached. Diagram of Comms. on 16-5-17 as attached - appendix I	
	21-5-17		No 4. Sectn. established Bde Sig. Office at H20 C28 at 2.35 PM.	
	23-5-17		Adv. H.Q. Sig. Office at Monument Commemorate (H15: C43) was handed over to Signals 20th Division. Diagram of Communications in Divisional Area shown in Appendix IA.	
	24-5-17 25-5-17		No 2. Sectn. was relieved by Signals 48th Div. at C29 A52 at 10.30 am and moved to H33 A ant. establishing Sig office at 5 am.	
	26-5-17		No 3. Section opened office at Le Transloy 12.5 PM.	
	26-5-17 31-5-17		Adv. H.Q. Sig. Comms. taken over by Sig 20th Div. at 10 am Diagrams of Div. and Bde lines as per appendix I and additional <sup>Party. line</sup> diagrams, also diagrams of Am. lines, and others showing wireless apparatus, were handed over to relieving Division (20th)	
Beaucourt 435 C5-5 France 57D			Diagrams of Comms. Appendix II. Showing Circuits in use in this Area. System of Training carried on. Signalling Classes etc established as per Summary. Work of cleaning harness & equipment ready for service carried out. In conjunction with Field Coy. Engrs., a series of Divisional Engineer inter Coy Competitions in Football & other Athletic Sports was commenced.	

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Sheet No 4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Personnel</u></p> <p><u>Strength</u> 31<sup>st</sup> May 17. 9 Officers 240 O.R. Horses 91 Mules 23.</p> <p><u>Reinforcements</u> of 6 O.R. reported during month.</p> <p><u>Sickness</u> - During the month 10 men were sent to Hospital, and 2 returned.</p> <p><u>Casualties</u> - One O.R. Died of Wounds and C.C.S. on 13<sup>th</sup> Inst.</p> <p>3 attached runners were lost during month. One runner severely wounded whilst carrying despatches.</p> <p>Two runners from 2<sup>nd</sup> London Regt. attached to this Coy. failed to return to Relay Post - apparently, casualties.</p> <p><u>Transfers</u> - 2 O.R. Transfers were effected. 2 O.R. to Cadet Training Battalions England.</p> <p><u>Horses</u>. Strength 31<sup>st</sup> May. Hides 43, Draught 48, Mules 23.</p> <p>Six L.D. received from Base.</p> <p>1 Hide destroyed as result of accidental injury.</p>	

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Sheet No. 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Communications</u>: - During the period 7<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May, whilst Division was in line, Divl Signal offices were established at Rear HQ (H 15 C 43.) and Adv HQ at Vault. One 30 line Magneto Switchboard was used at rear HQ with subscribers as per list Appendix III. At Adv. HQ one 20 line Magneto board &amp; 1 Bugger Unit were used, subscribers as per list (No 2) Appendix IV<sup>IV</sup> were connected.</p> <p>Difficulty was experienced in thoroughly maintaining forward Communications owing to the very heavy shellfire. From Div. to Bdes positions the buried Cable system assisted greatly and Communication was continuous. This buried route ran from Vault through NOREUL GULLY to NOREUL, thence on to Railway embankment at C. 5. Central. This area was very heavily shelled, and buried System was invaluable, on account of its comparative safety. On one occasion only was buried System in our Area cut and then only a percentage of lines disconnected.</p>	

200/

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Sheet No. 6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>From Ades to Bns found lines were continually being cut, and one section reported on 10<sup>th</sup> mg, one forward line to Bn in action was broken 27 times in one day.</p> <p>In another instance (21<sup>st</sup> May) one <sup>Bde</sup> Section reported all forward lines cut at 4 am. - linesmen repaired 10 x 12 breaks in each line. Power Buzzers &amp; Amplifiers kept Comm to front line during all interruptions.</p> <p>Forward of Bns greater difficulty was experienced in maintaining Telephone Communications, and Power Buzzers had to be largely relied on. Good work was done with Power Buzzers &amp; Amplifier between front line &amp; Bde &amp; by this means Communications were maintained.</p> <p>On 13<sup>th</sup> mg, Signal office of Bde on our left (175<sup>th</sup>) was destroyed by a direct hit from shell. Only 2 men from Signal Sectn. were unwounded, all lines &amp; instruments destroyed. We rushed new lines from our relay post, and sent linesmen from there &amp; nearest Ades. Working in conjunction with 58<sup>th</sup> Div. Signals Communications were restored 5.35 am.</p>	

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Sheet No. 7.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Motor Cyclists.</u> Roads to Relay post (Noreuil) and Left Bde (also Noreuil) were sufficiently good for m.c. traffic and m.c. despatch riders were used between Rear &amp; Adv. <sup>Div.</sup> H.Q. (Vaux); and forward from Adv. D.H.Q. to relay Sta and Left Bde (Noreuil)</p> <p>The weather during the term in line was fine, with 2 exceptions <sup>each</sup> of one day rains, light showers fell and roads were but temporarily affected and soon dried. D. &amp; L.S. did not suffer to any extent.</p> <p><u>Pigeon Service</u> was established with front line; birds being sent up daily. No great use was made of pigeons, and only test messages sent when birds were due for liberation.</p> <p><u>Signal Office</u> traffic increased greatly whilst in line and when Adv. Office was used. Graphs showing Signal Office traffic at Div. H.Q. Signal Offices are attached Appendix V &amp; VI.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>SCHOOLS.</u></p> <p>Whilst in rest Areas full advantage of time was taken to establish Signalling Classes. The first School (Divisional) was commenced at The Dingle on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and closed, on account of Div. returning to line, on 8<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Sixty regimental Signallers attended the School representing 4 per Inf. Bn., 6 from Pioneer Bn., &amp; 2 per M. G. Coy.</p> <p>Syllabus of Training &amp; Training memoranda per Appendix VII &amp; VIII.</p> <p>On again returning from line 3 Brigade Signalling Schools were established, commencing 30<sup>th</sup> May. 26. Regimental Signallers attending each Brigade School. O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. supervised the 3 Schools, and Instructors were - O.C. Brigade Sectns. assisted by Battalion Signalling Officers and Bde Sectn n.c.o.s. Special attention is being given to instruction and practice in Visual Signalling and Fullerphone working.</p> <p><u>Piper Training</u> - 12 men per Inf. Bde are attending 4 day Courses of Instr. in Piper Service at the Div. Lqts.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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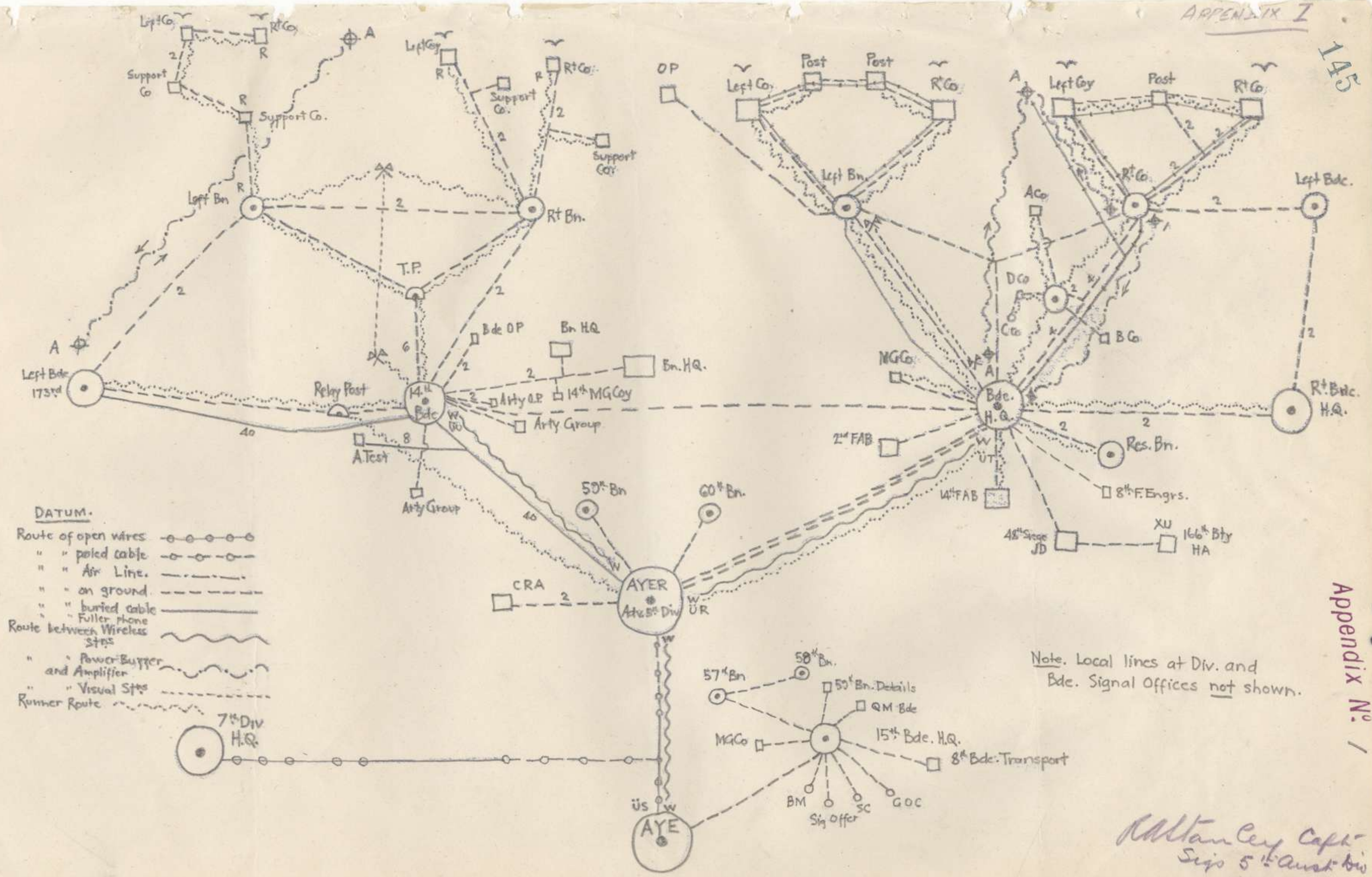
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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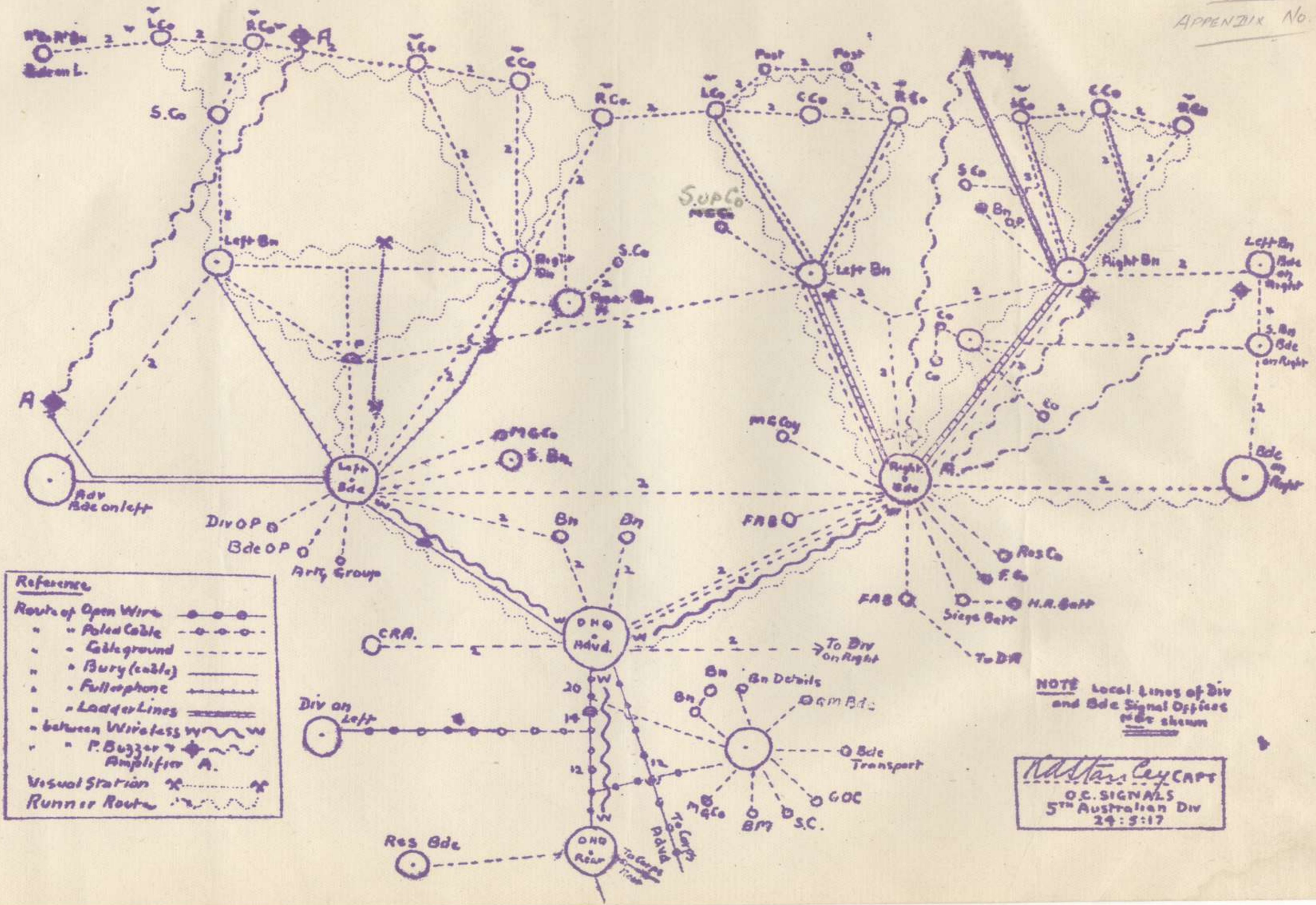
Sheet No. 9.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>During the month Officers and men of the Coy. and attached, attended Schools as follows.</p> <p>Writers Course      1 officer.                      Gas School            1 OR                      Power Buzzer        2 OR (attached.)</p> <p>It is found that but a small percentage of Regimental Signals are capable of operating the Power buzzer or Fullerphone above 8 words per minute.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W. H. C. C. C.</i>                      W. H. C. C. C.                      C.O. 5TH AUST. DIV'L. SIGNAL CO.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>W. H. C. C. C.</i>                      W. H. C. C. C.</p>



William Carey Capt  
 Sigs 5th Aust Div  
 16-5-17

Appendix No. 1



**Reference**

- Route of Open Wire ————
- " " Paled Cable - - - - -
- " " Cableground . . . . .
- " " Bury (cable) ————
- " " Fullerphone ————
- " " Ladder Lines ————
- " between Wireless W ~~~~~
- " " P. Buzzer & Amplifier A. ~~~~~
- Visual Station X X
- Runner Route ~~~~~

**NOTE** Local Lines of Div and Bde Signal Officers not shown

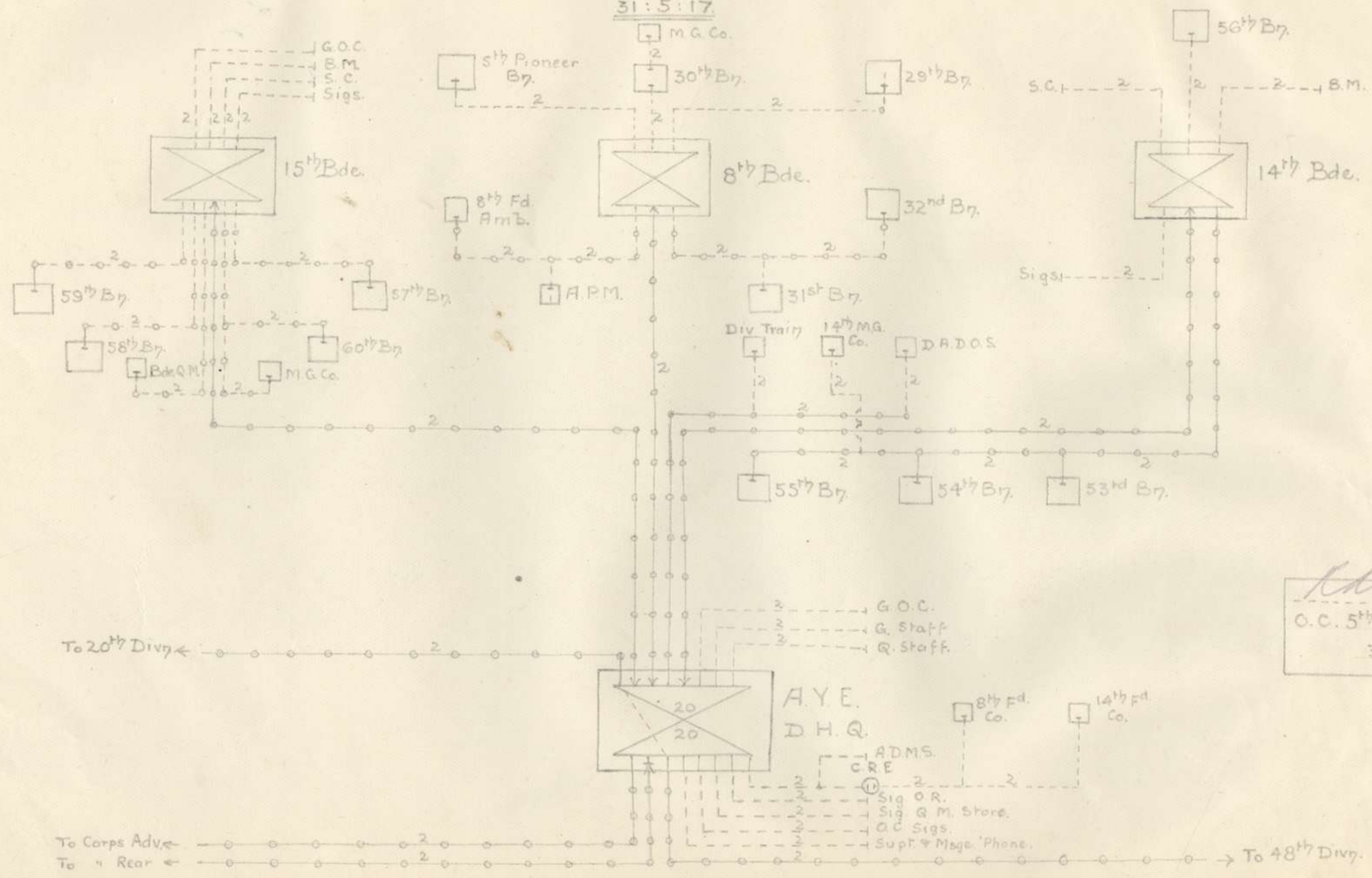
*N. Starkey* CAPT  
O.C. SIGNALS  
5th Australian Div  
24.5.17

Appendix No. 1A.

Diagram  
of  
Communications

APPENDIX II  
145

5<sup>th</sup> Australian Div.  
31:5:17.



*R. M. Stanby* Capt  
O.C. 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig. Coy  
31:5:17.

Appendix No. 2

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Army Form C. 2118.

APPENDIX III.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place Date Hour

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS.

REAR HQRS. EXCHANGE (Monument Commemorative)

- ANZ.A.C. (ADV) HQRS.
- ANZ.A.C. (REAR) HQRS. - 2 LINES.
- ADV. II.H.Q. (VAULX)
- LEFT. DIV.
- A.P.M.
- G STAFF
- Q STAFF
- 2<sup>ND</sup> AUST. DIV. ART. (REAR HQ)
- C.R.A.
- II.A.D.O.S.
- A.D.M.S.
- RES. BDE.
- 175<sup>TH</sup> INF BDE.
- 175<sup>TH</sup> BDE TRANSPORT.
- II.H.Q. (Horse Lines)
- G.Q. Cable Sectn.
- DIV TRAIN
- 15<sup>TH</sup> FIELD Coy.
- PIGEON LOFTS.
- WIRELESS SECTN.
- O.C. SIGNALS.
- SIGNAL STORES.
- Msqe Fone (Sq Office).

A5834 W.V. Cases/MS7 750000 8/16 D.D.R. (Field Handbook) 1/1/18

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

ADV DIV HQRS EXCHANGE (VAULX)

A.N.Z.A.C HQRS. (2 LINES)

LEFT DIV.

REAR DIV. HQRS.

20TH DIV.

RIGHT DIV.

G.O.C.

G STAFF

Q STAFF

2ND DIV. ART.

C.R.E.

8TH BDE TRANSPORT (AUST)

14TH INF BDE (AUST) - 2 LINES.

8TH AUST. INF. BDE - 2 LINES.

61ST. Inf BDE

GQ CABLE SECTION.

O.C. Signals

BUZZER UNIT (JUNCTION).

ON BUZZER UNIT.

RESERVE BN. (2 LINES)

DIV. O.P.

14TH F. Coy Engrs.

LEFT BDE.

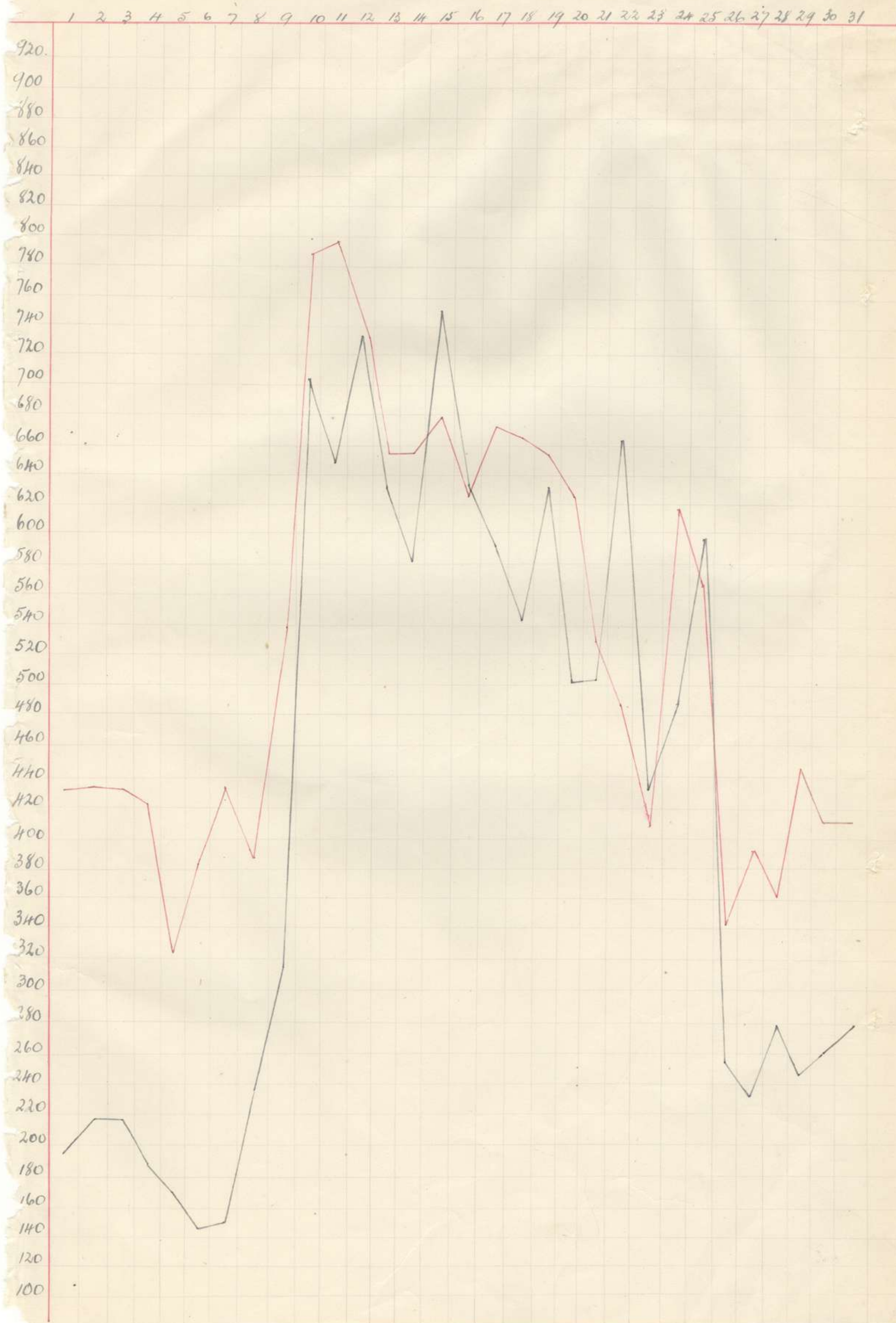
DIV. RELAY POST (NOREUL)

APPENDIX IV

45

ASST. VICE CHIEF OF STAFF

AND





# Telegraph Traffic Chart

Appendix No 6

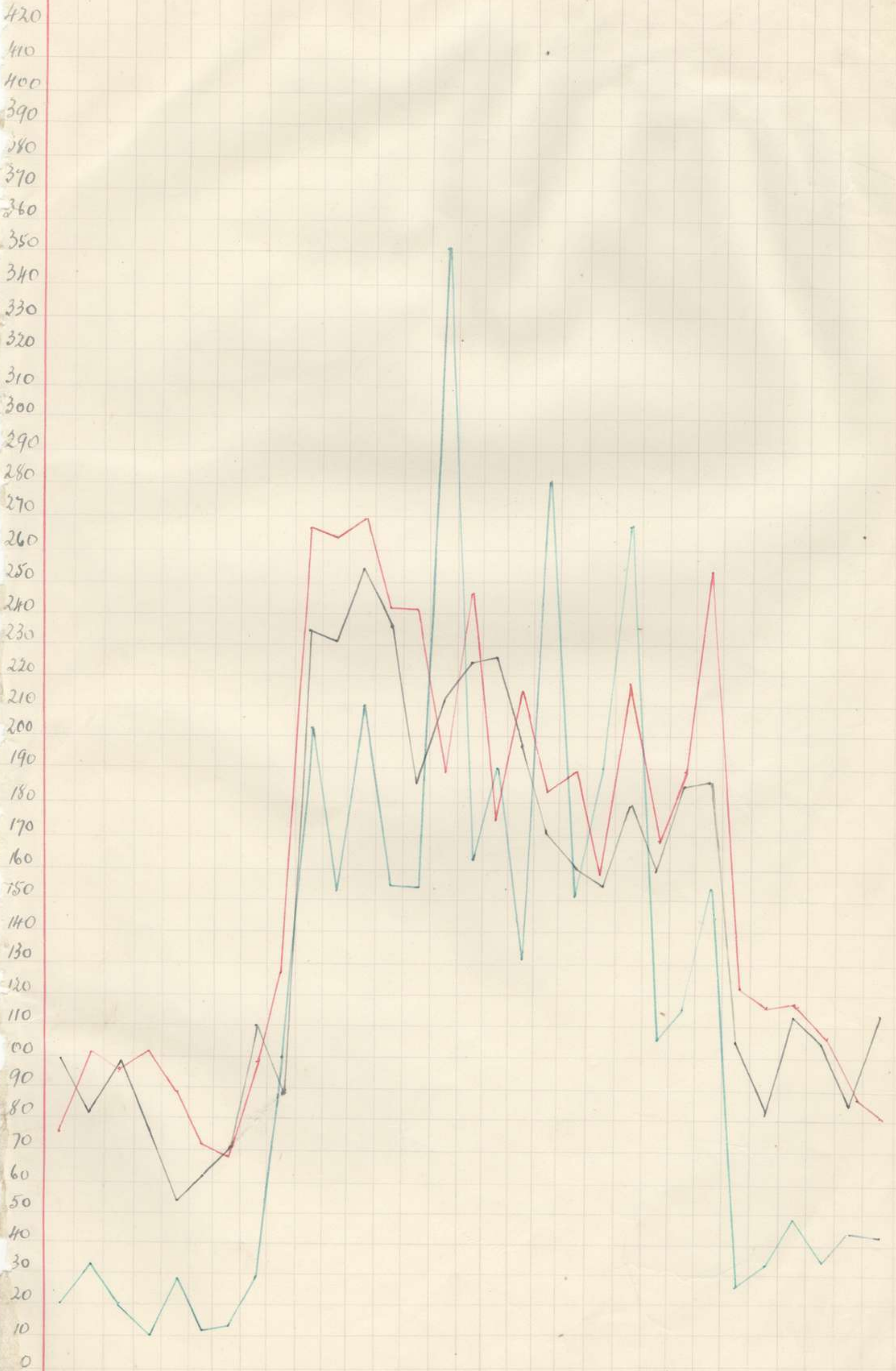
May 1917

"A" Forms ———

"B" Forms. ———

"C" Forms ———

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



## 5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

## TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 84.

## SIGNALLING SCHOOL

1. A School for Regimental Signallers is to be established near Divisional Headquarters.
2. The Course will last 10 days and will commence on THURSDAY MAY 3rd. at 10 a.m., at which hour the following will report to O.C. Divisional Signal Company.
  - 4 other ranks from each Infantry Battalion
  - 6 other ranks from Pioneer Battalion
  - 2 other ranks from each Machine Gun Company.
3. Each Infantry Brigade party will be in charge of an N.C.O., who will be responsible for discipline during the course.
4. Accommodation and rations for the School will be arranged by O.C. Divisional Signal Company with A.A. & Q.M.G.
5. All ranks attending the course will bring a small signalling flag.
6. 5th. Pioneer Battalion will please also detail two Cooks.

*Curragh staff.*

Lieut-Colonel  
General Staff  
5th, AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

2nd May 1917.

Distribution:-	Copies.
8th Infantry Brigade	7
14th Infantry Brigade	7
15th Infantry Brigade	7
5th Pioneer Battalion	1
Divisional Signal Company	12
Divisional Train	2
A.D.M.S.	1
Copies to:-	
"G"	1
"C"	2
A.D.C. to G.O.C.	1

SCHEDULE OF DEVELOPMENTAL SIGNAL SCHOOL FOR REGIMENTAL SIGNALLERS.

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	<u>8 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.</u>	<u>10.45 a.m. to 12 noon</u>	<u>2 p.m. to 3 p.m.</u>	<u>3 p.m. to 4 p.m.</u>
3rd				Address by Instructor on object and work of school.
4th	Small flag and semaphore	Message Form. Buzzer practice	Divisional Sports	Divisional Sports.
5th	(8 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.) Flag Drill. Small Flag and Semaphore	Divisional Horse Show	Divisional Horse Show	Divisional Horse Show
6th	Flag Drill. Small Flag and Semaphore	Message Forms-counting etc. Buzzer practice	CABLES-jointing and insulating. Buzzer practice	Procedure and Office routine. Fullerphone
7th.	Small Flag. Miscellaneous and Station Signls.	CABLES-jointing and insulating. Fullerphone	SHUTTER and DISC Lamp reading. Daylight Signalling lamp	TELEPHONES-The proper method of use, care of etc. Buzzer practice.
8th	Small Flag and Semaphore. Miscellaneous and Station Signls	Telephoning Messages-Correct procedure Buzzer practice	CABLES-jointing and insulating. Fullerphone	As arranged by Instructor.
9th	Small Flag. Station Work Buzzer practice	Shutters and Discs Fullerphone	Telephone messages-correct procedure of. Buzzer practice	Lamp reading. Daylight Signalling lamp Fullerphone.
10th	Small Flag & Semaphore Station work	As arranged by Instructor	CABLES-jointing and insulating-laying and maintaining lines. Fullerphone	D.3. and Stevens Telephones-Simple faults and simple tests. Buzzer practice.
11th	Small Flag. Station Work-DD. DD Messages	Lamp reading-Daylight Signalling lamps. Fullerphone	CABLES-jointing and insulating-Laying and maintaining of lines. Buzzer practice	Fullerphone As arranged by Instructor
12th	Small Flag. Station Work	Lamp Reading. Fullerphone	CABLES-jointing and insulating-Laying and maintaining lines. Buzzer practice.	Fullerphone. Comments by Instructor on work of school

Appendix No. 87

APPENDIX VII