

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

Signals

**Item number:** 22/15/20

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

September 1917



AWM4-22/15/20



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5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVL. SIGNAL COY.

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.

No. ....  
Date .....

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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5TH AUST. DIV. SIGNAL COY.

SHEET No. 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLARINGHEM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept to 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1917		<p>From 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. to 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, Coy Headquarters were at BLARINGHEM and No 2, 3 &amp; 4 Sections with their respective Brigades at WARDRECQUES, <del>SERCUS</del> and EBBLINGHEM and SERCUS Areas.</p> <p>Training continued and general Routine work was carried out.</p>	
STEENVORDE	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept		<p>Nos 2, 3, &amp; 4 Sections of this Coy, travelled to STEENVORDE with the 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Bdes.</p>	
RENINGHELST	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept		<p>Coy Headquarters moved by road from BLARINGHEM to RENINGHELST. relieving 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division at 12 noon on that day.</p> <p>Brigade Sections moved into RENINGHELST Area.</p> <p>Diagrams of Communications in RENINGHELST Area shown on APPENDIX I.</p>	
HOOGE CRATER	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept		<p>No. 3. Section replaced Signals 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Brigade at Hooge Crater night of 22/23<sup>rd</sup> Sept.</p> <p>Line parties from No. 1. Section rep took up positions on buried routes.</p>	



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No. 2

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
DICKEBUSH. H 27 B 7-7. Map Belgium & France. Sheet No. 28.	23/9/17		Headquarters moved from RENINGHELST to DICKEBUSH (WALKERS CAMP) relieving 1st Australian Division at latter place. Division occupy line bounded - on front line - North J 8 Central to J 14 C 8-3 on South. Area thus bounded occupied from 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept. until 1 <sup>st</sup> October. 4 <sup>th</sup> Australian Division on Left. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Imperial Division on Right.	
	24-9-17	6:50 am	Active operations commenced morning of 26 <sup>th</sup> Inst. During which offensive operation this Division advanced from 11 to 1300 yards. Appendix II gives notes on Communications prior, during, and subsequent to the battle. Appendices III & IV show respectively diagrams of Communications and route diagrams after consolidation of positions.	
	27-9-17		No 2. Section with 8 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde replaced No 4 Section on R. Bde Sector, occupying Headquarters in HOOGE CRATER. No. 4. Section moved to CHATEAU SEWARD AREA.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DICKERBUSH H 27 B 7 7.	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept		On 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept. No 2 Section with 8 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde. was relieved by Signals 110 <sup>th</sup> Imperial Division Bde at midnight. Section moved to CHATEAU BELGE AREA.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		No. 3 Section (14 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde) relieved by Signal Section 22 <sup>nd</sup> Imp. Bde at midnight, moved to PIONEER AREA. No. 4 Section moved to DOMINION AREA (Ouderdom - Poppenhe Road)	
			<u>GRAPHS.</u> Appendices 5 + 6. Show Signal office traffic for month - especially illustrating increase of business during period of offensive operations.	
			During the period of operations especially good work was done and exhibitions of gallantry & devotion to duty were shown by the following each of whom has been recommended for reward.	
			LIEUT. S. L. BUTLER, Spt. T. J. HENRY, SPR K. PARNELL SPR A. A. WEIR SPR H. W. DADSWELL	
			SERGT. J. M. MOORE, Spt. C. J. S. WELLS SPR ER BYRNES SPR W. H. MORRIS PTE A. J. COLE	} Attached to Wireless Sectn.
			PTE R. McDONALD	} From 54 <sup>th</sup> BATTALION.

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No. 4.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dickebush.	30/9/17.		<u>PERSONNEL</u> Establishment this day 13 officers 333 O.R.	
			Strengths 13 " 337 O.R.	
			On leave to England during month 1 " 35 O.R. Including 5 permanently attached.	
			" " Paris " " 1 " - -	
			In Hospital Sick " " - " 28 O.R. " 6 " "	
			Returned from Hospital " " - " 9 O.R.	
			Reinforcements received " " 46 O.R.	
			Battle Casualties: - Killed in Action 1 Died of wounds 1 Missing 1 Wounded 19 Includes 5 permanently attached.	
			<u>Schools</u> . The following Schools were attended: -	
			Wireless 2nd Army: - { Capt Bath full Course, Lt Sweetman 3dgs. 2ppl Wallen " "	
			Cookery Demonstration 1 O.R.	
			P.B. + Amplifier Working 12 Sappers from Bde Sections attended local Course.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Drekebusch	30/9/17		<p><u>HORSES &amp; MULES :-</u></p> <p>A change of establishment was made during the month. 16 riding horses being replaced with bicycles.</p> <p>PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT. Rides 47. L.D. - 71.</p> <p>" STRENGTH. " 58. L.D. - 47. Mules 19.</p> <p>Evacuated sick during month 1 Ride.</p> <p>Destroyed as result of accident. 1 " 1 L.D.</p> <p>Killed by enemy action 3 " - 2 Mules.</p> <p>(whilst in charge of Pack Transport Section)</p> <p>Received from other Units:- 7 Rides 2 L.D.</p> <p>On formation of Pack Transport Section we loaned 15 Horses &amp; 3 mules.</p>	

*R. M. Stanley*

*[Signature]*

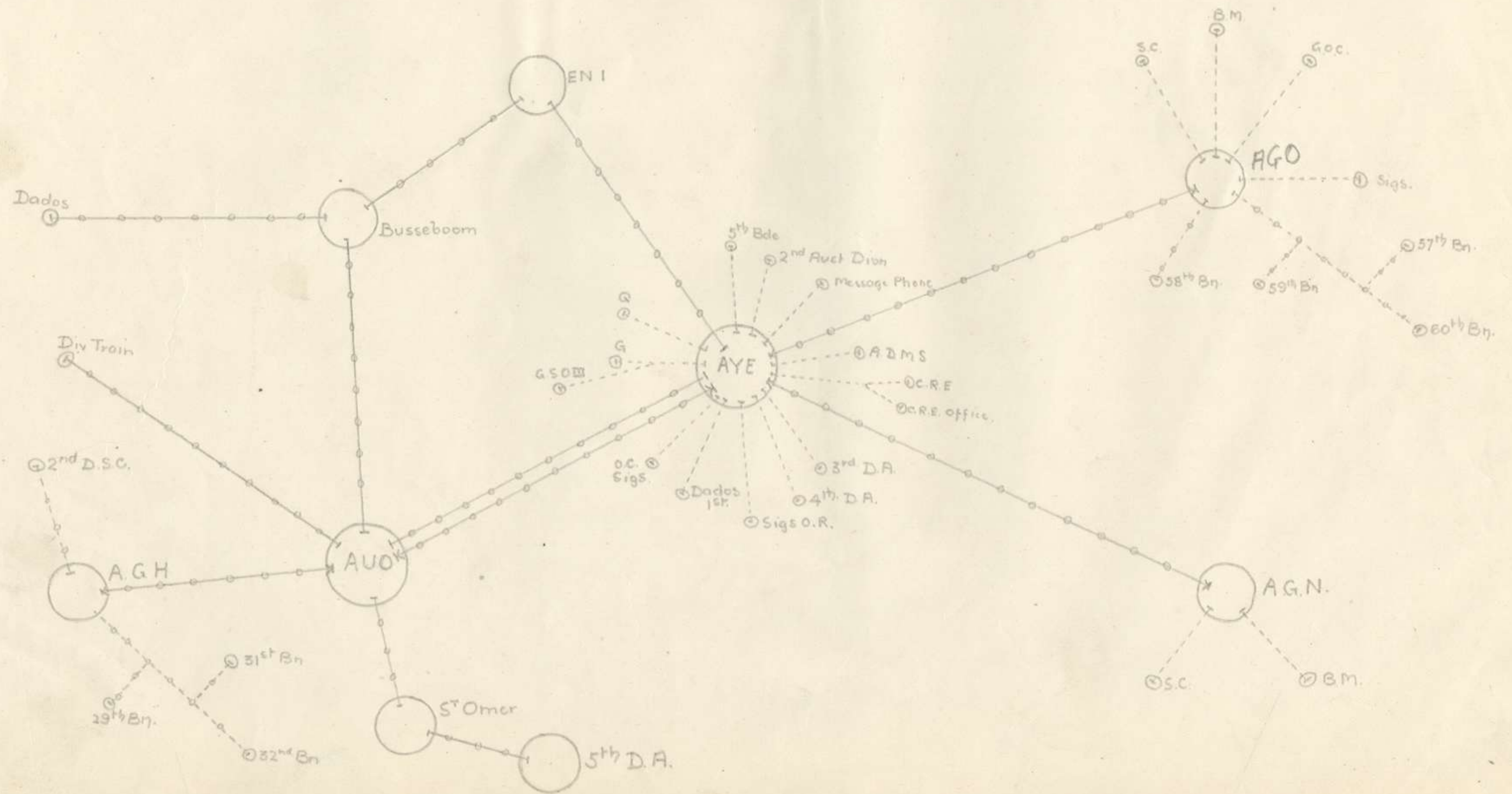


5TH  
 AUSTRALIAN  
 DIVL. SIGNAL COY.

No. ....  
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Diagram  
 of  
 Communications  
 5th Aust Divn  
 20.9.17

APPENDIX I  
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Appendix No. I



5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVL. SIGNAL COY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

APPENDIX II

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.

No. .... Date .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>COMMUNICATIONS</u>	
			<p><u>BURIED CABLE ROUTES.</u> Had been laid by Army Corps from Divisional Headquarters to CLAPHAM JUNCTION.</p>	
			<p>6 pairs of Cable were allotted for Divisional use. Owing to interruptions on sections between Division &amp; Bdes, a maximum of 3 Circuits were available at any one time. Owing to these lines being very earthy it was impossible to work with Sounder sets, and Fullerphones had to be used. These gave success as also they did on forward lines from Bdes. Good use was made of Corp Sub Exchanges at H.O. and E.N. 1. Test points - former near HOOGE &amp; latter near DICKEBUSCH. - giving alternate routes between Division &amp; Bdes.</p>	
			<p>Extensions had been made by Divisions from the Corp buried routes to Bde Hqs (HOOGE CRATER) and from CLAPHAM JUNCTION to G.W. Test point - which was in our front line prior to attack of 20<sup>th</sup> Sept by 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. J14 A65.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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APPENDIX II

PAGE II

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
			<p>From there a Divl. Bury was put in towards VERBEEK FARM. to J14 C 5-8. connecting with Corps Bury from S.W. Corner of NONNE BOSCHEN. J9 C 1-5. We attempted to bury a route from this point to edge of POLYGON WOOD at J9 Central, but were unable to complete in time for the attack. The whole route forward of G.W. (J14 A 6.5) was heavily shelled and damaged beyond repair on day prior to attack, rendering buried Cable System useless beyond G.W. and transferring Cable Head to latter position. Otherwise buried Cable System was satisfactory between Bdes and G.W.</p> <p><u>SURFACE LINES.</u> The only lines laid on the surface that gave any satisfaction were laddered line. Three Cables were laid each 50 yds apart and laddered at intervals of 50 yards. Between Bdes and G.W. these lines worked fairly satisfactorily with Fullerphones, though requiring constant maintenance, but beyond G.W., laddered lines</p>	

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APPENDIX II

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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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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Lines</u> were cut beyond repair and it was impossible to maintain lines there for some hours after attack. The area chiefly affected by enemy fire was between G.W. and Polygon Wood. Short lines from Forward Bde Stns to Bns were in some cases maintained for periods. It was found useless attempting to bury cables for several hours after attack was launched, and in the shelling of 26<sup>th</sup> in that sector no lines could possibly remain intact, or remain repairable.</p> <p><u>WIRELESS &amp; P.B.</u> Little use was made of wireless sets owing to Telephone Circuits in this area being maintained throughout. A chain of wireless was arranged working back from G.W. (Cable Head) to Bde Hqrs (Hoop Crater) and thence to Corps Stn. in YPRES RAMPARTS.</p> <p>A Corp Wireless Tank took up a position near NONNE BOSCHEN, but was not utilised by this Division.</p>	

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APPENDIX II

No 4.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Forward of Wireless, P.B. Communication was organised. PB and Amplifier Stns were established prior to the attack at G.W (Cable Head) and at Hqs of one Bn of each Bde in line. Two Stns were sent forward with Bde Sqd Stns to work back to rear Stns. These stations worked satisfactorily, but were much hampered by frequent cutting of bases by heavy enemy shellfire. They proved very useful as an emergency communication. The charging of Accumulators by Charging Sets at Half Way House was of assistance in effecting speedy changes for forward sets.</p>	
			<p><u>VISUAL</u> A visual chain was established back from Bn Hqs via Cable Head &amp; Hoop Ridge to Div reading Stn at Spearman's Post, which was in turn in touch with Central Division at Barr Cross Roads and Comd Stn in</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>in YPRES Ramparts. When Bns. took up their new positions after attack and after enemy barrage cleared, a little visual signalling was carried on by Lucas Lamp back to Cable Head. During the heavy shelling, smoke &amp; dust prevented visual being used back to Cable Head. From Cable Head back visual was not utilised for actual messages owing to telephonic communication being continuous.</p> <p><u>PIGEONS.</u> Each Bde was supplied with 50 Pigeons <sup>on attacks</sup> <del>day</del> and 30 on other days, these were delivered to Bns in line each night. Insufficient use was made of the birds, a large percentage returning to the lofts without messages. Those messages sent by pigeon were quickly received at the lofts and transferred to their destinations. Some complaints were received that the birds would</p>	

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WAR DIARY  
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No 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>would</u> not fly during bombardment, and others report birds were killed prior to necessity for using them, or time for liberation. It would appear and insufficient reliance is placed by Unit Commanders on this method of transmission of messages.</p> <p><u>Runners</u> were invaluable and rendered excellent services. Though unfortunately there were a number of casualties; <sup>during the attack</sup> runners were frequently the only available means of getting messages back to Cable Head. Too much strain was placed on runners by having to act as guides; and the necessity for keeping an adequate number of runners exclusively employed as such, was demonstrated.</p> <p><u>Motor Cyclists</u> were used between Division &amp; Shellfire Corner where runners met them &amp; cleared despatches. Two motor cycles and 1 motor car of this Unit were destroyed by enemy shellfire.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>GENERAL</u> :- Methods as laid down in publication S.S. 148, were adopted as far as possible. Brigade forward Stations were sent forward closely following the attacks and they were successful in keeping touch with Battalions, but it was found impossible for Communication to be maintained back during the actual attack other than by runners, Power Power or Balloons. Visual could only be used during quiet times when there was no dust or smoke from Shellfire.</p> <p>After the Consolidation was completed more laddered lines were laid to Battalions. These were being continually repaired by maintenance parties, but on account of the heavy shellfire were frequently unserviceable.</p>	

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Appendix No. II

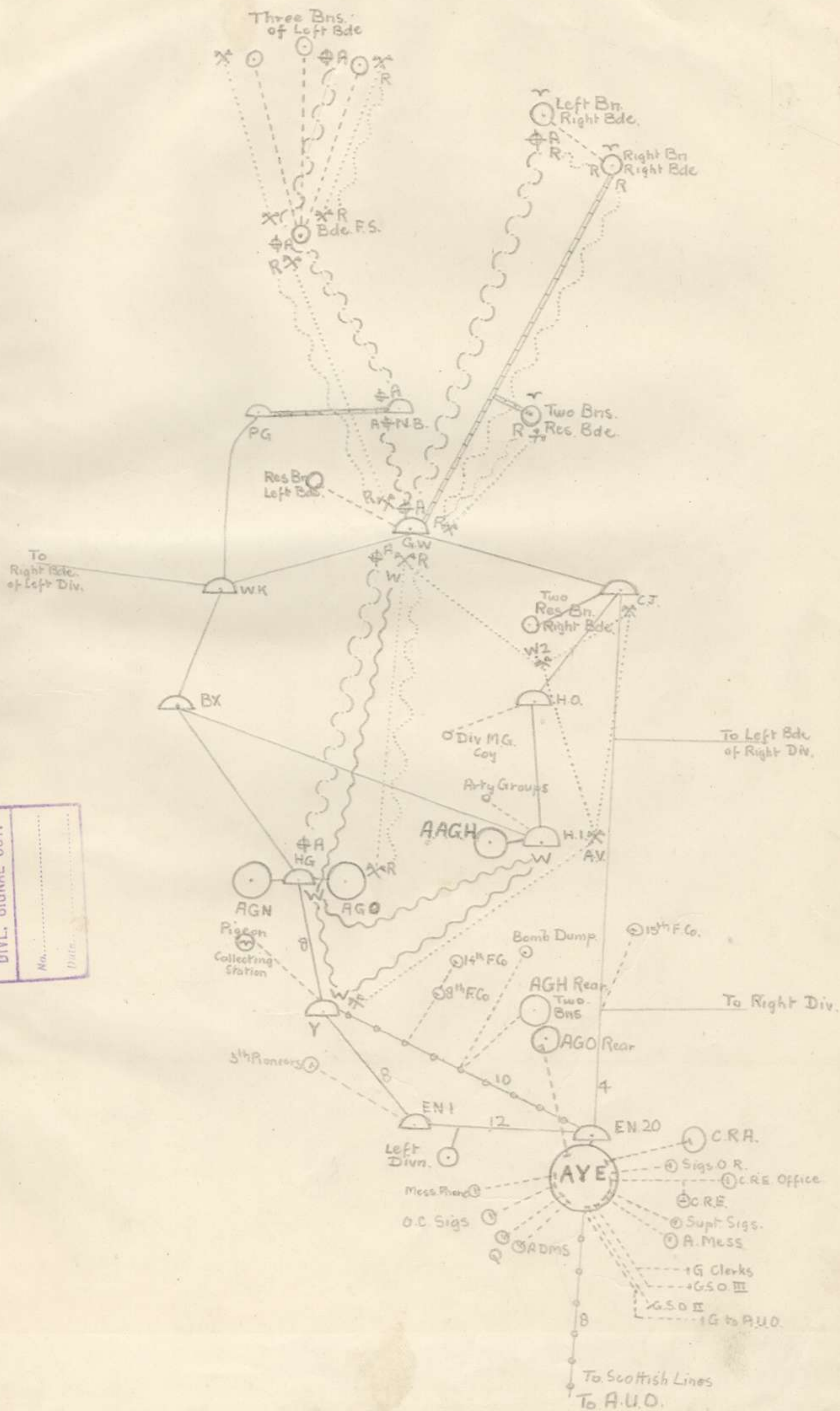


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APPENDIX III.

Diagram of Communications  
5th Aust. Divn.

Appendix No III

27.9.17.



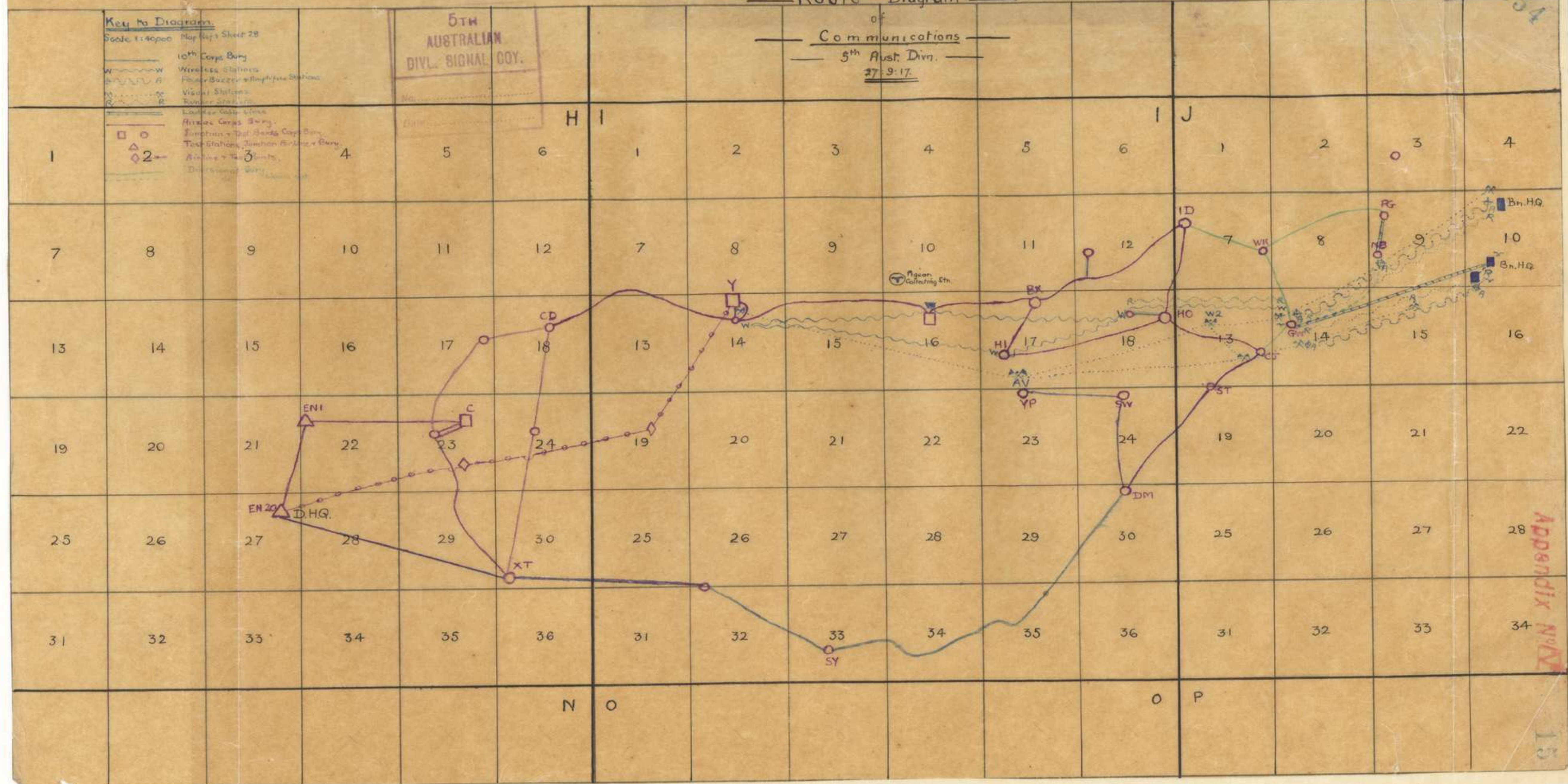
5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVL. SIGNAL COY.	
No.	Date.



Route Diagram of Communications 5th Aust. Div. 27.9.17.

Key to Diagram Scale 1:40,000 Map Ref Sheet 28 10th Corps Bury Wireless Stations Plover Buzzer & Amphifone Stations Visual Stations Plover Stations Landline Cable Lines Airline Corps Bury Junction & Tap Buzzer Corps Bury Test Stations Junction Buzzer & Bury Airline & Tap Buzzer District Signal Bury

5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVL. SIGNAL COY.



Appendix No. IV 15



Appendix No V  
Telegraph Traffic Charts - September 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

APPENDIX V

5TH AUSTRALIAN SIGNAL COY.

825

750

675

600

525

450

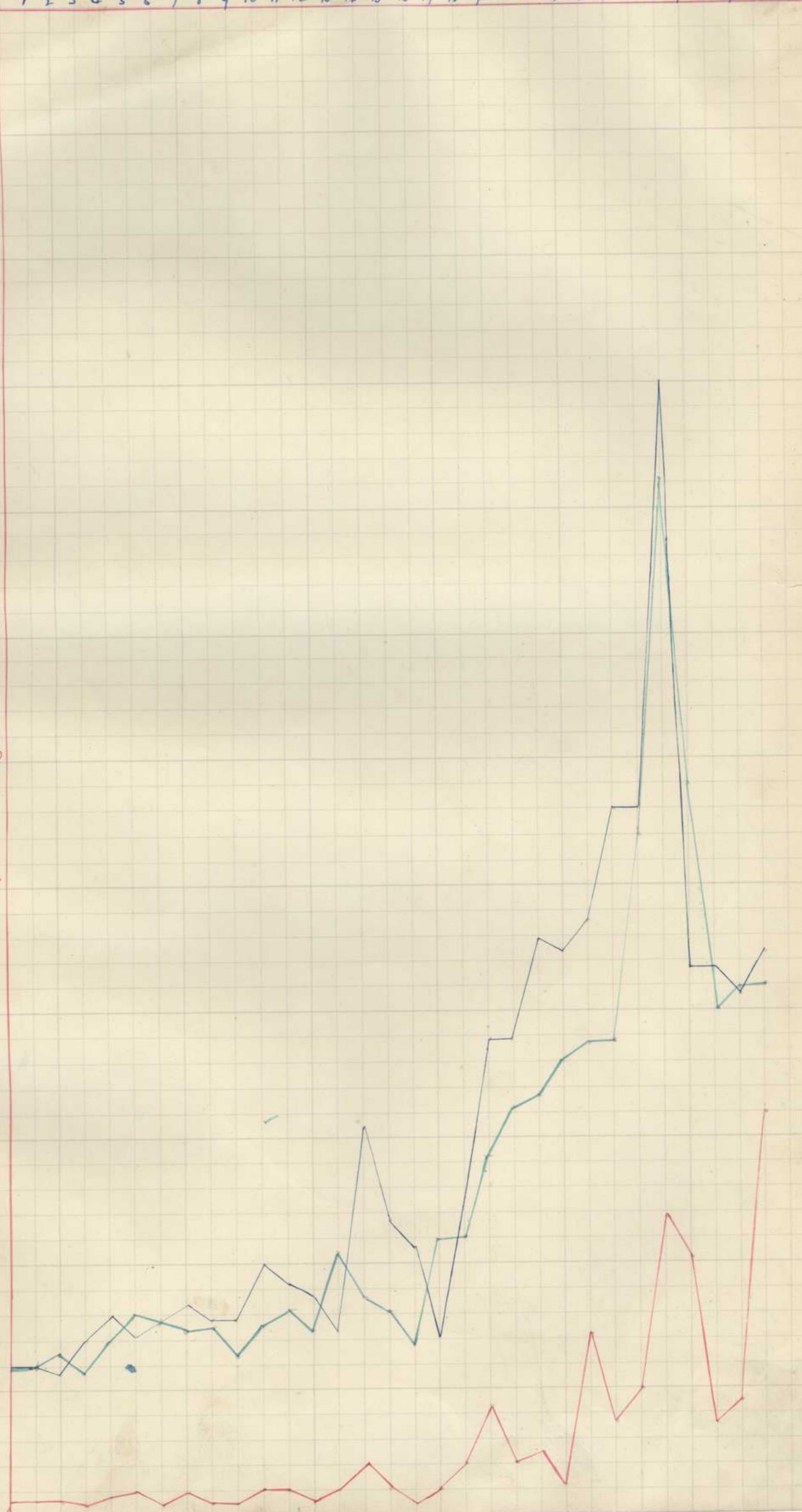
375

300

225

150

75





Telegrams ("A", "B" & "C") thus ——— Sealed Packets ———

1200 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.

APPENDIX. VII

5<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
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