

**AWM4**

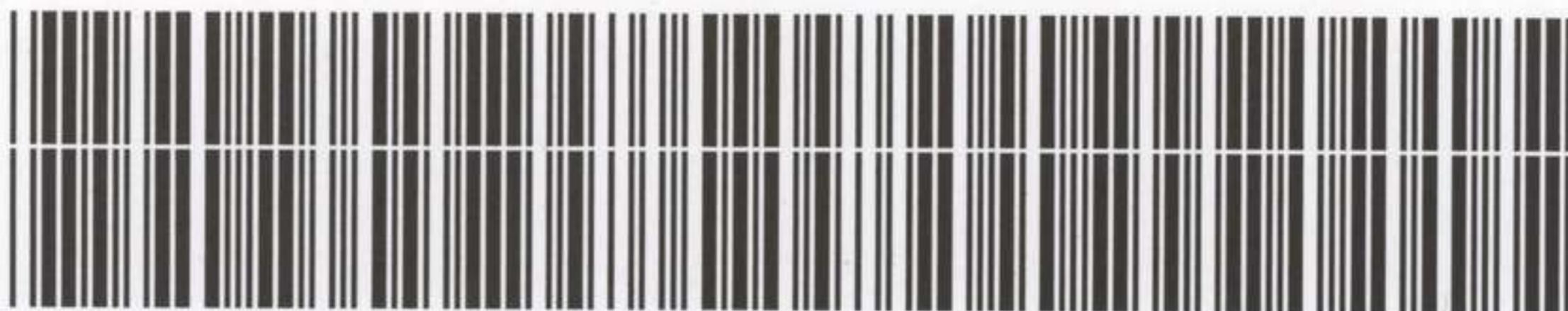
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/42/35 Part 6

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 1st  
Australian Division

December 1917



AWM4-1/42/35PART6

L.E. 191

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters,  
22nd December, 1917.

1st Aus.Inf.Bde.  
 2nd Aus.Inf.Bde.  
 3rd Aus.Inf.Bde.  
 1st Aus.Pioneer Bn.  
 1st Aus.Div.Sig.Coy.  
 21st A.M.G.Coy.  
 "A.Q"

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DIVISIONAL SIGNAL CLASS. BEGINNERS COURSE.

1. A class for the training of reserves for regimental signallers will assemble at 0900 on Monday 24th inst., at LINDENHOEK Camp H.33.a. The instruction will be carried out under an officer to be detailed by the Q.C. 1st Aus.Div.Sig.Coy. assisted by the Assistant Brigade Section Officers and two N.C.O instructors.

2. The work will consist of instruction in Power Buzzer, Fullerphone Operating, Lucas Lamp reading and sending, care and use of instruments lines buried and earth, linesmens' duties, office routine.

3. The following will be detailed to attend.

- 1 Officer per Infantry and Pioneer Battalion.
- 4 men per Infantry and Pioneer Bn.H.Q.
- 2 men per Infantry and Pioneer Company.
- 3 men per Machine Gun Company.

The men detailed require no preliminary knowledge of Signalling but should be intelligent and likely to become efficient signallers, The number sent from each Battalion should include one Lance Corporal to take charge of the Battalion squad.

The class will disperse about January, 12th when those attending will return to their units.

4. Officers attending will take their batmen and the following details will be supplied.

- 1st Brigade. 1 N.C.O. as acting School Q.M.S.
- 2nd Brigade. 2 Cooks.
- 3rd Brigade. 1 Officers Cook.

Each Infantry Brigade will supply on loan 6 dixies to be delivered at the School by 0900 on 24th inst.

5. All ranks will march into Camp with 24 hours rations and will be in possession of two blankets.

The S.S.O. will arrange for rations to be delivered daily from 24th inst., until further orders.

Sgd. S.L.MILLIGAN. Lieut-Colonel.  
 General Staff.  
 1st Australian Division.

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APPENDIX XII.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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Divisional Headquarters.  
20th December 1917.

1st.Aust.Inf.Bde.  
2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde.  
3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde.  
1st.Aust Pioneer Bn.

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1. A Musketry class for junior regimental officers will assemble at the 1st.Div.Wing of the Corps Reinforcement Camp CAESTRE at 0900 on Monday 24th Inst. and will disperse on Jan 14th 1918.
2. One Officer from each infantry and Pioneer Battalion will attend, nominal roll to reach this office by 1800 on 22nd Inst.
3. Officers will take their batmen and will proceed fully equipped and rationed up to and including the day of assembly.
4. Brigades and Pioneer Battalion will notify this Office what transport is required.
5. O.C. Div.Reinforcement Camp will arrange accommodation at the Camp.

(sgd) S.L. Milligan.  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.

Copy to Lieut. PINCHES.  
" " O.C. Div.Reinf.Camp.

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U.C. 191

Appendix N° 13

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Appendix XIII

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Secret.

S/7079.

Headquarters.  
26-12-17.

SPECIAL GENERAL STAFF MEMO.

The following 1st.ANZAC Special General Staff Circular is republished for information.

"SPECIAL GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR.

Subject:- Change in titles of Corps.

On and from the 1st January 1918, the 1st Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (1st.ANZAC.) will be designated the "Australian Corps", and the 2nd Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (2nd.ANZAC) will become XXII Corps."

*J. H. Willigan Lt. Col.*  
For Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.

1st 191

Appendix N° 14  
Appendix. X. 372

SECRET.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

COPY NO. .... 6 .....

1st. AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 58.

Headquarters.  
Decr. 27th. 1917.

Reference Map. WYTSCHAETE. 1 - 10.000.

1. The 1st.Aust.Inf.Brigade will relieve the 2nd.Aust.Inf. Brigade in the Left sector on the night of 30/31st Decr. and 31st Decr/1st Jany. The Right Battalion and Left Centre Battalion will be relieved on the night of 29/30th Decr and the Left.Battalion and Right Centre Battalion on the night of 30/31st Decr. *3rd Inf Bn*
2. The 2nd.Aust.Inf.Brigade (less 1 Battalion) on relief, will move back into Divisional Reservoir and will take over the accommodation and duties of the 1st.Aust.Inf.Brigade.
3. One Battalion of the 2nd.Aust.Inf.Brigade will be placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. 1st.Aust.Inf.Brigade as Brigade Reserve and will be accommodated in the WYTSCHAETE Area.
4. Advanced parties of the 1st.Aust.Inf.Brigade will be sent into all advanced posts and will take part in all patrols the night before the relief. They will remain until their unit arrives.
5. Works in progress will be continued and working parties will not cease work until they are relieved. Advanced parties of battalions taking over work on the Reservoir System of the Front Zone and on the Second Zone will be attached to the Units now carrying out these defensive works for one day prior to the relief.
6. No movement forward of the WYTSCHAETE - MESSINES ridge will take place before 4.30. p.m.
7. (a) All maps, photographs, defence schemes, plans of work and documents of value to the incoming unit will be handed over.  
(b) Area and trench stores will be handed over and receipts obtained or pro forma sent to all concerned. One copy to be sent to "Q" Office.  
(c) Transport lines of units will not change.
8. A certificate will be furnished from each battalion by 1st.Aust.Inf.Brigade Hqrs when the relief is completed that Defence Schemes have been taken over, battalions properly detailed to the defences, and orders for action in accordance with the respective schemes have been promulgated to all concerned.
9. The original company commanders sketches via this office letter 111/248 of 22nd Inst will be forwarded to Divisional Headquarters by 1800 on January 1st.
10. Details of relief, times, routes etc, will be arranged direct between Brigadiers concerned.
11. Command of the forward sector will pass to G.O.C. 1st.Aust.Inf.Brigade on completion of relief which will be notified at once to this H.Q. by wire.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. H. Gamley*  
Colonel, C.M.G.,  
General Officer,  
1st Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

## No. Issued to.

- 1 to 4 D.H.Q.
- 5 to 7 War Diary.
- 8 1st.Aust.Inf.Bde.
- 9 2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde.
- 10 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde.
- 11 C.R.A.1st.Aust.Div.
- 12 C.R.E.1st.Aust.Div.
- 13 1st.Aust.Div.Sig.Coy.
- 14 D.M.G.O.
- 15 S.S.O.
- 16 1st.Aust.Div.Train.
- 18 A.D.M.S.
- 19 D.A.D.O.S.
- 20 A.P.M.
- 21 1st.ANZAC.
- 22 2nd.Aust.Division.
- 23 37th Division.
- 24 C.R.E.Corps Troops.
- 25 Arca Cmdt. KEMMEL.
- 26 " " Rod Chattoau Arca.
- 27 " " Verviers Arca.
- 28 File.
- 29 -31 Sparcs.

Issued at 1.30 p.m.

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APPENDIX XV.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

374

Divisional Headquarters.  
27th December 1917.

S/7096.

D.M.G.O.  
 1st.Aust.Inf.Bde.  
 2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde.  
 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde.  
 C.R.A.1st.Aust.Div.  
 C.R.E.1st.Aust.Div.  
 1st.Aust.Pioneer Bn.  
 2nd.Aust.Division.  
 37th Division.  
 1st.ANZAC. (for information).

1. A prisoner has stated that the enemy contemplates a raid on this division's front on the night of 29th Inst. (4th Army Summary dated 25/12/17) Copies of this statement have been circulated.

Hostile patrols have been active in Sq. O.23.e. and enemy artillery action in this vicinity seems to have had wire cutting as its object.

2. If the S.O.S.Signal is sent up the artillery will open on the usual barrage lines.

3. In order to bring concentrated artillery fire to bear on the enemy raiders as soon as the locality upon which the raid is being made can be determined, a special light signal will be sent up. This signal will be the former S.O.S. Signal 'red over green over yellow' These Signals will be issued to and will be sent up by Officers of front line companies only.

4. On the nights 28/29th Decr. and 29/30th Decr an F.O.O. will be stationed at an observation Post near MAHIEU FARM (Sq.O.21.d.8.8). Direct telephonic communication will be arranged from this point to both the OOSTTAVERNE and HOLLEBEKE Artillery Groups.

5. The Artillery barrage will be concentrated immediately on the battalion front where the special 'red over green over yellow' signal is seen.

C.R.A. will arrange for the liaison barrages of flanking artillery to cover the outer flanks of the division if the raid takes place in the locality anticipated.

6. On the night 28/29th Decr and succeeding nights, the Divisional Machine Gun Officer will arrange to shoot on tracks leading into enemys forward area at special points of which he will be notified.

7. G.O.S.C. Brigades in the line will arrange for counter attack parties to be in readiness at convenient points.

8. Working parties in the forward area will be prepared to take cover if the raid occurs.

9. If no raid takes place on the nights in question and it is considered that the enemy action indicates a likelihood of a raid on a night later on preparation for the action laid down above will be made on receipt of the signal message from D.H.Q. "counter measures".

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(sgd) T.A. BLAMEY.

Colonel.

GENERAL STAFF.

1st.Australian Division.

SECRET.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.COPY NO.....  
*6*

FIRST.AUST.DIV. MACHINE GUN INSTRUCTIONS NO.1.  
To be read in conjunction with 1st.Aust.Div.S/7096 dated 27-12-17.

Headquarters.  
28-12-17.

1. On the S.O.S. Signal (two whites and two reds) being observed Machine guns will open on their present S.O.S. line and continue firing at rate laid down until situation clears.
2. On the old S.O.S. Signal (red over green over yellow) being observed as many guns as can with safety to our own troops will switch and concentrate their fire opposite the sector from which the Signal is sent up.
3. Should a direct target present itself it will be instantly engaged.
4. Officers commanding 2nd and 3rd.Aust.B.C. Companies will arrange to bring intermittent i.e. indirect fire on the following gaps in enemy wire O.13.d.15.30., O.13.d.20.75., O.13.d.2.0., O.24.c.10. to 50., O.30.a.8.4. and O.30.c.55.20. from dusk to dawn on 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st December.
5. Above procedure will be carried out should enemy action indicate the likelihood of a raid on a night later, on receipt of the message "counter measures".
6. Acknowledge.

Major.  
D.G.O.  
1st Australian Division.

- 1 - 1 D.H.C.
- 5 - 7 War Diary.
- 8 1st.Aust.Inf.Bde.
- 9 2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde.
- 10 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde.
- 11 1st.Aust.I.G.Coy.
- 12 2nd.Aust.I.G.Coy.
- 13 3rd.Aust.I.G.Coy.
- 14 21st.I.G.Coy.
- 15 D.H.C.O.
- 16 File.

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Daily Strength as at Noon..... 2/12/17..... 1917

UNITS.	On Establishment.			Attached.			Remarks
	Off.	O. R.	Total	Off.	O. R.	Total	
DIV. HEADQUARTERS.	21	72	93	32	326	358	
DIV. ARTL.	66	2020	2086	3	27	30	
DIV. ENGINEERS	13	570	583	3	36	39	
Div. Signal Coy.	13	267	280	2	75	77	
PIONEER BATTALION	37	1056	1093	1	12	13	
1st INF. BDE. H.Q.	2	23	25	5	61	66	
1st Battalion	34	683	717	1	1	2	
2nd Battalion	30	638	668	1	-	1	
3rd Battalion	31	767	798	1	1	2	
4th Battalion	31	736	767	2	1	3	
1st A.L.T.M. Battery	3	28	31	-	21	21	
1st A.M.G. Coy.	7	162	169	-	-	-	
2nd INF. BDE. H.Q.	3	23	26	6	63	69	
5th Battalion	49	815	864	3	24	27	
6th Battalion	40	884	924	2	5	7	
7th Battalion	52	851	903	2	8	10	
8th Battalion	43	860	903	2	7	9	
2nd. A.L.T.M. Bty.	5	67	72	-	2	2	
2nd. A.M.G. Coy.	14	158	172	-	2	2	
3rd. INF. BDE. H.Q.	3	9	12	3	50	53	
9th. Battalion	32	869	901	2	9	11.	
10th. Battalion	35	723	758	1	6	7.	
11th. Battalion	28	754	782	2	9	11.	
12th. Battalion	38	928	966	1	9	10.	
3rd. A.L.T.M. Bty.	2	53	55	-	-	-.	
3rd. A.M.G. Coy.	10	202	212	-	2	2.	
DIVNL. TRAIN	23	410	433	2	57	59.	
1st. Field Amb.	6	216	222	-	4	4.	
2nd. Field Amb.	10	231	241	1	39	40.	
3rd. Field Amb.	10	266	276	2	17	19.	
Div. Salvage Coy.	1	56	57	1	3	4.	
Mob. Vety. Sect.	1	26	27	2	12	14.	
21st. A.M.G. Coy.	8	152	160	-	3	3.	
2nd. Aust. Sanitary Sect.	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS.							

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Daily Strength as at Noon.....1917

UNITS.	On Establishment.			Attached.			Remarks
	Off.	O. R.	Total	Off.	O. R.	Total	
DIV. HEADQUARTERS.	28	104	132	6	270	276.	
DIV. ARTL.	79	2164	2243	5	21	26.	
DIV. ENGINEERS	18	566	584	2	86	88.	
Div. Signal Coy.	15	323	338	1	60	61.	
PIONEER BATTALION	37	1068	1105	1	8	9.	
1st INF. BDE. H.Q.	4	21	25	5	22	27.	
1st Battalion	36	670	706	1	2	3.	
2nd Battalion	36	688	724	1	1	2.	
3rd Battalion	34	722	756	1	9	10.	
4th Battalion	30	758	788	1	3	4.	
1st A.L.T.M. Battery	4	37	41	-	16	16.	
1st A.M.G. Coy.	9	160	169	1	4	5.	
2nd INF. BDE. H.Q.	7	29	36	4	41	45.	
5th Battalion	57	878	935	2	7	9.	
6th Battalion	44	861	905	2	19	21.	
7th Battalion	48	857	905	2	7	9.	
8th Battalion	45	867	912	2	7	9.	
2nd. A.L.T.M. Bty.	5	68	73	-	-	-.	
2nd. A.M.G. Coy.	16	174	190	-	2	2.	
3rd. INF. BDE. H.Q.	5	36	29	6	36	42.	
9th. Battalion	34	801	835	1	23	24.	
10th. Battalion	32	630	662	1	28	29.	
11th. Battalion	32	698	750	2	8	10.	
12th. Battalion	30	833	863	2	10	12.	
3rd. A.L.T.M. Bty.	4	53	57	-	-	--.	
3rd. A.M.G. Coy.	14	195	209	-	1	1.	
DIVNL. TRAIN	23	408	431	2	55	57.	
1st. Field Amb.	8	178	186	2	100	102.	
2nd. Field Amb.	10	226	236	1	80	81.	
3rd. Field Amb.	11	265	276	2	17	19.	
Div. Salvage Coy.	1	53	54	1	10	11.	
Mob. Vety. Sect.	1	25	26	-	19	19.	
21st. A.M.G. Coy.	13	171	184	-	3	3.	
2nd. Aust. Sanitary Sect.	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS.							

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS SENT TO SCHOOLS.

DECEMBER, 1917.

School.	Nature of Course.	Duration.	Number sent.			Remarks.
			Off.	N.C.Os.	O.R.	
<u>G.H.Q. Small Arms School.</u>						
Lewis Gun Branch, Le Touquet.	"A" Course for instruction of Coy. Comdrs. in use of Lewis Gun. "B" Course for training Officers and N.C.Os for Battalions and Instructors for Schools.	1 week. } 15 days. }	5	5	5	Covers 3 Courses.
Vickers M.G. Branch, CAMIERS.	For advanced training of Officers and other ranks of M.G. Companies.	18 days.	1	4	-	
Central Wireless School. ABBEVILLE.	Instruction for Wireless Operators.	1 Month.	1	-	-	
1st ANZAC CORPS SCHOOL. Gough Huts, AVELUY.	General Training.	Stokes Mortar. Bombing. Lewis Gun. Gas. Cookery. Intelligence.	12 days. " " " " 1 week. 21 days. 3 weeks.	1 2 2 7 - 1	7 12 11 58 - 3	- - - - 6 -
School of Farriery. ABBEVILLE.			2 Months.	-	1	-

Appendix No. 19

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School.	Nature of Course.	Duration.	Number sent			Remarks.
			Off.	N.C.Os.	O.R.	
Courses of instruction at Veterinary Hospitals.		10 days.	1	7	-	Covers 2 Courses.
2nd Army Musketry Camp, LUMBRES.	N For training of Musketry Instructors.	22 days.	8	16	-	Covers 2 Courses.
4th Army Musketry School, PONT REMY.	To train Coy. Officers and N.C.Os in Musketry duties.	3 weeks.	5	-	6	
2nd Army Artillery Schools. TILQUES and VAUX-en-AMIENOIS.	Artillery instruction.	about 1 month.	3	-	4	
2nd and 4th Army T.M. Schools. LEULINGHEM and VAUX-en-AMIENOIS.	Heavy T.M. instruction for Artillery.	3 weeks.	1	-	-	
Corps Armourers Course. CORPS WORKSHOPS.	Battalion Armourers and Assistants instruction.	1 month.	1	-	3	
Musketry Courses, Divisional. 1st Aus. Div. Reinf. Camp.	Training Musketry Instrs.	3 weeks.	13	-	-	
Instruction in Transport Duties. ABBEVILLE.	Instruction for Transport Officers and N.C.Os.	3 weeks.	-	-	1	
5th Army Scouting, Observation and Sniping School MONT DES CATS.	For Training Officers and O.Rs in the use of the telescopic rifle, etc.	18 days.	1	4	-	
5th Army Musketry School. NORTEBCOURT.		3 weeks.	5	8	-	
Battalion Musketry Instructors HAYLING ISLAND.	Training Musketry Instrs.	3 weeks.	-	3	-	

Appendix No 19

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School.	Nature of Course.	Duration.	Number sent			Remarks.
			Off.	N.C.O.S.	O.R.	
2nd Army Cookery School. HAZEBROUCK.	For training of Officers Mess Cooks and mens cooks.	3 weeks.	-	-	3	91
2nd Army Central School of Instruction, WISQUES.	General Training.	6 weeks.	13	13	-	
1st Aus.Div.Signal Class. 1st AUS.DIV.	For training Beginners in Signalling.	About 3 wks.	13	-	164.	

Casualties from 1st December to 31st December 1917.

<u>Killed.</u> <u>Off. O.R's.</u>	<u>Wounded.</u> <u>Off. O.R'S.</u>	<u>Missing.</u> <u>Off. O.R's.</u>
6. 21.	20. 115.	- 15.

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## APPENDIX.

Sick Wastage for month of December 1917.

<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
30.	844.

## APPENDIX.

Number of Officers and Other Ranks received by the Division during the month of December 1917.

<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
70.	1300.