

**AWM4**

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

Signals

**Item number:** 22/15/36

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

December 1918 Includes duplicate



AWM4-22/15/36

## WAR DIARY

5th Aust. Div. Signal Co.

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 1. 5TH AUST. DIVL SIGNAL CO

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	254	Remarks and references to Appendices
	December 1918.				
	1st Dec.		No.4 Section were on parade with their Brigade at the inspection by H.M. The King. Billets and stabling at Company Headquarters at FAVRIL most unsatisfactory. The village was filthy and the houses in bad repair.		
	2nd Dec.		Dull showery day and the roads are cutting up rapidly under the heavy motor transport.		
	3rd Dec.		A line run to 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade at EESMY and wireless communication established with Divisional Train.		
	4th Dec.		Nothing of importance.		
	5th Dec.		Dull showery day. Everything else as usual.		
	6th Dec.		Fine day for a change. Major R.A. Stanley D.S.O. proceeded on "1914" furlough to Australia.		
	7th Dec.		Parade and rifle inspection held at Company Headquarters. No.4 Section held marching out parade, equipment and rifle inspection.		
	8th Dec.		No.4 Section attached to 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed at FAVRIL at 0845 and proceeded by route march to DOULERS. Communication via 50th Division. No.2 Section attached to 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed at MAZINGHIEM at 0900 and marched to FAVRIL opening office at 1300.		
	9th Dec.		Weather dull but fine. 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade connected to Australian Corps on permanent route at 1345.		
	10th Dec.		Rained heavily all day and the mud is becoming bad on all the roads owing to the very heavy motor traffic.		
	11th Dec.		No.2 Section returned the runners attached from Infantry Battalions as these are not necessary now. These men have been attached for some time and have done excellent work and the Company is sorry to lose their services. Australian Corps closed at AVESNES and opened at HAM-sur-HEURE. In touch with Divisional Train in their new position.		
	12th Dec.		Steady rain. Corps line out of order.		
	13th Dec.		Local lines round Divisional Headquarters overhauled and straightened up.		
	14th Dec.		French civilian, in endeavour to improve the appearance of his house, cut all lines leading out of the Signal Office.		
	15th Dec.		No.4 Section returned their runners to their respective Battalions.		
	16th Dec.		Neither any Section nor Company Headquarters has anything to report today. This gives some idea of the present strenuous conditions. Everyone was too busy to even note the weather.		

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Sheet 2.

5TH AUST. DIVL. SIGNAL CO.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
				254
	17th	Dec.	Billeting N.C.O. and advance party sent to SOLRE LE CHATEAU to secure quarters for Company Headquarters.	
	18th	Dec.	No.2 Section attached to 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed at FAVRIL at 0830 and moved by route march to AVESNES opening there at 1600. No.3 Section attached to 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade moved by route march from FESMY at 0900 and opened at CARTIGNIES at 1400 and secured telephone communication via 2nd Aust. Division. Steady rain all day. Another lorry loaded with wireless gear and cooks for the advanced party was despatched for SOLRE LE CHATEAU. Company Headquarters transport moved out from FAVRIL at 0600 and arrived at SOLRE LE CHATEAU at 1600.	
	19th	Dec.	No.2 Section attached 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed their office at AVESNES at 0900 and proceeded by route march to BEUGNIES opening there at 1200. D.A.H.Q. detachment and both Sub-sections moved from ST.SOULET at 0930 and arrived at CARTIGNIES at 1430 where they staged for the night. No.3 Section attached 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade moved from CARTIGNIES at 0900 and proceeded by route march to SAINS, a distance of 15½ kilos, where they staged for the night, opening there at 1400. The last office shift from Company Headquarters closed at FAVRIL at 1000. The advanced office shift took over from the 1st Aust. Division at SOLRE LE CHATEAU at 1000. The billets here proved very comfortable and before night every man had secured a folding iron bed and a mattress from one of the numerous abandoned German hospitals in the town. Communication established with 15th and 8th Aust. Infantry Brigades on permanent routes, and local telephones and electric lights were installed. No.5 Section attached to 5th Aust. M.G.Battalion moved with Battalion from ST. REMY village to ST. REMY Chateau. 5th Aust. M.G.Battalion connected to 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade. No.3 Section closed at SAINS and moved by route march to SIVRY, a distance of 22 kilos, and established communication to Division by telegraph and telephone.	
	20th	Dec.	Company Headquarters billets and horse lines were cleaned up and proved very satisfactory and comfortable though unfortunately very dirty and littered with accumulated rubbish. R.A.H.Q. detachment moved to SAINS area. Lieut. A.J.Sweetman, MC., O.C. No.2 Sub-section attached to 14th Aust. I.A. Brigade, was severely injured by a whirlwind blowing down a barn in which he was sheltering from the rain.	
	21st	Dec.	No.3 Section salvaged cable and succeeded in connecting up all their Battalions. Wireless stations withdrawn from 8th and 14th Aust. Infantry Brigades. R.A.H.Q. detachment and both Sub-sections reported both billeting and stabling accommodation at SAINS to be very good. Lorry despatched to CHARLEROI to attempt to buy some Xmas cheer for the troops.	

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Sheet 3.

5th AUST. DIVL. SIGNAL CO.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	254	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22nd	Dec.	Weather showery and very cold. Parade and rifle inspection held at Company Headquarters at 1000. Company Routine Orders and notices were read and parade dismissed.		
	23rd	Dec.	At all Sections this day seems to have been devoted to cleaning up billets and vicinities in preparation for the Xmas festivities. Lorry returned from CHARLEROI with a quantity of vegetables, canteen stores and barrel beer for Xmas dinner. Capt. C.J.Kelynack <sup>M.C.</sup> left on "1914" leave to United Kingdom.		
	24th	Dec.	Quiet day reported from all Sections. The Divisional Concert Party, assisted by our orchestra, gave a concert in the Cinema Hall, SOLHE LE CHATEAU. It was snowing slowly when the concert came out. An old-time Xmas effect was given to the evening by a party of "Waits" from various Units serenading the various Officers' Messes in the hope of the usual reward for music misplayed in a snowstorm.		
	25th	Dec.	Comforts failed to arrive owing to transport difficulties so we had to make the best of Xmas without the contribution from home. However, at all Sections and Company Headquarters an excellent dinner provided by Regimental funds was served, and by evening everyone was quite happy. All signal offices were closed from 1700 to 2300 except for urgent business.		
	26th	Dec.	Capt. C.H.Bath departed for Australia being recalled as a Crown witness in the SNOW Case. This is the second O.C. we have lost in three weeks. As we have only Lieutenants in the Company now Lieut. T.R.Collier, M.C. assumed the duties of O.C.. Lieut. O.F.Metcher left on 14 days special leave to United Kingdom.		
	27th	Dec.	Parade and rifle inspection was held at Company Headquarters. Lieut. W.Forrest was changed from No.3 Section to 5th Aust. Divisional Artillery H.Q. Detachment.		
	28th	Dec.	Weather showery, nothing of importance to report anywhere.		
	29th	Dec.	Nothing of importance.		
	30th	Dec.	Lieut. J.D.Schroder, M.C. reported from duty with Aust. Corps Schools.		
	31st	Dec.	Lieut. J.D.Schroder, M.C. went to No.4 Section and Lieut. F.J.Murphy returned to Company Headquarters. Usual seasonal <del>Headquarters</del> celebrations, of course, this evening.		

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Sheet 4.

5th AUST. DIVL. SIGNAL CO.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place Date Hour

PERSONNEL.

Major R.A. Stanley, D.S.O., proceeded to England for return to Australia on "1914" furlough on 6/12/18 and Captain C.H. Bath assumed temporary command of the Company. Captain C.H. Bath proceeded to England for return to Australia on 26/12/18 (recalled by Defence Dept.) and Lieut. T.R. Collier, M.C. assumed temporary command. Lieut. J.D. Schroder, M.C. resumed duty from seconding to Aust. Corps Schools on 30/12/18. Lieut. A.J. Sweetman, M.C. was evacuated injured on 23/12/18. Capt. C.J. Kelynack<sup>M.C.</sup> proceeded on "1914" furlough to U.K. on 23/12/18.

	Officers	Other ranks
Establishment	16	356
Strength 31/12/18	14	374
To hospital sick during month	--	18
To hospital injured during month	1	1
Rejoined Unit from sick and wounded	--	17
Reinforcements from Base	--	10
On leave to U.K. during month	2	59
On leave in France during month	--	16
"1914" furlough to U.K.	1	--

Four other ranks were despatched to London for duty as Clerks at A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters.

DEMOBILISATION.

Seven other ranks were despatched to A.G.E.D. for return to Australia (1915 personnel)

EDUCATION.

Classes in Motor Mechanics, English and French have been commenced and attendances are satisfactory. Two men have been despatched to courses at Loco. Shops ST. ETIENNE, and 2 to Australian M.T. Coys. for instruction in their proposed post war trades.

HONOURS AND REWARDS.

The following decorations have been awarded:-

MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 1030 Sergeant A.N. RENNIE	No. 2890 T/2nd Cpl. A.W. GREEN
No. 3672 Lance Cpl. H.L. PENNER	No. 14831 Sapper E.V. BRAIDWELL
No. 17461 Sapper H. CARROLL	No. 18792 Sapper A.L. GATE
No. 19702 Sapper C.S. KIRK	No. 1892 Sapper J.D. PENNICUIK
No. 1104 Corporal H.H. ROBERTS	No. 3381 Sapper N.S.C. JENNINGS

WAR DIARY

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5th AUST. DIV. SIGNAL CO.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>ANIMALS.</u>                      Establishment ... .. 46 rides      77 L.D. draughts                      Strength 31/12/18 ... .. 24 rides      62 L.D.      14 mules                      One ride and 1 light draught were shot during the month and 2 light draughts evacuated,                      2 rides strayed from lines and 2 lights draughts were drawn from Base.</p>	

# WAR DIARY

OF

5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL CO.

FOR

MONTH OF DECEMBER

1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Diagrams of Communication (a) Route Diagram 4/12/18 (b) Circuit Diagram 10/12/18 (c) Route Diagram 26/12/18 (d) Circuit Diagram 26/12/18
2.	D.R.L.S. and Telegram Chart
3.	Telegram Chart (A.B. & C. Forms)
4.	Company Routine Orders.
5.	D.R.L.S. Time-table.
6.	List of Telephone Subscribers.

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# DIAGRAM OF COMMUNICATIONS

5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig Co.

Reference :- Valenciennes, 1/100,000

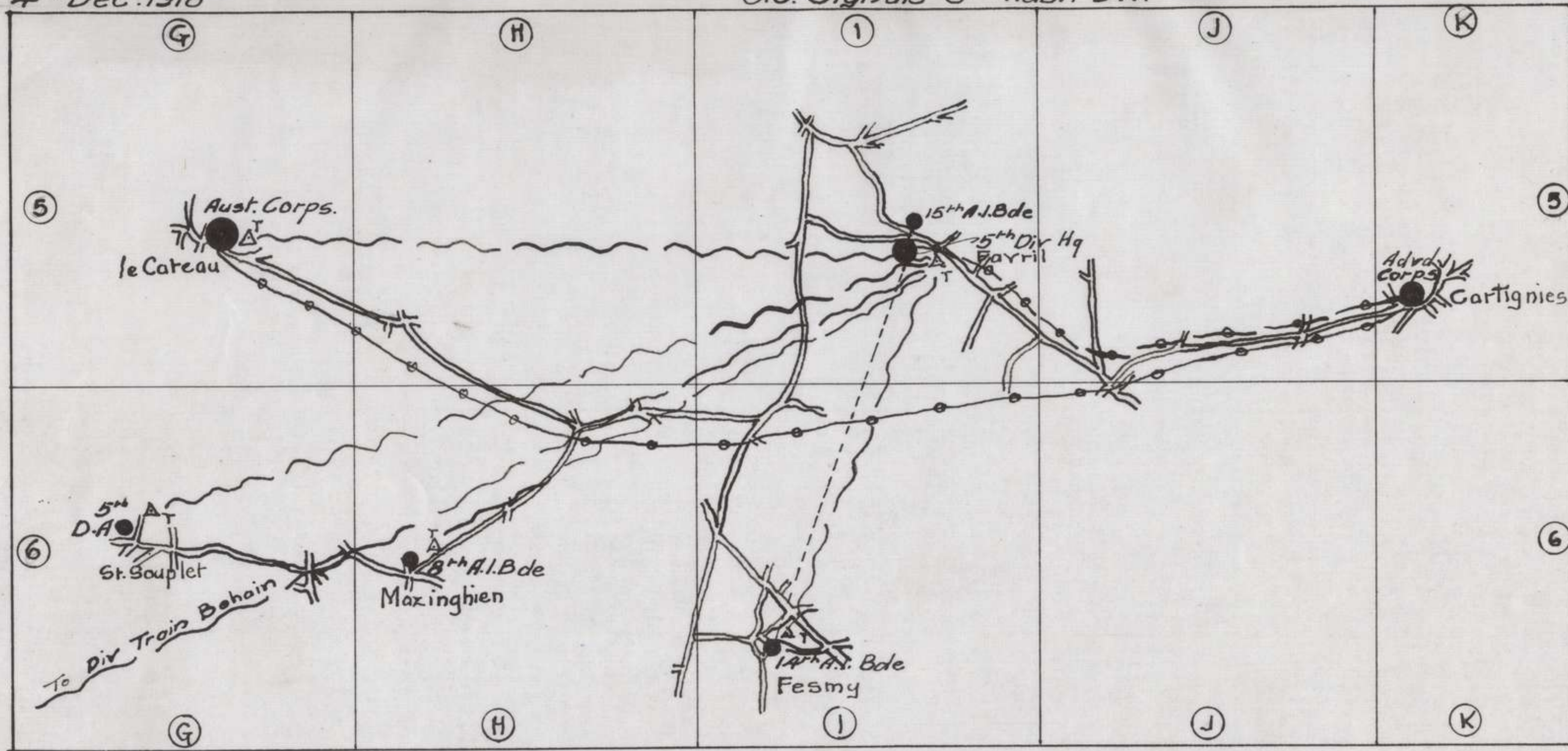
War Diary Dec. '18

Appendix No. 1a.

4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918

*H. Collier* Lieut  
O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.

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# Diagram of Communications

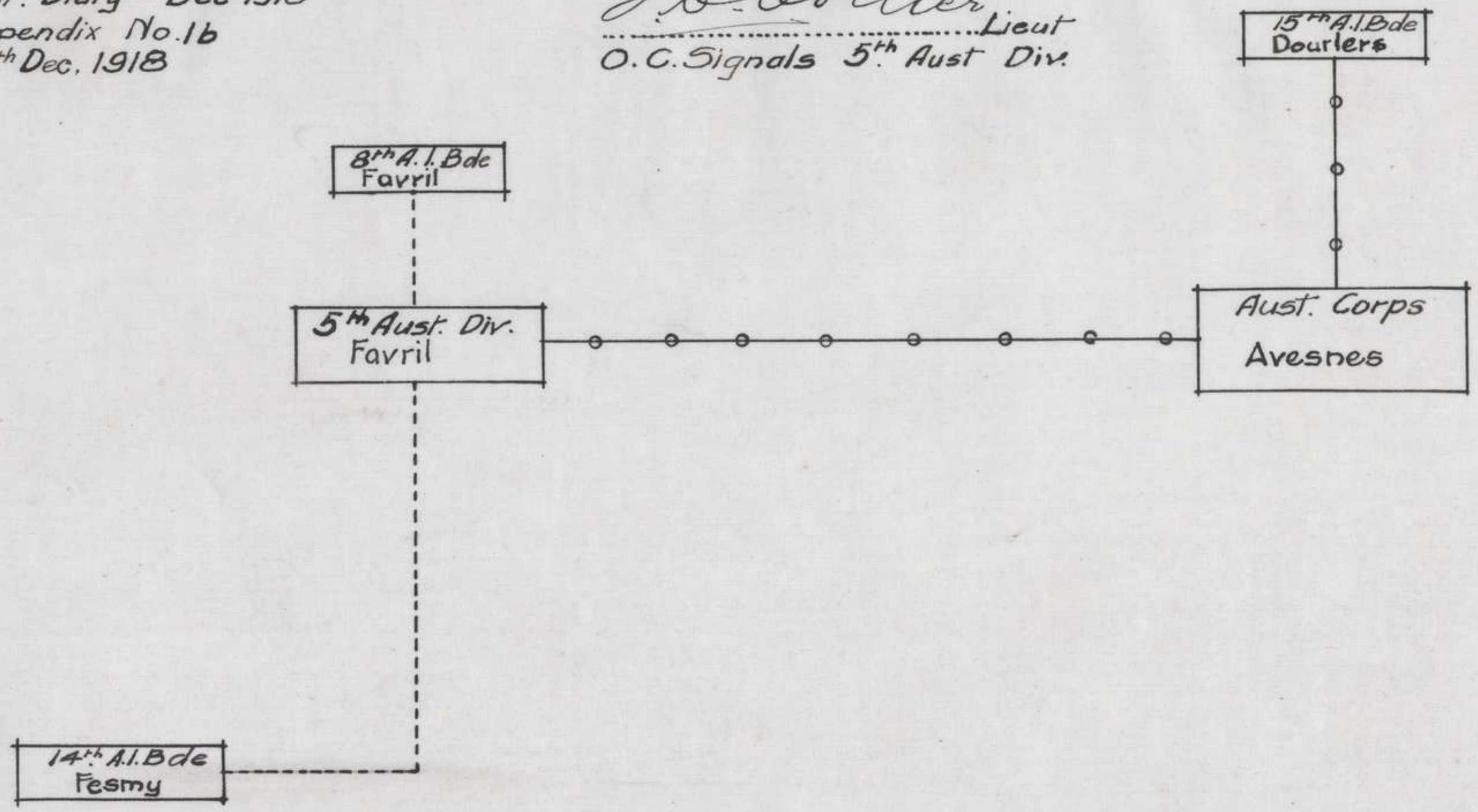
## 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig. Co.

War. Diary Dec 1918

Appendix No. 16

10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918

*J. B. Collier*  
Lieut  
O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div.



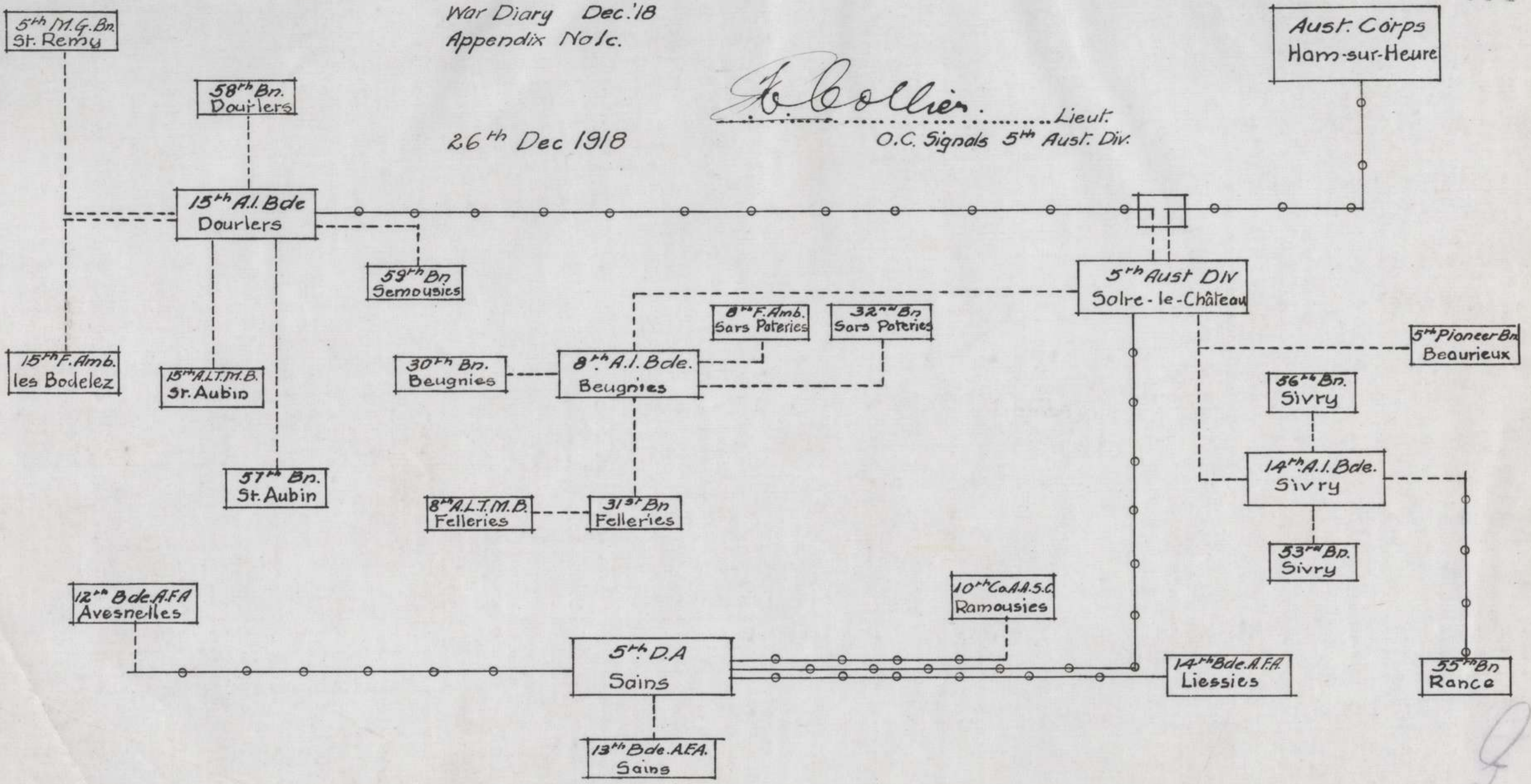
*Collier*

Circuit Diagram  
5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig Co.

War Diary Dec. '18  
Appendix No. 1c.

*J. Collier* Lieut.  
O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.

26<sup>th</sup> Dec 1918



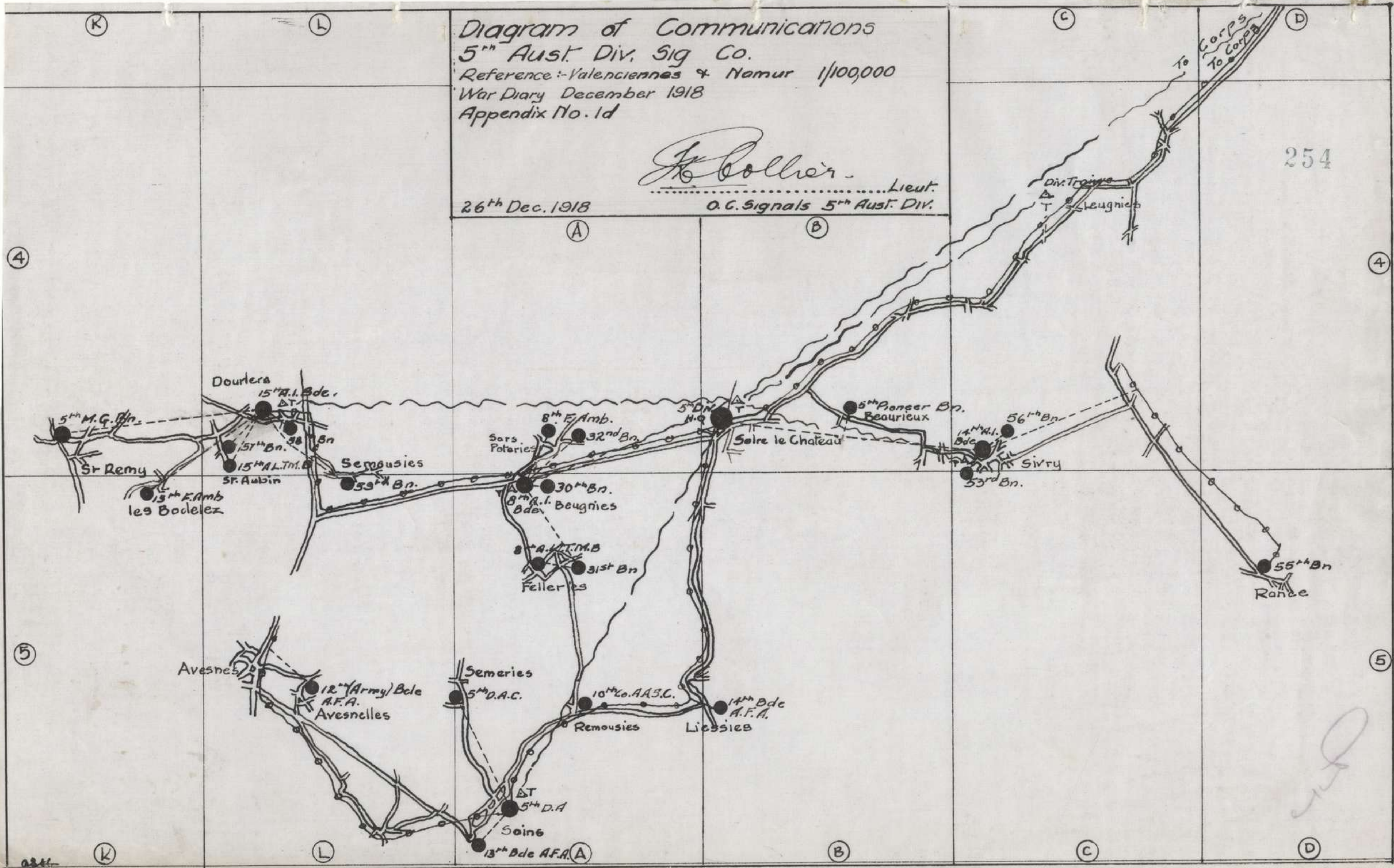
*J. Collier*

Diagram of Communications  
 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig. Co.  
 Reference: Valenciennes & Namur 1/100,000  
 War Diary December 1918  
 Appendix No. 1d

*J. Collier*

26<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918  
 Lieut.  
 O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.

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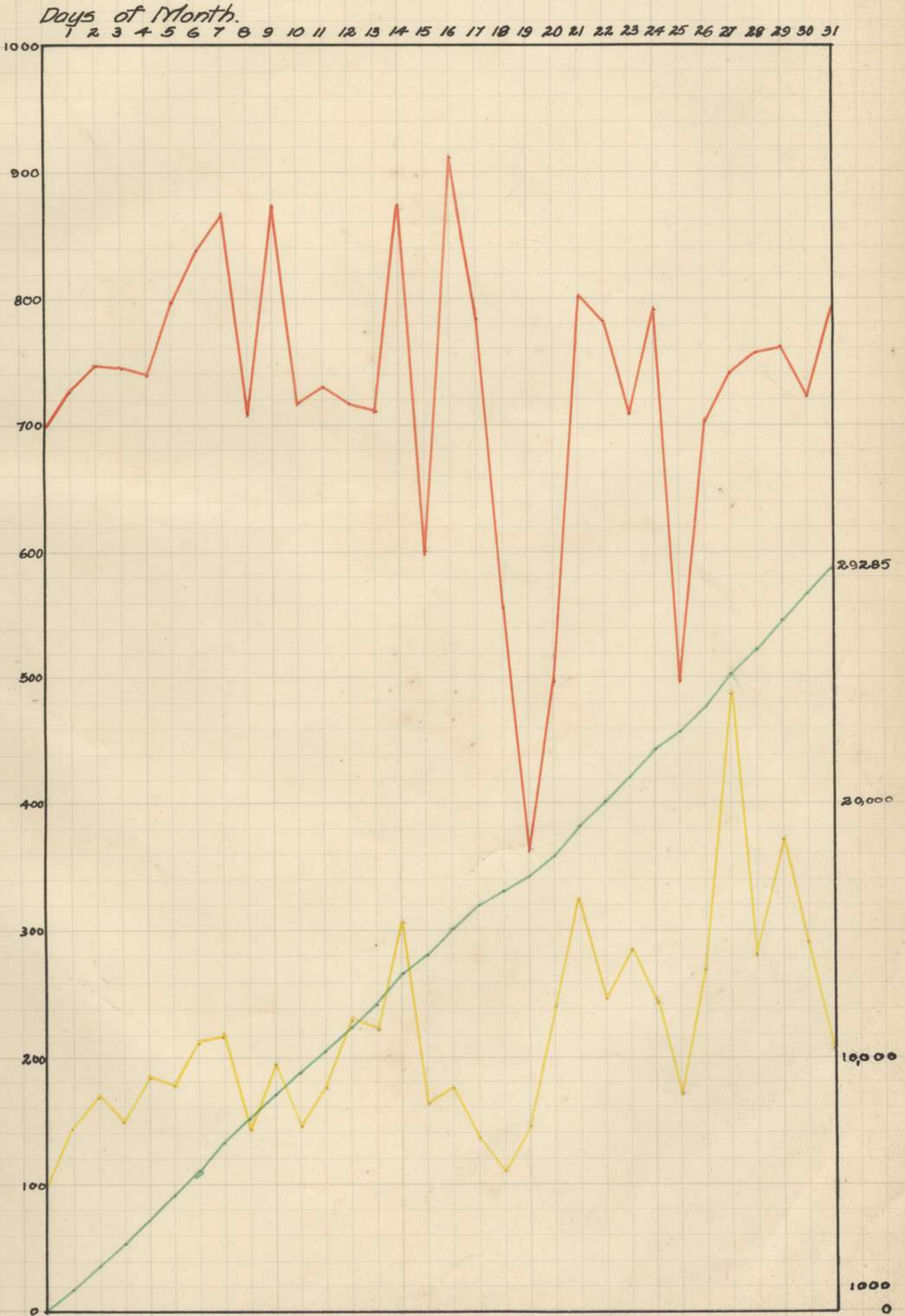


*John*

# Traffic Chart of D.R.L.S. & Telegrams

D.R.L.S. — Telegrams — Progressive Totals (All Traffic)

War Diary December 1918 Appendix No. 2



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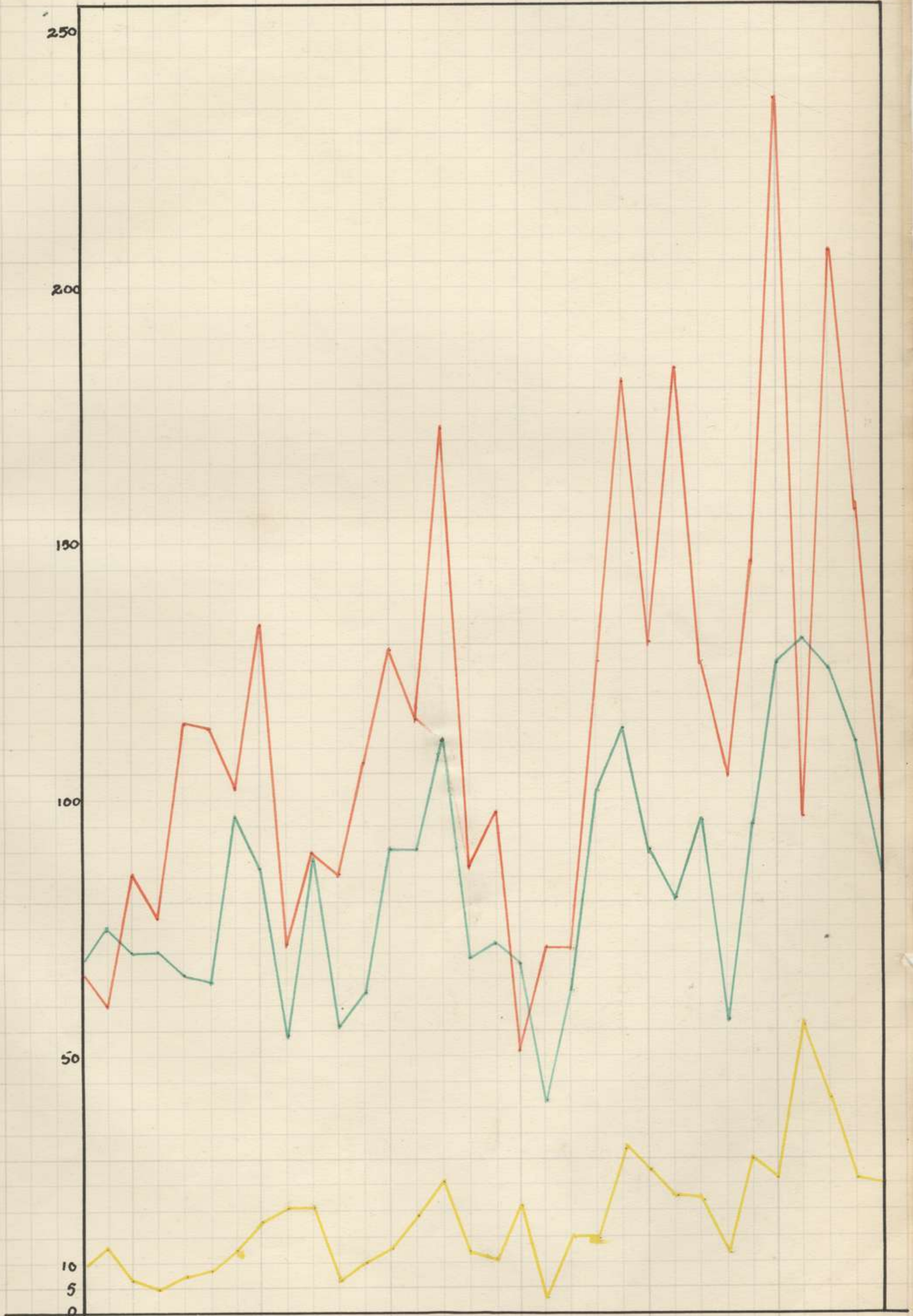
# Diagram of Telegraph Traffic (A, B & C Forms)

A Forms — B Forms — C Forms

War Diary December 1918 Appendix No 3

Days of Month

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



COMPANY ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

Captain C.H.BATH, O.C., 5th Aust. Divisional Signal Co.9th December 1918.215. PAY OFFICE, PARIS.

The Pay Office in Paris is now situated at -  
 The Hotel Windsor,  
 26 Rue de Petrograd,  
 and is 3 minutes walk from the Gare St.Lazare  
 5 " " " the Opera  
 5 " " " Pepiniere Barracks, direct tram from  
 the Madeleine and Opera and is situated between two main Tube  
 Stations - Europe on the Metropolitan line and the Liege on the  
 Nord Sud line - being two minutes from each.

216. BURIAL OF ANIMALS (A.R.O.2645)

The O.C. every Unit or detachment is responsible for the  
 burial of any dead animal lying within 400 yards of his men's  
 billets or bivouacs, if occupied by them for 24 hours or more.

217. GERMAN MONEY IN REOCCUPIED BELGIUM.

There is at the present time nothing but German money in  
 reoccupied Belgium. This money is subject commercially to  
 depreciation of about 50%. The troops should be warned that  
 the Belgian shop keepers will endeavour to induce them to accept  
 this money at pre war value, and that if they do so they will be  
 accepting at their own risk money which they will only be able  
 to exchange later at considerable loss.

218. PROMOTIONS.

Lieut.(T/Capt.) C.J.KELYNACK, MC. to be Captain 15th June 1918  
 (A.I.F. List No.403.)  
 2/Lieut. J.MOORE, MM. to be Lieutenant 27th August 1918.  
 (A.I.F. List No.403.)

219. CADET TRAINING UNITS, ENGINEERS (SIGNAL SERVICE)

The undermentioned Cadet, having qualified for a commission  
 in the Engineers (Signal Service) is appointed 2nd Lieutenant in  
 the A.I.F. - dated 19th October 1918 (A.I.F. List No.400)

2666 Sgt. Alfred Edward SHEPPEARD, MM.

220. APPOINTMENTS.

No.2848 Sapper HARGREAVES, A. Appointed Driver 19/9/18 vice Lowe.  
No.6017 Sapper EDWARDS, M.L. Appointed Driver 18/10/18 vice Hale.  
No.3639 Sapper EASTWOOD, F. Appointed Driver 14/11/18 vice  
 Doyle, F.M.

*C.H. Bath*  
 C.O. 5TH AUST. DIV'L SIGNAL CO.

NOTICE.

ACCOUNTS WITH COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA. All men who have  
 accounts with the Commonwealth Bank in London, should, immediately  
 they learn they are to return to Australia, write to the Bank in  
 London requesting that their accounts be transferred to Australia.

COMPANY ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

Captain C.H.BATH, O.C., 5th Aust. Divisional Signal Co.14th December 1918.221. DISCHARGE OF MEMBERS OF THE A.I.F. IN UNITED KINGDOM. (AIF Order 1470)

The following conditions are imposed on members of the A.I.F. desirous of obtaining their discharge in the United Kingdom, and no member will be discharged unless they are fulfilled:-

1. Next of kin resides outside Australia or has no objection to discharge abroad.
2. Domicile was ordinarily outside Australia before the war or would be necessary for person concerned to return to the United Kingdom if returned to Australia for discharge.
3. Must be able to maintain himself abroad.
4. Release the Commonwealth Government from any obligation to repatriate at any future period.

222. UNOCCUPIED HOUSES.

Owing to the fact that there are a large number of unoccupied residences containing furniture and effects in the new Divisional area, all ranks are forbidden to enter any unoccupied houses. Instructions have been issued to Military Police and picquets to arrest and report all troops entering or attempting to enter such premises.

223. DEMOBILISATION.

The Department of Defence advises that if they so desire men who enlisted in one Military District but whose homes or relatives are resident in another, may, when returned to Australia, be disembarked and discharged in the Military District in which their homes are situated or in which their relatives live.

This will be done on the understanding that the Defence Department is not liable for the expense of the transfer of the men later on to the Military District in which they enlisted.

224. HONOURS AND REWARDS.

The undermentioned decorations have been awarded:-

MILITARY MEDAL.

No.1030	Sergeant A.N.RENNIE	5th Aust. Div. Signal Co.
No.2890	T/2nd Cpl. A.W.GREEN	-do-
No.3672	Lance Cpl. H.L.PENDER	-do-
No.14831	Sapper E.V.BRADWELL	-do-
No.17461	Sapper H.CARROLL	-do-
No.18792	Sapper A.L.GATE	-do-
No.19702	Sapper C.S.KIRK	-do-
No.1892	Sapper J.D.PENNICUIK	-do-

225. LEAVE.

All men from Company Headquarters proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom and in France will take all equipment with the exception of blankets which will be left at the Quartermaster's Store.

-over-

226. CENSORSHIP.

All ranks are reminded that Censorship Regulations are only relaxed slightly and not cancelled. The practice of handing in letters sealed must cease.

227. CHEVRONS FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE.

1. It is notified that, in the A.I.F., the wearing of chevrons for overseas service is compulsory and that the wilful irregular wearing of chevrons is an offence punishable by Court Martial.

Supplies of chevrons are now available and O's C. Sections should demand their requirements from C.Q.M.S. It should be noted that the date of embarkation from Australia shewn on page 1 of soldier's pay book is, in most cases, a sufficient indication of the number of chevrons to which the soldier is entitled. In cases where disqualifying service has been incurred, i.e., terms of imprisonment or detention, periods in hospital due to avoidable causes, or periods of absence without leave, chevrons may be issued provisionally but such cases should be referred to Company Headquarters, who will advise as to the number of chevrons to which the soldier is entitled.

2. The wearing of the letter "A" by those who are entitled to wear it is also compulsory.

*W. H. Pearson*  
Major  
15th Aust. Div. Signal Co.

NOTICE.

MAILS. It is notified that owing to truck shortage at the Base Ports the receipt of Unit mails has been very irregular of late and it is not expected that the position will improve in the immediate future.

The 15th Field Ambulance has established a BLUE LIGHT POST at Sauchon-Lazarette, AVESNES.

RECEIVED BY THE V.I.P. IN UNITED KINGDOM (VAL 01/08/45)

COMMUNICATED BY THE V.I.P. IN UNITED KINGDOM (VAL 01/08/45)

COMMUNICATED BY THE V.I.P. IN UNITED KINGDOM (VAL 01/08/45)



5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Appendix No 5

D.R.L.S. TIME-TABLE.Australian Corps.

Leave Aust. Corps	...	0700	1600
Leave 5th Aust. Division	...	0750	1650
Arrive Aust. Corps	...	0840	1740

8th and 15th Aust. Infantry Brigades  
5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

Leave 5th Aust. Division	...	0700	1400
Leave 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade	...	0720	1420
Leave 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade	...	0750	1450
Leave 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.	...	0805	1505
Arrive 5th Aust. Division	...	0900	1600

14th Aust. Infantry Brigade  
5th Aust. Divisional Artillery.

Leave 5th Aust. Division	...	0700	1400
Leave 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade	...	0720	1420
Leave 5th Aust. Div. Artillery	..	0805	1505
Arrive 5th Aust. Division	...	0845	1545

Other Units.

Circular run at 0900 daily. Divisional Train, S.S.O., Pioneer Battalion, 5th Aust. Div. Rft. Wing, D.A.D.O.S., and 5th Aust. M.T. Co. are on this run.

All previous time-tables are cancelled.

*Chas. W. Bann* Capt.  
 O.C. Signals, 5th Aust. Division.

23rd December 1918.

NOTE. Packets should be lodged at the Signal Office 10 minutes before specified times of departure in order to allow for registration.

5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.LIST OF TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS - 31/12/18

1. "G" Staff
2. "Q" Branch
3. G.O.C.
4. 5th Aust. Divisional Artillery
5. Australian Corps
6. C.R.E.
7. 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade
8. Signals Mess
9. A.P.M.
10. 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade (2 rings)  
5th Pioneer Battalion (3 rings)
11. Camp Commandant
12. 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade
13. Signals Orderly Room
14. A.D.M.S.
15. 3rd Aust. M.T. Co.
16. "A" Mess
17. Education Officer
18. "C" Company 5th Pioneer Battalion
19. Message 'phone.

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	December 1918.			
	1st Dec.		No.4 Section were on parade with their Brigade at the inspection by H.M. The King. Billets and stabling at Company Headquarters at FAVRIL most unsatisfactory. The village was filthy and the houses in bad repair.	
	2nd Dec.		Dull showery day and the roads are cutting up rapidly under the heavy motor transport.	
	3rd Dec.		A line run to 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade at FESMY and wireless communication established with Divisional Train.	
	4th Dec.		Nothing of importance.	
	5th Dec.		Dull showery day. Everything else as usual.	
	6th Dec.		Fine day for a change. Major R.A. Stanley D.S.O. proceeded on "1914" furlough to Australia.	
	7th Dec.		Parade and rifle inspection held at Company Headquarters. No.4 Section held marching out parade, equipment and rifle inspection.	
	8th Dec.		No.4 Section attached to 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed at FAVRIL at 0845 and proceeded by route march to DOULERS. Communication via 50th Division. No.2 Section attached to 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed at MAZINGHIEM at 0900 and marched to FAVRIL opening office at 1300.	
	9th Dec.		Weather dull but fine. 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade connected to Australian Corps on permanent route at 1345.	
	10th Dec.		Rained heavily all day and the mud is becoming bad on all the roads owing to the very heavy motor traffic.	
	11th Dec.		No.2 Section returned the runners attached from Infantry Battalions as these are not necessary now. These men have been attached for some time and have done excellent work and the Company is sorry to lose their services. Australian Corps closed at AVESNES and opened at HAM-sug-HEURE. In touch with Divisional Train in their new position.	
	12th Dec.		Steady rain. Corps line out of order.	
	13th Dec.		Local lines round Divisional Headquarters overhauled and straightened up.	
	14th Dec.		French civilian, in endeavour to improve the appearance of his house, cut all lines leading out of the Signal Office.	
	15th Dec.		No.4 Section returned their runners to their respective Battalions.	
	16th Dec.		Neither any Section nor Company Headquarters has anything to report today. This gives some idea of the present strenuous conditions. Everyone was too busy to even note the weather.	

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Sheet 2.

5TH AUST. DIVL. SIGNAL Co.

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Remarks and references to Appendices

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	17th Dec.		Billeting N.C.O. and advance party sent to SOLRE LE CHATEAU to secure quarters for Company Headquarters.	
	18th Dec.		No.2 Section attached to 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed at FAVRIL at 0830 and moved by route march to AVESNES opening there at 1600. No.3 Section attached to 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade moved by route march from FESMY at 0900 and opened at CARTIGNIES at 1400 and secured telephone communication via 2nd Aust. Division. Steady rain all day. Another lorry loaded with wireless gear and cooks for the advanced party was despatched for SOLRE LE CHATEAU. Company Headquarters transport moved out from FAVRIL at 0600 and arrived at SOLRE LE CHATEAU at 1600.	
	19th Dec.		No.2 Section attached 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade closed their office at AVESNES at 0900 and proceeded by route march to BEUGNIES opening there at 1200. D.A.H.Q. detachment and both Sub-sections moved from ST.SOUPLET at 0930 and arrived at CARTIGNIES at 1430 where they staged for the night. No.3 Section attached 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade moved from CARTIGNIES at 0900 and proceeded by route march to SAINS, a distance of 15½ kilos, where they staged for the night, opening there at 1400. The last office shift from Company Headquarters closed at FAVRIL at 1000. The advanced office shift took over from the 1st Aust. Division at SOLRE LE CHATEAU at 1000. The billets here proved very comfortable and before night every man had secured a folding iron bed and a mattress from one of the numerous abandoned German hospitals in the town.	
	20th Dec.		Communication established with 15th and 8th Aust. Infantry Brigades on permanent routes, and local telephones and electric lights were installed. No.5 Section attached to 5th Aust. M.G.Battalion moved with Battalion from ST. REMY village to ST. REMY Chateau. 5th Aust. M.G.Battalion connected to 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade. No.3 Section closed at SAINS and moved by route march to SIVRY, a distance of 22 kilos, and established communication to Division by telegraph and telephone.	
	21st Dec.		Company Headquarters billets and horse lines were cleaned up and proved very satisfactory and comfortable though unfortunately very dirty and littered with accumulated rubbish. R.A.H.Q. detachment moved to SAINS area. Lieut. A.J.Sweetman, MC., O.C. No.2 Sub-section attached to 14th Aust. F.A.Brigade, was severely injured by a whirlwind blowing down a barn in which he was sheltering from the rain.	
			No.3 Section salvaged cable and succeeded in connecting up all their Battalions. Wireless stations withdrawn from 8th and 14th Aust. Infantry Brigades. R.A.H.Q. detachment and both Sub-sections reported both billeting and stabling accommodation at SAINS to be very good. Lorry despatched to CHARLEROI to attempt to buy some Xmas cheer for the troops.	

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.)

Sheet 3.

5TH AUST. DIVL SIGNAL CO.

Summary of Events and Information

254

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22nd	Dec.	Weather showery and very cold. Parade and rifle inspection held at Company Headquarters at 1000. Company Routine Orders and notices were read and parade dismissed.	
	23rd	Dec.	At all Sections this day seems to have been devoted to cleaning up billets and vicinities in preparation for the Xmas festivities. Lorry returned from CHARLEROI with a quantity of vegetables, canteen stores and barrel beer for Xmas dinner. Capt. C.J.Kelynack <sup>M.C.</sup> left on "1914" leave to United Kingdom.	
	24th	Dec.	Quiet day reported from all Sections. The Divisional Concert Party, assisted by our orchestra, gave a concert in the Cinema Hall, SOLRE LE CHATEAU. It was snowing slowly when the concert came out. An old-time Xmas effect was given to the evening by a party of "Waits" from various Units serenading the various Officers' Messes in the hope of the usual reward for music misplayed in a snowstorm.	
	25th	Dec.	Comforts failed to arrive owing to transport difficulties so we had to make the best of Xmas without the contribution from home. However, at all Sections and Company Headquarters an excellent dinner provided by Regimental funds was served, and by evening everyone was quite happy. All signal offices were closed from 1700 to 2300 except for urgent business.	
	26th	Dec.	Capt. C.H.Bath departed for Australia being recalled as a Crown witness in the SNOW Case. This is the second O.C. we have lost in three weeks. As we have only Lieutenants in the Company now Lieut. T.R.Collier, M.C. assumed the duties of O.C.. Lieut. O.F.Metcher left on 14 days special leave to United Kingdom.	
	27th	Dec.	Parade and rifle inspection was held at Company Headquarters. Lieut. W.Forrest was changed from No.3 Section to 5th Aust. Divisional Artillery H.Q. Detachment.	
	28th	Dec.	Weather showery, nothing of importance to report anywhere.	
	29th	Dec.	Nothing of importance.	
	30th	Dec.	Lieut. J.D.Schroder, M.C. reported from duty with Aust. Corps Schools.	
	31st	Dec.	Lieut. J.D.Schroder, M.C. went to No.4 Section and Lieut. F.J.Murphy returned to Company Headquarters. Usual seasonal <del>Headquarters</del> celebrations, of course, this evening.	

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 4. 5th AUST DIVL SIGNAL Co.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	254	Remarks and references to Appendices																																										
			<p><u>PERSONNEL.</u> Major R.A. Stanley, D.S.O., proceeded to England for return to Australia on "1914" furlough on 6/12/18 and Captain C.H. Bath assumed temporary command of the Company. Captain C.H. Bath proceeded to England for return to Australia on 26/12/18 (recalled by Defence Dept.) and Lieut. T.R. Collier, M.C. assumed temporary command. Lieut. J.D. Schroder, M.C. resumed duty from seconding to Aust. Corps Schools on 30/12/18. Lieut. A.J. Sweetman, M.C. was evacuated injured on 23/12/18. Capt. C.J. Kelynack, M.C. proceeded on "1914" furlough to U.K. on 23/12/18.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Officers</th> <th>Other ranks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Establishment</td> <td>16</td> <td>356</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strength 31/12/18</td> <td>14</td> <td>374</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To hospital sick during month</td> <td>--</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To hospital injured during month</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rejoined Unit from sick and wounded</td> <td>--</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reinforcements from Base</td> <td>--</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On leave to U.K. during month</td> <td>2</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On leave in France during month</td> <td>--</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"1914" furlough to U.K.</td> <td>1</td> <td>--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Four other ranks were despatched to London for duty as Clerks at A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters.</p> <p><u>DEMOBILISATION.</u> Seven other ranks were despatched to A.G.B.D. for return to Australia (1915 personnel)</p> <p><u>EDUCATION.</u> Classes in Motor Mechanics, English and French have been commenced and attendances are satisfactory. Two men have been despatched to courses at Loco. Shops ST. ETIENNE, and 2 to Australian M.T. Coys. for instruction in their proposed post war trades.</p> <p><u>HONOURS AND REWARDS.</u> The following decorations have been awarded:-</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><u>MILITARY MEDAL.</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No. 1030 Sergeant A.N. RENNIE</td> <td>No. 2890 T/2nd Cpl. A.W. GREEN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 3672 Lance Cpl. H.L. PENDER</td> <td>No. 14831 Sapper E.V. BRADWELL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 17461 Sapper H. CARROLL</td> <td>No. 18792 Sapper A.L. GATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 19702 Sapper C.S. KIRK</td> <td>No. 1892 Sapper J.D. PENNICUIK</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 1104 Corporal H.H. ROBERTS</td> <td>No. 3381 Sapper N.S.C. JENNINGS.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Officers	Other ranks	Establishment	16	356	Strength 31/12/18	14	374	To hospital sick during month	--	18	To hospital injured during month	1	1	Rejoined Unit from sick and wounded	--	17	Reinforcements from Base	--	10	On leave to U.K. during month	2	59	On leave in France during month	--	16	"1914" furlough to U.K.	1	--	<u>MILITARY MEDAL.</u>		No. 1030 Sergeant A.N. RENNIE	No. 2890 T/2nd Cpl. A.W. GREEN	No. 3672 Lance Cpl. H.L. PENDER	No. 14831 Sapper E.V. BRADWELL	No. 17461 Sapper H. CARROLL	No. 18792 Sapper A.L. GATE	No. 19702 Sapper C.S. KIRK	No. 1892 Sapper J.D. PENNICUIK	No. 1104 Corporal H.H. ROBERTS	No. 3381 Sapper N.S.C. JENNINGS.		
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WAR DIARY

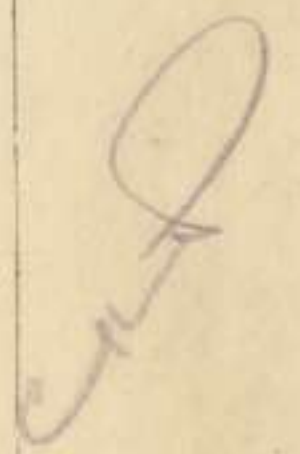
Army Form C. 2118.

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  
5th Aust. Div. Signal Co.  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 5. 5th AUST. DIV. SIGNAL CO.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>ANIMALS.</u>                      Establishment ... .. 46 rides      77 L.D.                      Strength 31/12/18 ... .. 24 rides      62 L.D.      14 mules                      One ride and 1 light draught were shot during the month and 2 light draughts evacuated,                      2 rides strayed from lines and 2 lights draughts were drawn from Pass.</p>	<p>254</p> 

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16

# WAR DIARY

OF

5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNAL CO.

FOR

MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Diagrams of Communication (a) Route Diagram 4/12/18 (b) Circuit Diagram 10/12/18 (c) Route Diagram 26/12/18 (d) Circuit Diagram 26/12/18
2.	D.R.L.S. and Telegram Chart
3.	Telegram Chart (A.B. & C. Forms)
4.	Company Routine Orders.
5.	D.R.L.S. Time-table.
6.	List of Telephone Subscribers.

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Diagram of Communications

5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div Sig. Co.

Reference:- Valenciennes 1/100,000  
War Diary Dec 1918  
Appendix No. 1.  
4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918

*J. G. Collier* Lieut  
O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.

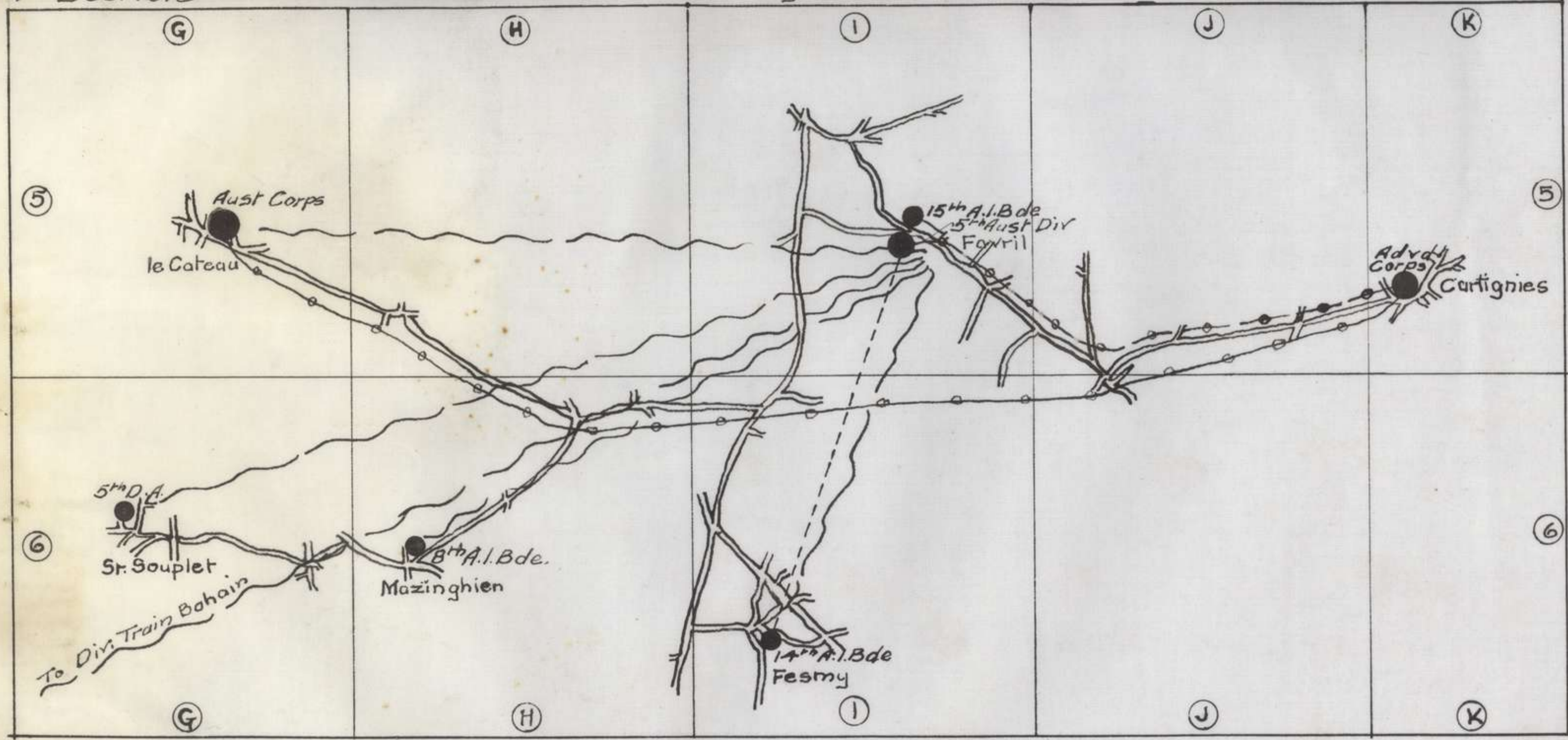
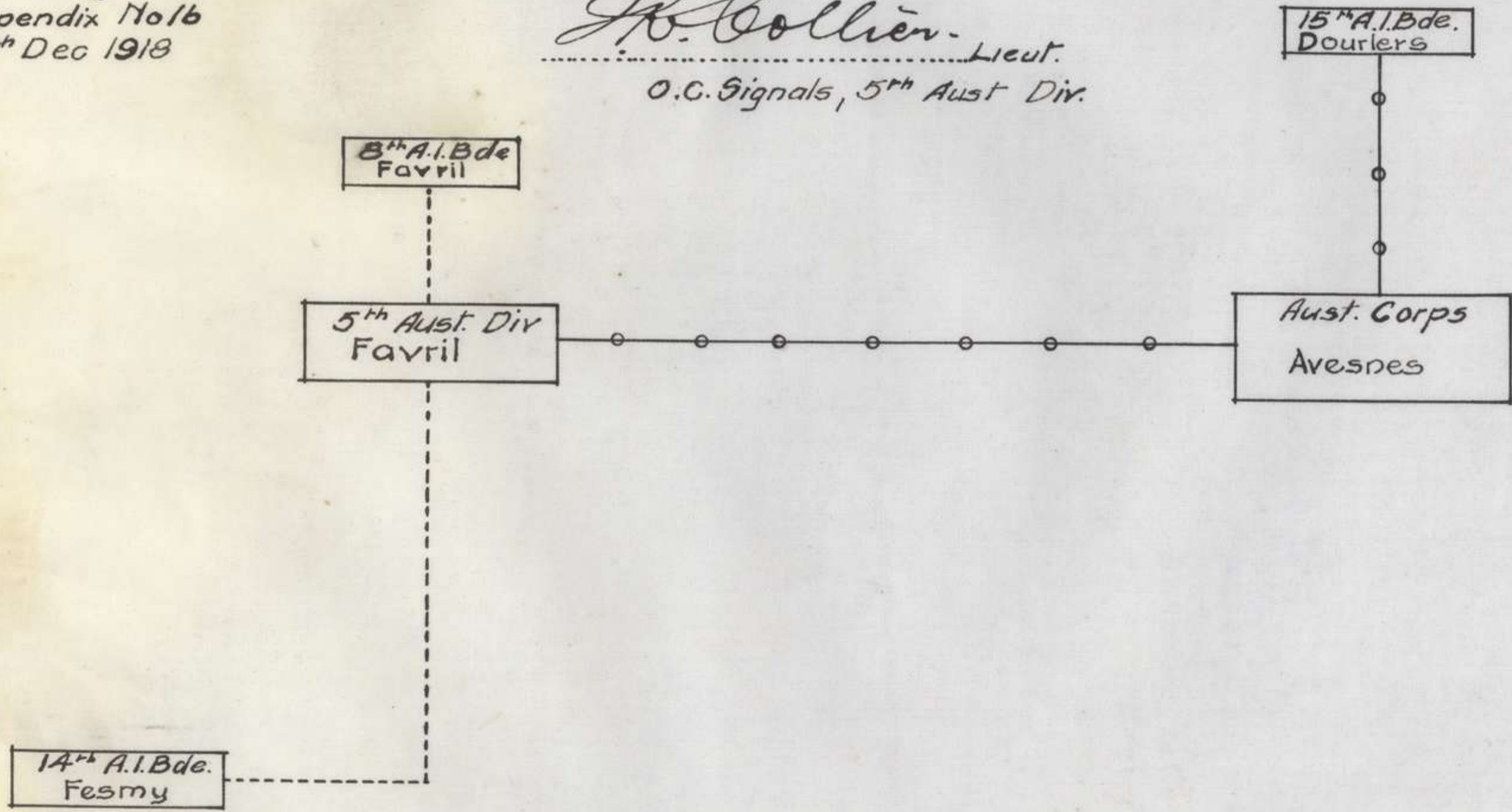


Diagram of Communications  
5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig. Co.

War Diary Dec. 1918  
Appendix No 16  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1918

*J. Collier* - Lieut.  
O.C. Signals, 5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div.



*J. Collier*

# Circuit Diagram

## 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig. Co.

War Diary Dec. '18  
Appendix No. 1c.

26<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918

*J. Collier* - Lieut.  
O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.

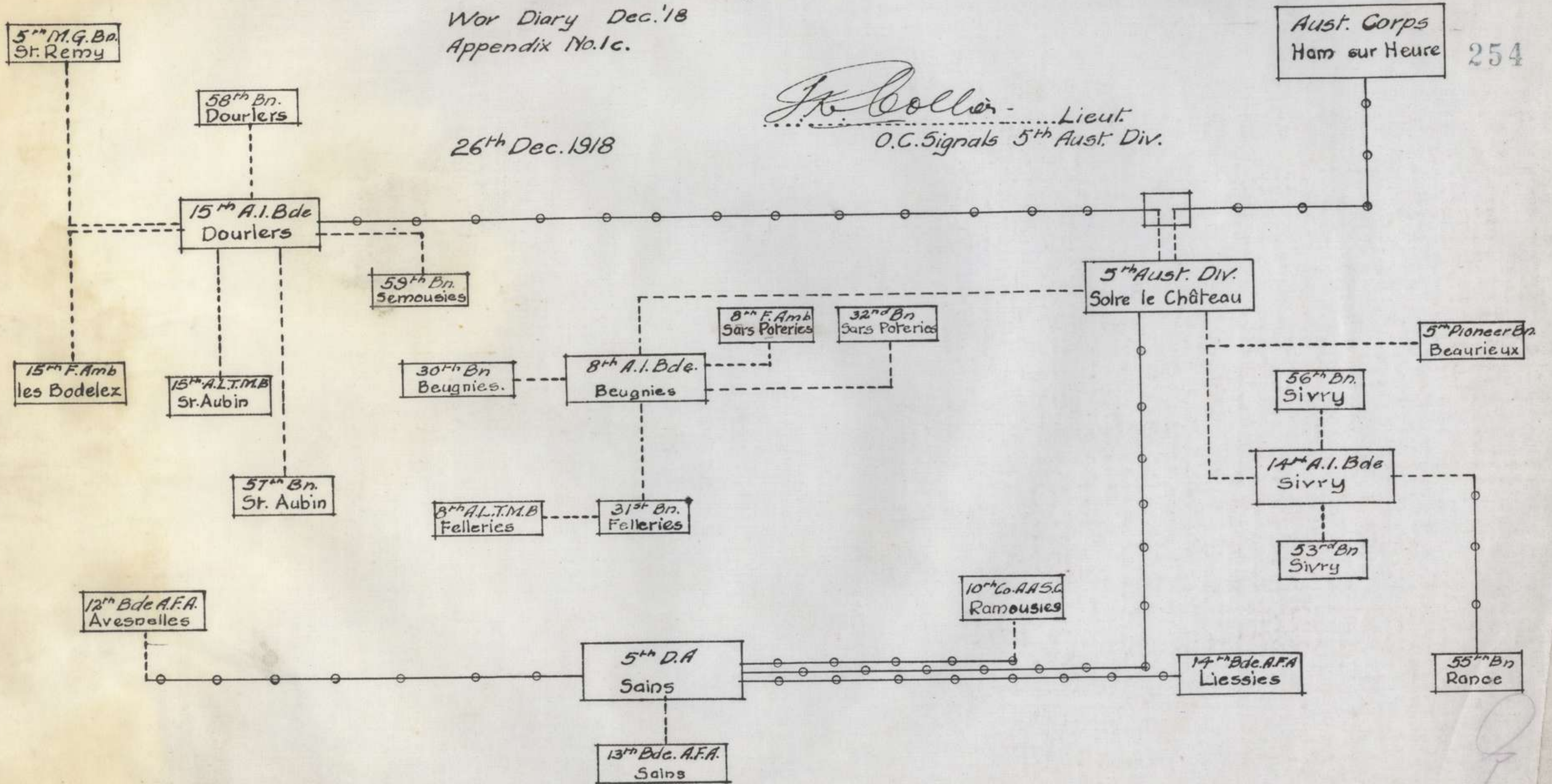


Diagram of Communications  
 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Sig. Co.  
 Reference :- Valenciennes & Namur 1/100,000  
 War Diary December 1918  
 Appendix No. 1d

*Rollier*

26<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918

Lieut.  
 O.C. Signals 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.

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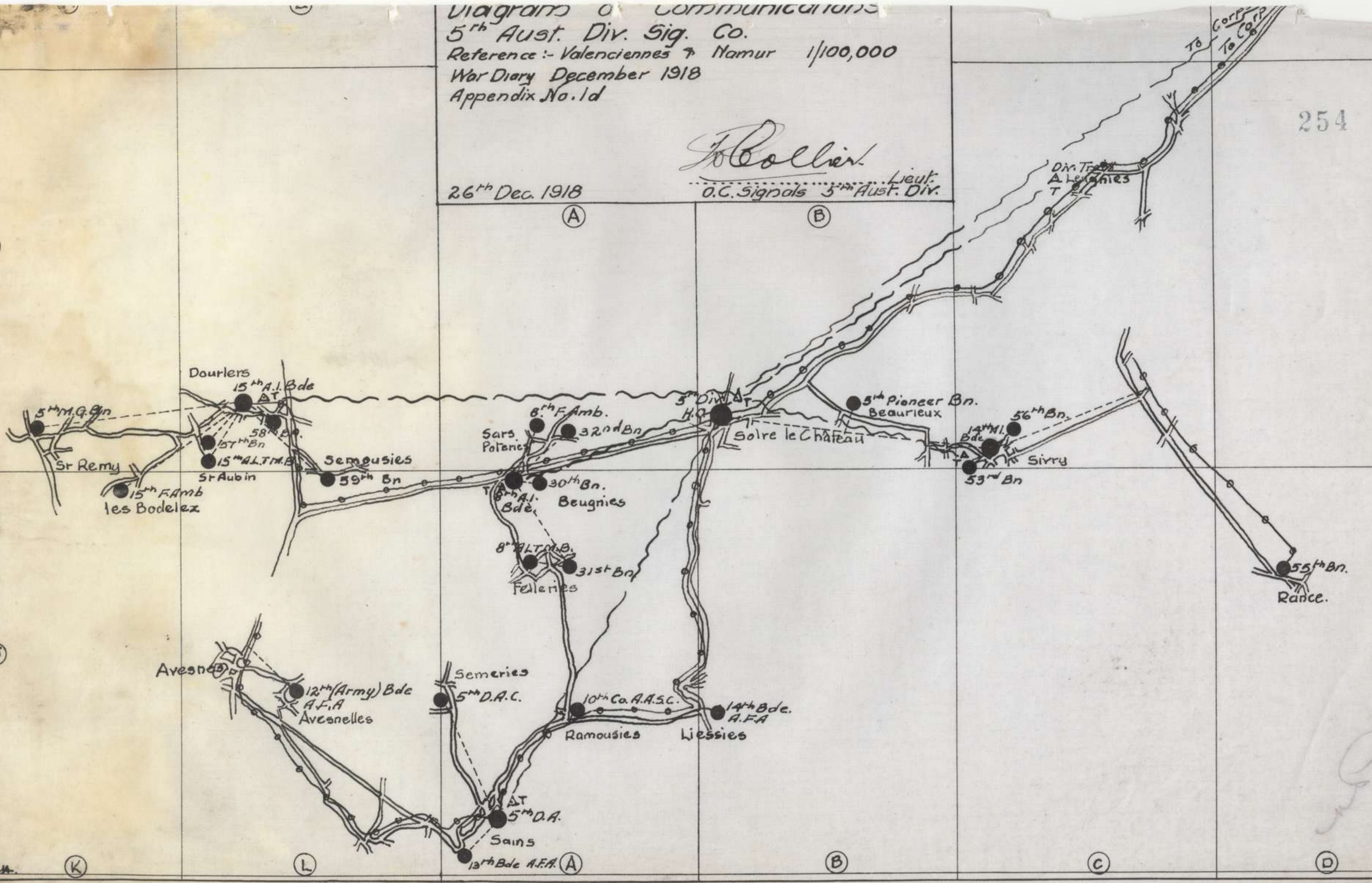
L

A

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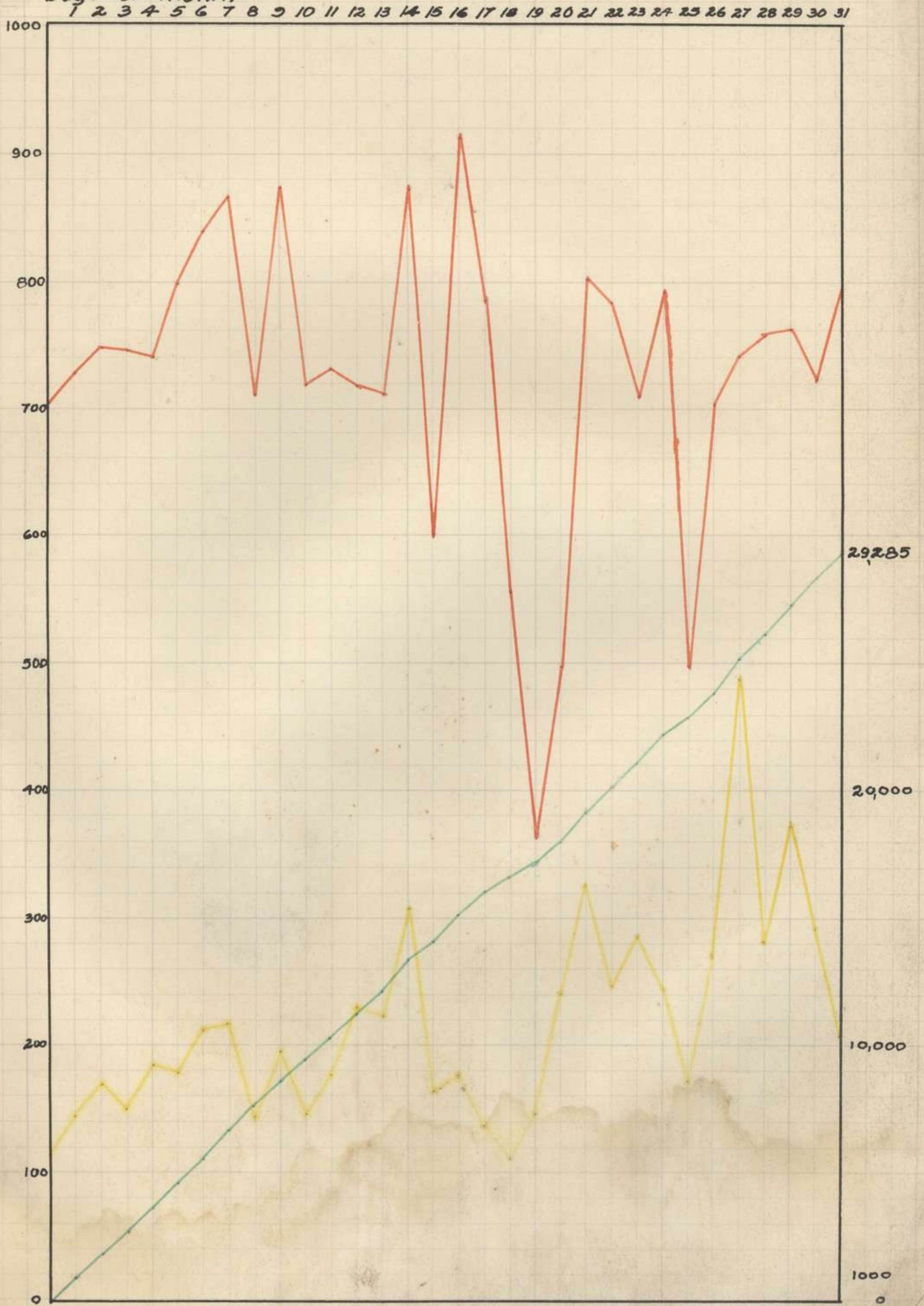


# Traffic Chart of D.R.L.S. & Telegrams

D.R.L.S. — Telegrams — Progressive Totals (all Traffic)

War Diary December 1918 Appendix No. 2

Days of Month



254

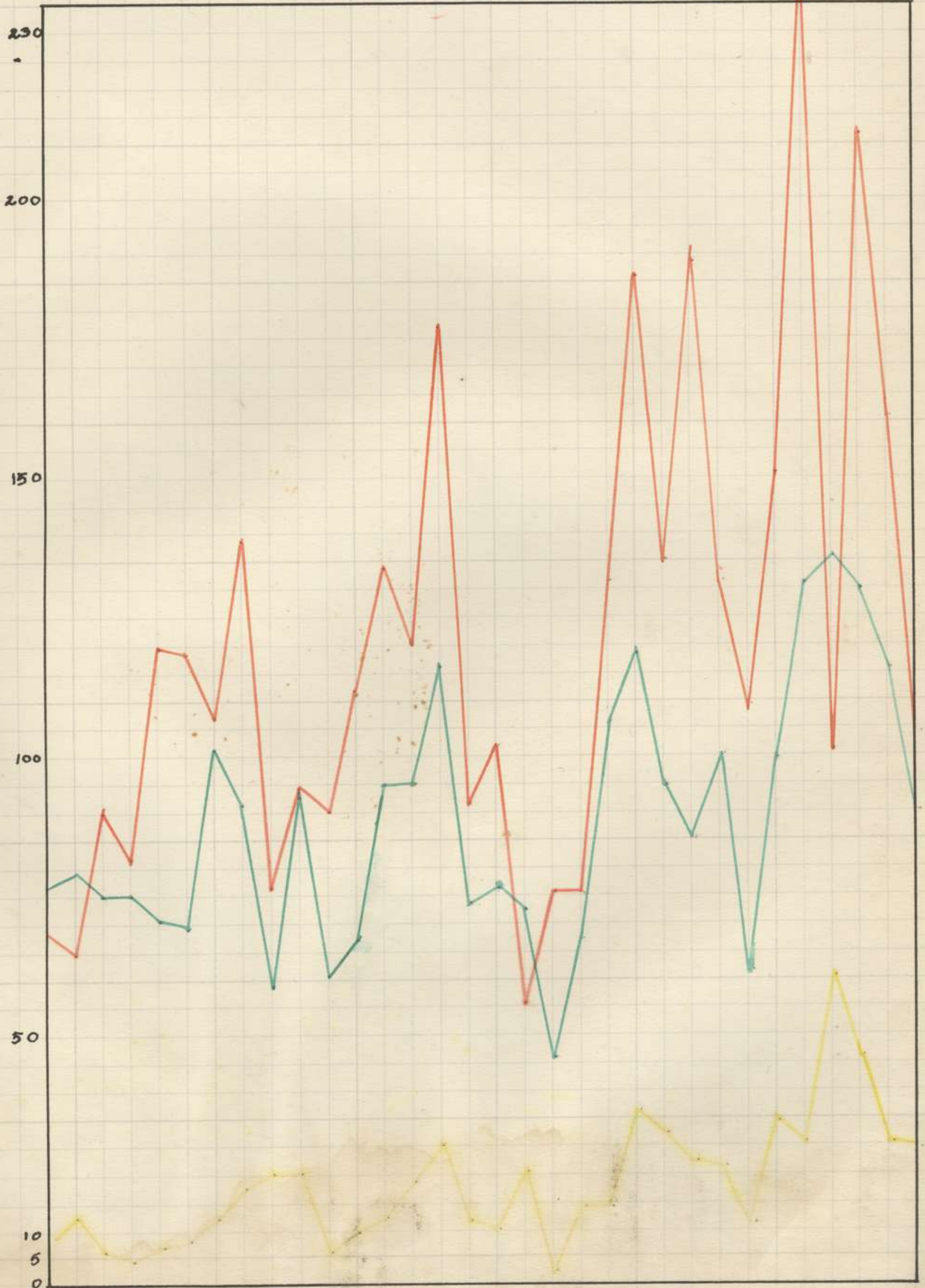
# Traffic Chart of Telegrams (A, B & C, Forms)

A Forms — B Forms — C Forms —

War Diary December 1918 Appendix No 3

Days of Month

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 28 29 30 31



COMPANY ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

Captain C.H.BATH, O.C., 5th Aust. Divisional Signal Co.9th December 1918.215. PAY OFFICE, PARIS.

The Pay Office in Paris is now situated at -  
 The Hotel Windsor,  
 26 Rue de Petrograd,  
 and is 3 minutes walk from the Gare St.Lazare  
 5 " " " the Opera  
 5 " " " Pepiniere Barracks, direct tram from  
 the Madeleine and Opera and is situated between two main Tube  
 Stations - Europe on the Metropolitan line and the Liege on the  
 Nord Sud line - being two minutes from each.

216. BURIAL OF ANIMALS (A.R.O.2645)

The O.C. every Unit or detachment is responsible for the  
 burial of any dead animal lying within 400 yards of his men's  
 billets or bivouacs, if occupied by them for 24 hours or more.

217. GERMAN MONEY IN REOCCUPIED BELGIUM.

There is at the present time nothing but German money in  
 reoccupied Belgium. This money is subject commercially to  
 depreciation of about 50%. The troops should be warned that  
 the Belgian shop keepers will endeavour to induce them to accept  
 this money at pre war value, and that if they do so they will be  
 accepting at their own risk money which they will only be able  
 to exchange later at considerable loss.

218. PROMOTIONS.

Lieut.(T/Capt.) C.J.KELYNACK, MC. to be Captain 15th June 1918  
 (A.I.F. List No.403.)  
 2/Lieut. J.MOORE, MM. to be Lieutenant 27th August 1918.  
 (A.I.F. List No.403.)

219. CADET TRAINING UNITS, ENGINEERS (SIGNAL SERVICE)

The undermentioned Cadet, having qualified for a commission  
 in the Engineers (Signal Service) is appointed 2nd Lieutenant in  
 the A.I.F. - dated 19th October 1918 (A.I.F. List No.400)

2666 Sgt. Alfred Edward SHEPPEARD, MM.

220. APPOINTMENTS.

No.2848 Sapper HARGREAVES, A. Appointed Driver 19/9/18 vice Lowe.  
No.6017 Sapper EDWARDS, M.L. Appointed Driver 18/10/18 vice Hale.  
No.3639 Sapper EASTWOOD, F. Appointed Driver 14/11/18 vice  
 Doyle, F.M.

NOTICE.

ACCOUNTS WITH COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA. All men who have  
 accounts with the Commonwealth Bank in London, should, immediately  
 they learn they are to return to Australia, write to the Bank in  
 London requesting that their accounts be transferred to Australia.

C.H. BATH  
 O.C. 5TH AUST. DIV'L SIGNAL CO

COMPANY ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

Captain C.H.BATH, O.C., 5th Aust. Divisional Signal Co.14th December 1918.221. DISCHARGE OF MEMBERS OF THE A.I.F. IN UNITED KINGDOM. (AIF Order 1470)

The following conditions are imposed on members of the A.I.F. desirous of obtaining their discharge in the United Kingdom, and no member will be discharged unless they are fulfilled:-

1. Next of kin resides outside Australia or has no objection to discharge abroad.
2. Domicile was ordinarily outside Australia before the war or would be necessary for person concerned to return to the United Kingdom if returned to Australia for discharge.
3. Must be able to maintain himself abroad.
4. Release the Commonwealth Government from any obligation to repatriate at any future period.

222. UNOCCUPIED HOUSES.

Owing to the fact that there are a large number of unoccupied residences containing furniture and effects in the new Divisional area, all ranks are forbidden to enter any unoccupied houses. Instructions have been issued to Military Police and picquets to arrest and report all troops entering or attempting to enter such premises.

223. DEMOBILISATION.

The Department of Defence advises that if they so desire men who enlisted in one Military District but whose homes or relatives are resident in another, may, when returned to Australia, be disembarked and discharged in the Military District in which their homes are situated or in which their relatives live.

This will be done on the understanding that the Defence Department is not liable for the expense of the transfer of the men later on to the Military District in which they enlisted.

224. HONOURS AND REWARDS.

The undermentioned decorations have been awarded:-

MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 1030	Sergeant A.N. RENNIE	5th Aust. Div. Signal Co.
No. 2890	T/2nd Cpl. A.W. GREEN	-do-
No. 3672	Lance Cpl. H.L. PENDER	-do-
No. 14831	Sapper E.V. BRADWELL	-do-
No. 17461	Sapper H. CARROLL	-do-
No. 18792	Sapper A.L. GATE	-do-
No. 19702	Sapper C.S. KIRK	-do-
No. 1892	Sapper J.D. PENNICUIK	-do-

225. LEAVE.

All men from Company Headquarters proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom and in France will take all equipment with the exception of blankets which will be left at the Quartermaster's Store.



226. CENSORSHIP.

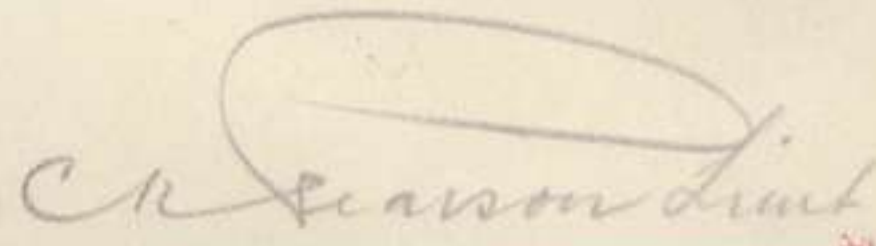
All ranks are reminded that Censorship Regulations are only relaxed slightly and not cancelled. The practice of handing in letters sealed must cease.

227. CHEVRONS FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE.

1. It is notified that, in the A.I.F., the wearing of chevrons for overseas service is compulsory and that the wilful irregular wearing of chevrons is an offence punishable by Court Martial.

Supplies of chevrons are now available and O's C. Sections should demand their requirements from C.Q.M.S. It should be noted that the date of embarkation from Australia shown on page 1 of soldier's pay book is, in most cases, a sufficient indication of the number of chevrons to which the soldier is entitled. In cases where disqualifying service has been incurred, i.e., terms of imprisonment or detention, periods in hospital due to avoidable causes, or periods of absence without leave, chevrons may be issued provisionally but such cases should be referred to Company Headquarters, who will advise as to the number of chevrons to which the soldier is entitled.

2. The wearing of the letter "A" by those who are entitled to wear it is also compulsory.

  
.....Major  
C. O. 5TH AUST. DIV'L. SIGNAL CO

NOTICE.

MAILS. It is notified that owing to truck shortage at the Base Ports the receipt of Unit mails has been very irregular of late and it is not expected that the position will improve in the immediate future.

The 15th Field Ambulance has established a BLUE LIGHT POST at Sauchon-Lazarette, AVESNES.

5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.D.R.L.S. TIME-TABLE.Australian Corps.

Leave Aust. Corps	...	0700	1600
Leave 5th Aust. Division	...	0750	1650
Arrive Aust. Corps	...	0840	1740

8th and 15th Aust. Infantry Brigades  
5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

Leave 5th Aust. Division	...	0700	1400
Leave 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade	...	0720	1420
Leave 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade	...	0750	1450
Leave 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.	...	0805	1505
Arrive 5th Aust. Division	...	0900	1600

14th Aust. Infantry Brigade  
5th Aust. Divisional Artillery.

Leave 5th Aust. Division	...	0700	1400
Leave 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade	...	0720	1420
Leave 5th Aust. Div. Artillery	..	0805	1505
Arrive 5th Aust. Division	...	0845	1545

Other Units.

Circular run at 0900 daily. Divisional Train, S.S.O., Pioneer Battalion, 5th Aust. Div. Rft. Wing, D.A.D.O.S., and 5th Aust. M.T. Co. are on this run.

All previous time-tables are cancelled.

*John W. Ball* Capt.  
 O.C. Signals, 5th Aust. Division.

23rd December 1918.

NOTE. Packets should be lodged at the Signal Office 10 minutes before specified times of departure in order to allow for registration.

5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.LIST OF TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS - 31/12/18

1. "G" Staff
2. "Q" Branch
3. G.O.C.
4. 5th Aust. Divisional Artillery
5. Australian Corps
6. C.R.E.
7. 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade
8. Signals Mess
9. A.P.M.
10. 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade (2 rings)  
5th Pioneer Battalion (3 rings)
11. Camp Commandant
12. 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade
13. Signals Orderly Room
14. A.D.M.S.
15. 3rd Aust. M.T. Co.
16. "A" Mess
17. Education Officer
18. "C" Company 5th Pioneer Battalion
19. Message 'phone.

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