

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

Signals

Item number: 22/17/5

Title: 1st Signal Squadron

July 1916



AWM4-22/17/5

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Signal Squadron - A.N.Z. Mtd. Divn.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hill 40	July			
	8 th - 9 th - 10 th		Reconnaissance made to Salmana. State line was repaired to Bir el Abd & report centre established there. Visual communication with force was established. An emergency cable was laid from Romani to Oghratina on 10 th	Signal order No 711
	12 th - 13 th		Reconnaissance made of Hod unmaisha. Report centre was established at Oghratina & reconnaissance party made use of telegraph line below at Debabis to transmit reports back to Report Centre. The right flank covering troops tied in on Sagia line. Forward & lateral communication maintained by visual.	Signal order No 711
19 th			Reconnaissance was ordered to Bir el Abd. Communications were arranged for via State line & by visual. During morning aeroplane reported advance of a large body of enemy on Oghratina. Precautions were taken to cut all lines in front of our advanced troops. All signal equipment was brought up from Hill 40 & the advanced Signal office at Romani was enlarged & the staff increased in preparation for extra work. Cables were laid to outposts & points of vantage which might be used as battle posts. Visual stations were posted on prominent positions in order to pick up messages from advanced troops. From 19 th till end of month messages transmitted through Signal office averaged 500 a day - 60% being of 6 or 7 addresses & many containing 100 to 300 words each.	Signal order No 711 Stamp: SIGNAL SQUADRON, A.N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION <i>Murray Knight etc</i>

SIGNAL ORDER NO.12.Signal Squadron,
Anzac Mounted Division,
5th. July, 1916.

Reference Maps;-

Qatia 1:100000

Sabkhet el Bardawil 1:125000

Diagram.

The communications will be as shown on attached diagram.

Communication

The Reconnaissance Force will be connected with Divisional Headquarters by telegraph and visual communication

Telegraph.

"B" Troop under Lieut. Donkin will make good the line from ROMANI to BIR EL ABD, where the report centre will be established. A Signal Office will also be established at OGH RATINA. The report centre will fall back when the Reconnaissance Force passes through.

The 5th.L.H.Regiment will see that the cable-line running from BIR EL HAMISAH to the QATIA -DUEIDAR line is in working order, and will connect up on this line.

Linemen.

Two linemen with a D3 for each pair will be posted at ROMANI, QATIA, OGH RATINA, HOD ED DEBABIS and BIR EL ABD, and two for D.H.Q., who must be trained telephonists.

"B" Troop will find the above detail.

Operators.

Three operators will be taken by Lieut. Donkin for ^{general} use at BIR EL ABD, two others being detailed to staff the Signal Office at OGH RATINA. Each party will carry two D3.

Visual.

Visual stations will be established by "D" Troop at KATIB GANIT and at OGH RATINA and by the 5th. Light Horse Regiment at Hill 383. The station at Katib Ganit and at OGH RATINA will consist each of

1 N.C.O.

3 Rank and file.

Covering Troops

The Signal Officer 1st. Light Horse Brigade will arrange for communication between the covering Regiment and Report Centre.

ACP Office

Lieut. Stinson will remain in charge of ACP Office.

Transport.

The parties proceeding to OGH RATINA should be mounted on camels, which the O.C. "B" Troop will arrange to supply.

Rations.

One full day's ration and one iron ration will be carried on each man. Two feeds per horse to be carried. Camels proceeding to OGH RATINA should carry three full days feed on saddles.

Reports.

Reports and messages intended for D.H.Q. will be sent to ROMANI after 1600 on July 8th.

Issued by D.R.L.S. at 1800

J. D. W. P. Major,
O.C. Signal Squadron
Anzac Mounted Division.

Copy No 1 to 1st. L.H.Bde
2 2nd. L.H.Bde
3 G.S.O.1
4 War Diary
5 5 A.L.H.Regt.
6 "B" Troop, Sig,Sqd.
7 "D" do do.
8 Squadron File.

APPENDIX

S.S. 257
Copy No.Signal Order No. 13.
By Major J.P. McCall, commanding,
-----Signal Squadron,
Anzac Mounted Division,
10th. July, 1916.Reference Map:-
QATIA 1:100000.

- (a) For the Operations commencing on July 12th., a report Centre will be established by the Signal Squadron at OGHRAFINA.
- (b) The O.C. "B" Troop, Signal Squadron, will be responsible that the overhead Telegraph line from ROMANI to DABBABIS is in working order.
- (c) The Signal Office, 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will arrange for a DS to be taken with Troops marching to HOD ES SAGIA. The DS Cable laid out from OGHRAFINA to a point $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of SAGIA is available. HQ will also send a DS with the Troops moving to HOD ED DEBABIS, from which place the line to the Report Centre at OGHRAFINA will be the overhead telegraph line.
- (d) Reports and messages intended for the D.H.Q. will be sent to "RG" for transmission to "AVA" through "ACP".

Issued by D.R.L.S. at 2350

J. P. McCall Major,
Signal Squadron,
Anzac Mounted Division.

1st.
Copy No-1 A.L.H. Brigade
2 "B" Troop, Signal Squadron.
3 "B" do do do.
4 Squadron File
5 D.H.Q.

APPENDIX

74

SIGNAL ORDER No. 14.

By Major J. P. McCall Commanding.

Signal Squadron.
Anzac Mounted Division.
10th July 1916.

Reference Map
Qatia. 1 : 100,000

1. "B" Troop Signal Squadron will lay the following line Romani - Oghratina.
2. Lieut Donkin will personally supervise the laying of the line.
3. The line must be laid according to the sketch plan ~~attached~~ attached, and will be clear of any other lines.
4. Two days' rations will be carried by each man. Two days feed for camels will be taken.
5. Water bottles will be filled.
6. The troop will commence work on the morning of July 12th, not later than 0630.
7. The line will be tested before being left.
8. The work should be completed to allow of the detachment arriving at Oghratina and taking over the report centre there on the evening of 12th July.
9. The detachment will return to Romani when the G.O.C. 2nd A.L.H. Brigade moves back to that place.

(Sgd) J.P.L. McCall.

O.C. Signal Squadron
Anzac Mounted Division.

Issued by D.R.L.S. at 2330.

APPENDIX

Copy No.
SS 215.

Signal Order No. 15.
By Major J.F. McCall, commanding,

Signal Squadron,
Anzac Mounted Division,
16th. July, 1916.

Reference Map.
QATIA 1:100000

- Communication. 1- For the operations commencing on July 19th., the Signal Squadron will establish a report centre on the old Egyptian State air-line as close to Brigade Headquarters as possible and make good the line from ROMANI to that Report Centre. The O.C."B" Troop will be responsible for this work being satisfactorily carried out, and will satisfy himself as to the exact position of Brigade Headquarters so that the Report Centre Office may not have to be moved unnecessarily.
 - Visual 2. The O.C."D" Troop will establish visual stations at HILLS40 and at OCHRATINA. The O.C.2nd. Signal Troop will arrange for direct communication between HANISAH and ACP.
 - Withdrawal. 3. The Signal Squadron Details will return to ROMANI when the Troops comprising the Reconnaissance Force have collected there unless otherwise ordered by the B.C.O. of that Force.
 - Supplies. 4. One days ration and one "iron" ration per man and two feeds for horses or camels will be taken.
 - Supplementary Cable Line. 5. The O.C."B" Troop will take the opportunity of completing the laying of the ground line ROMANI-OCHRATINA
 - Reports. 6. Reports and messages intended for D.H.Q. will be sent to ROMANI AFTER 1800 on 16th. instant
- Issued by D.R.L.B. at 1800

J. F. McCall Major,
O.C. Signal Squadron,

- Copy No. 1.00.0.1.
- 2 War Diary
 - 3 2nd. L.H. Sde.
 - 4 5th. L.H. Regt.
 - 5. "B" Troop, Signal Squadron.
 - 6 "D" Troop, do do
 - 7 Squadron file.