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WAR DIARY

of

GENERAL STAFF - 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

for

JANUARY 1919.

J. M. Lee

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

4/25/1919

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

GENERAL STAFF,
5th AUST. DIV.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>JANUARY 1919.</u>			
SOLRE - le -	1st		Holiday. Nothing of special interest to report.	
CHATEAU	2nd		The G.O.C. called a conference at Divisional Headquarters. It was attended by G.S.O. 1, A.A. & Q.M.G., G.Os.C. 8th, 14th and 15th Infantry Brigades, C.R.A., C.R.E., C.O.s 5th Machine Gun Battalion and 5th Pioneer Battalion. Several matters arising out of a conference held at Corps were discussed.	
	3rd		The G.O.C. Division visited the Corps Commander. Canon MASTERMAN arrived at the Division to undertake a lecturing tour, commencing with a lecture to headquarters troops at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU at 5 p.m. His subject was "Democracy."	
	4th		Canon MASTERMAN lectured to 15th Infantry Brigade.	
	5th		Very wet ; raining practically all day. Canon MASTERMAN gave two lectures at 13th (Army) Brigade A.F.A. and Divisional Artillery.	
	6th		Canon MASTERMAN lectured to 8th Infantry Brigade.	
	7th		Canon MASTERMAN lectured to Headquarters at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU, and to 14th Infantry Brigade at SIVRY. Captain Jim A. CHAPMAN took up duty as a/Brigade Major 14th Infantry Brigade.	
	8th		Colonel M.H.DOWNEY, DSO (A.D.M.S. of the Division) left for Australia. Canon MASTERMAN left for 2nd Australian Division.	
	9th		A conference, called by the Divisional Commander, was held at Divisional Headquarters to discuss matters in connection with the organisation of the Post Bellum Army. On this subject Corps had submitted a number of questions.	
	10th		The Corps Commander visited Divisional units. He was accompanied by the Divisional Commander. They had lunch at 8th Infantry Brigade. Captain F.A.WISDOM, DSO, MC (Brigade Major 8th Infantry Brigade) came to Divisional Headquarters for duty with "G" Staff.	

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or

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SOLRE - le - CHATEAU	10th			Colonel J.H. BRUCHE, CB, CMG (A.A. & Q.M.G.) left for England to take up duties with Repatriation and Demobilisation Department.	
	11th			G.O.C. Division visited 14th A.F.A. Brigade. A meeting of brigade and other Musketry officers was held at Divisional Headquarters to discuss the question of a rifle meeting under instructions laid down at Fourth Army rifle meeting. The Divisional Education School assembled at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU.	
	12th			Cloudy and cold. Nothing of interest.	
	13th			C.O. 66th French regiment on Border defence visited Divisional Headquarters. G.O.C. and G.S.O. I went to Australian Corps Workshops at JEUMONT. Captain L.G. MERKEL (G.S.O. III) went to United Kingdom on leave.	
	14th			G.O.C. visited 15th Infantry Brigade. Lieut-Colonel E.M. RALPH, DSO returned from Staff Course, CAMBRIDGE, and took up duties as A.A. & Q.M.G. Lieut-Colonel HIRST took up duties as a/D.A.A.G.	
	15th			Nothing of interest to report.	
	16th			A rifle match took place between 6th Battalion Chasseurs Alpins, 66th French Division, and 59th Battalion, 15th Infantry Brigade. This was won by 59th Battalion - 767 points to 600. Brig-General W.R. McNICOLL, CMG, DSO (Inspector-General of Education) arrived and addressed a meeting at 8th Infantry Brigade at 2.30 p.m.	
	17th			Brig-General McNICOLL visited 14th and 15th Infantry Brigades.	
	18th			Brig-General McNICOLL visited the Divisional Artillery. G.S.O. I and D.A.A.G. accompanied him.	

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or GENERAL STAFF, INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 5th AUST. DIV.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			JANUARY 1919	
SOLRE - le - CHATEAU	19th		G.O.C. Division visited Corps Headquarters.	
	20th		Lieut-Colonel N.K.CHARTERIS, CMG, DSO lectured to 14th Infantry Brigade on "The work of machine guns in Fourth Army."	
	21st		G.O.C. Division visited the Divisional Artillery.	
	22nd		A fine day. G.O.C. Division and G.S.O. I visited the Divisional Education School. G.S.O. I visited 5th Pioneer Battalion.	
	23rd		G.O.C. Division was at 14th Infantry Brigade. G.S.O. I visited Corps workshops, and also accompanied G.O.C. Division to 8th Infantry Brigade. A machine gun contest took place between 6th Battalion Chasseurs Alpins and 5th Machine Gun Battalion, resulting in an easy win for the Australians. Lieut-Colonel L.F.S.MATHER, DSO (C.R.E.) was found dead in bed at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU.	
	24th		G.O.C. Division was at BEAUMONT.	
	25th		Nothing special to report.	
	26th		"C" Conference was held at Corps Headquarters. Major A. PATTERSON arrived from 43rd Battalion, A.I.F. for attachment to "G" Branch of Staff. Snowing all day.	
	27th		G.O.C. Division went to 8th and 15th Infantry Brigades. A presentation of medals to members of 6th Battalion Chasseurs Alpins took place at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU. The Divisional Demonstration Platoon and 8th Brigade Band took part. Members of the Divisional Staff were also in attendance. G.S.O. I and A.A. & Q.M.G. attended a conference at Corps Headquarters.	

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--INTELLIGENCE--SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLRE - le - CHATEAU	28th 29th 30th 31st		<p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>G.O.C. Division visited Headquarters 66th French Division at MAUBEUGE, also the Corps Workshops at JEUMONT. Mr. CUTLACK (Australian Press correspondent) arrived at Divisional Headquarters.</p> <p>G.O.C. Division visited Headquarters, 6th Battalion Chasseurs Alpins. The O.C. Divisional Demonstration Platoon was made a Corporal in this regiment. G.O.C. Division and A.A.& Q.M.G. visited Corps Headquarters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The following are attached as appendices :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appendix No. 1 - POST BELLUM ARMY CONFERENCE NOTES Appendix No. 2 - DISPOSITION REPORT</p>	

233 ORGANISATION OF UNITS OF POST BELLUM ARMY.

NOTES OF CONFERENCE HELD AT 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL
HEADQUARTERS - 9th January 1919.

1. The following were present :-

G.O.C. 5th Australian Division
G.S.O. I
A.A. & Q.M.G.
C.R.A.
G.O.C. 8th Infantry Brigade
G.O.C. 14th Infantry Brigade
G.O.C. 15th Infantry Brigade
C.R.E.
C.O. 5th Machine Gun Battalion
O.C. Signal Company
A.D.M.S.
D.A.D.V.S.

2. The Divisional Commander stated that written replies to questions relating to the organisation of the Post Bellum Army had been obtained, and he had called the conference for the purpose of discussion on the matters raised.

The conference proceeded with the discussion of these questions:-

3. INFANTRY OF A DIVISION.

Question 1. The Divisional Commander said the replies were unanimous that there should be 12 battalions in a division, and from his own experience he thought there could be no question about the advisability of this number.

Question 2. It seemed to be the general opinion that a pioneer battalion as at present constituted was not necessary. Each of the Infantry brigade commanders had replied to that effect.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade suggested that a pioneer company be included in the organisation of an infantry brigade directly under the command of the brigadier. Much work that did not require the supervision of such highly trained personnel as engineers could then be put in hand at once. The engineers could be grouped together as a battalion under the command of the C.R.E. and disposed for technical work as the situation demanded. The present organisation of a pioneer battalion did not appear to give the battalion much scope for work for which it was intended. Usually they took their orders from the C.R.E., who was not responsible for the defence of any section and was frequently not in a position to judge immediate requirements from that most essential point of view. A company under the brigadier would mean better and more expeditious work and do away to a large extent with the necessity for appointments of "Works" officers in the battalions.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade said he did not consider they wanted a pioneer battalion, but there should be some supply from which the engineers could draw on manual labor. The strengthening of the engineer establishment might cover that.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade explained that the pioneer company which he had suggested could carry out much work which did not

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require the employment of skilled engineers. This work could be put in hand without delay. A company under the direct control of the brigadier would mean perhaps better and more expeditions work. At present brigades were frequently drawn on to form mining units.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade : You might be in the same position if your pioneer company were withdrawn from you.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade said at present engineers were more or less permanently attached to brigades, but they were too valuable and too technical troops for much of the work. It was a pity to waste troops like engineers on ordinary mining and other jobs which might not require high technical skill.

G.S.O. I : Would you include this company in the organisation of the brigade ?

G.O.C. 15th Brigade : Yes, like the former machine gun companies were.

The Divisional Commander said he agreed that the results from the pioneer battalions at present were not all that had been anticipated. When they had mining companies formed in the brigades they had proved very useful.

A.A. & Q.M.G. : You could have a mixture of pioneers and tunnellers.

C.R.E. said he had attended a conference of engineers, and they were almost unanimous that a new organisation was necessary. He outlined the new proposals so far as the organisation of engineers is concerned (as shown elsewhere). They would not all be skilled engineers. He thought there might be a sprinkling of pioneers in the proportion of about 2 to 1. There would be one company on the headquarters of the division - divided into two sections, one for workshops, running of dumps, electric light etc., and the other looking after transportation, having 6 or 8 lorries, with trailers for carting contents.

C.R.A. said it seemed to him that if they did away with pioneer battalions much extra work would come on the engineers.

C.R.E. said that under the new organisation they could be called on for any kind of work. On account of their small numbers in the past, they had not been able to do all that was required.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade said in the past there had often been a little friction between engineers and pioneers.

In reply to A.A. & Q.M.G., the C.R.E. stated that it was proposed that the C.R.E. should be a Colonel, and the O.C. of each company a Lieut-Colonel.

C.O. M.G. Battalion said the scheme in some respects seemed to be modelled on the American idea, which he believed had worked well.

Question 3. G.O.C. 8th Brigade thought there should be four Battalions formed into a brigade. It was elastic, and the best fighting formation.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade agreed, and stated that the four-square organisation was very desirable.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade said battalions should be grouped in fours ; groups of four to be designated a brigade. This grouping permitted the full development of the fighting powers of the brigade before it became necessary to withdraw the brigade from a battle. The four-square organisation facilitated reliefs - two battalions may be relieved by two which perhaps had not been so heavily engaged or had been in reserve. Having the four battalions also strengthened the reserve at the brigadier's

disposal, and generally decided whether a reserve could be formed at all. There was not the slightest doubt that four battalions increases the staying power of a brigade as a whole by reason of inter-battalion reliefs. The experience of his brigade was that the administrative work was the same as for three battalions.

The Divisional Commander : We seem to be unanimous that four battalions should be maintained.

Question 4. A.A. & Q.M.G. explained that the S.A.A. Section which formed part of the organisation of the divisional artillery had been working under divisional arrangements, and it was found most satisfactory. It would be better for the S.A.A. Section to be controlled in this way instead of being part of the artillery.

C.R.A. said this arrangement had worked most satisfactorily from his point of view also. It would be better on the whole if the Section were permanently taken away from the artillery organisation. For a European war at all events he would say that the Section should not be part of the artillery.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade thought that provided the division had the S.A.A. Section as it had been controlled in this particular division during recent months there was no need for the formation of brigade columns. He thought it could be well controlled from divisional "Q" branch.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade and G.O.C. 15th Brigade agreed.

Question 5. It was agreed by the infantry brigadiers present that there should be four companies, also that a H.Q. company should be formed.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade said it was essential that a H.Q. company be formed. The recent definite establishment for a battalion headquarters reached nearly to the normal strength of a company, and for effective administration the battalion headquarters details should be grouped as a company commanded by one of the specialist officers. The practice at present of distributing them among the other four companies for administration had not proved effective.

G.S.O. I said he knew of a Canadian battalion which included a headquarters company, and it had worked very well.

Question 6. The three infantry brigadiers answered this question in the affirmative, G.O.C. 15th Brigade adding that he was of that view provided battalions were kept at full strength. It was considered by him that 32 guns was the maximum a battalion could handle effectively.

4. MOUNTED TROOPS WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. G.O.C. 8th Brigade considered one squadron and one company of cyclists.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade was in favor of one regiment of light horse. The allotment of one squadron to a division for advanced guard work was too small to be of any practical use. He did not consider the cyclists of much use.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade : Cyclists are all right for communication at times, and are worth keeping. Light Horse should be for reconnaissance, and should carry the shock action weapons.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade thought a division should have a company of cyclists.

C.R.A. considered they should do away with bicycles. There seemed to be always something wrong with them. Men sooner than wheel the cycles through mud would throw them away.

Divisional Commander : They are only of use in favorable conditions.

G.S.O. I : If considered from the point of view of Australia, cyclists might be very useful.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade : It would be more practical to have a
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Divisional Commander : They are only of use in favorable conditions.

G.S.O. I: If considered from the point of view of Australia, cyclists might be very useful.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade : It would be more practical to have a company of cyclists at divisional headquarters than a battalion of cyclists at corps headquarters.

G.S.O. I stated that originally a company had been attached to divisions, but later they were concentrated at corps headquarters. It was an experiment introduced just prior to the war.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade stated that he had a company of cyclists at BAPAUME and they proved useful in reinforcing the squadron of light horse. The disadvantage was that they could not go laterally.

G.S.O. I : They do not seem to be of ^{great} much tactical value. Under modern conditions they cannot be pushed far forward, and they cannot be sent out to capture a machine gun, for instance.

G.O. M.G. Battalion : They should be useful for reconnaissance.

C.R.A. : It would be all right to have them at corps headquarters, and attach them to divisions as required.

Question 2. G.O.C. 8th Brigade favored organization of three troops; 1 Hotchkiss per troop, and the remainder rifles.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade said the issue of sabres to divisional mounted troops was not necessary. They were seldom called upon to take part in shock tactics, their principal role being reconnaissance and protection. Every man should be armed with a rifle less the personnel of one Hotchkiss gun section per troop, who could be armed with revolvers.

5. DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. C.R.A. said he favored the present organization of 36 18-pdrs, 12 4.5" hows., with a reserve army brigade available if the situation demanded.

Question 2. C.R.A. favored one mixed Brigade, one battery 6" hows., two batteries 50 pdrs. horse-drawn.

Question 3. C.R.A. : As at present - 3 18-pdr. batteries and one 4.5" how. battery per brigade.

Question 4. C.R.A. : As at present, but he strongly recommended that the S.A.A. Section be transferred to divisional troops under the immediate orders of the D.A.Q.M.G.

Question 5. C.R.A. : Yes. Section attached to D.A.H.Q. and subsection with each brigade headquarters plus one extra D.R. with each brigade and D.A.C.

Question 6. C.R.A. : (a) Prior to the use of exploiting sections attached to battalion commanders in the recent advance he believed in the 4 gun organization for mobile warfare, but this method automatically placed the battery practically on a 4 gun basis and the exploiting sections attached to infantry had established their absolute necessity, hence his change of opinion.

(b) He most strongly recommended that each battery and section D.A.C. be supplied with a mobile cooker.

(c) The establishment of Lieutenants should be four instead of three.

(d) Present transport with batteries was inadequate and should be increased by one G.S. wagon per battery.

C.R.A. also stated that the artillery should be organized as a regiment. The Division would have its C.R.A. and Staff attached

to it, and they would move with the division. Whatever the front or sector, the C.R.A. would take over the command of the artillery of that front or sector. Artillery lost a lot of its efficiency through moving from one sector to another in mobile as well as in trench warfare inasmuch as they had to learn the country. In trench warfare after a while an artillery got to know many details of the positions, reinforcement points, land communications, and so on, but if they were moved they went into a new sector and it took them some time to get to know the place.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade said they always liked to have their own artillery shooting over them. It gave the men confidence. They had not the same confidence with strangers.

C.R.A. said that from an artilleryman's point of view they would have greater efficiency if his proposal were adopted. If he brought his guns into a new front he had to learn all that was before him.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade : But the batteries must have reliefs, and new batteries come in.

C.R.A. said that since he had been in France the artillery had had two reliefs. They did not go out with the division as a rule. Under his proposal the C.R.A. and his Staff would always go with the division.

Divisional Commander : You would not know your new battery commanders.

C.R.A. : They would be efficient.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade : There would always be a doubt as to the state of efficiency of strange gunners.

C.O. M.G. Battalion asked whether it would not get the gunners into a groove. Their work would become very mechanical, and they would not use their brains in the same manner as if they moved to new country sometimes.

C.R.A. again emphasised the necessity for more transport and for a mobile cooker.

Divisional Commander said there seemed no doubt that they should have the cooker.

A.A. & Q.M.G. said the same anomaly existed with the ambulances.

6. MACHINE GUN UNITS WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. C.O. Machine Gun Battalion considered it desirable to increase the number of guns by 32, that is, to bring them up to 96. It was proposed that companies be increased from four to six, and of these two should be motor machine gun batteries. To increase the guns as a whole in a division was thought necessary in order to conserve man-power as well as facilitate reliefs. There was a marked contrast in the numbers that were thought necessary to hold a divisional front on the SOMME in the winter 1916-17 and in front of MESSINES - WYTSCHAETE ridge during the winter 1917-18. Though it was doubtful if numbers could have been further reduced with safety in 1917-18, it was considered that the divisional sector would have been much safer had there been more guns and the machine gunners could have had more frequent reliefs. In moving warfare where advances were sudden and rapid motor machine guns would have been more valuable to a division, and it was for that reason that a couple of motor companies were advocated. In suitable country these guns could push forward with advance guards of cyclists and mounted troops.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade thought 64 guns were required, and G.O.C. 14th Brigade agreed.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade favored 48 guns, divided into three companies, each of which was permanently allotted to a brigade. Machine gun battalions organized apart from these should be corps troops and allotted to divisions as may be considered necessary.

Question 2. The C.O. M.G. Battalion said this raised the whole question of the success or otherwise of the present organization, and though it was recognized that improvements could be made the present organization was the best. It was a sound thing to have the guns under the command of a man who was thoroughly versed in their tactical handling, and if every officer and man were thoroughly trained in the proper use of machine guns there should be no more difficulty in using them to the best advantage than there was in the use of artillery.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade favored the present organization.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade did not consider it the best system.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade favored a reversion to the former organization. At the present time, when the corps wanted to attack they took the machine gun battalion from them altogether. Over and above the brigade companies there should be a higher organization which would be at the entire disposal of the corps commander. If there was to be an attack he could allot an extra company or whatever was required. The higher organization could include motor machine guns.

C.O. M. G. Battalion said the liaison between the machine gunners and infantry perhaps had not been all that it might have been, but the same thing had once been the case with the artillery; that had been overcome. When they got better training, particularly of the officers, matters would improve. Technical training would do a lot in that direction.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade said he favored brigade machine gun companies because he had found it more satisfactory to have them under the brigade commander. There was a divided control which did not always work well under the present system. Each brigade should have its own company, and there should be a divisional company at the disposal of the divisional commander. There should be no difficulty regarding training, as there would be one central school. Motor batteries should be corps troops. The division would not have enough work to keep a motor battery going.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade said he agreed with C.O. M.G. Battalion except with regard to the motor batteries.

Divisional Commander said he sympathized with the views of 14th and 15th Brigades. A brigade machine gun company which was identified with that brigade became part and parcel of it.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade thought that from the point of view of training the battalion system should be the best.

G.S.O. I said the machine gunners required high technical training, and if they separated the companies they might not get the same training that would be possible if they were concentrated into a battalion.

Divisional Commander said there seemed to be a difference of opinion and they would have to leave it at that.

7. TANK CORPS WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. The answers to this question were in the negative.

8. TRENCH MORTAR UNITS WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. The Infantry Brigadiers and C.R.A. answered in the affirmative.

Question 2. G.O.C. 8th Brigade favored 24 light trench mortars (8 with each brigade), 18 medium, and 6 heavy.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade favored one light trench mortar and one medium trench mortar battery per brigade; each battery to consist as at present; the battery to be a separate unit complete with its own transport.

C.R.A. favored three batteries of medium trench mortars. Heavy trench mortars should be corps troops for use when the situation demanded unless they were made mobile, when they could be attached to the divisional artillery. He thought one battery of the medium trench mortars should be attached to each of the infantry brigades. They should not be considered an artillery weapon at all but be on the same footing as light trench mortars.

The Infantry Brigadiers agreed with this provided the necessary transport was allowed.

Divisional Commander: They must increase the transport. It seems to be the general opinion that medium trench mortars should go with the infantry.

C.R.A. said a man who could work a light Stokes mortar could handle a medium Stokes mortar.

Question 3. G.O.C.s 8th and 15th Brigades considered that personnel for light trench mortars should be drawn from infantry and others from artillery.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade and C.R.A. said personnel for trench mortars should come from infantry.

Question 4. G.O.C. 8th Bde. favored 8 light trench mortars.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade favored 8 light trench mortars and 2 medium trench mortars.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade favored one L.T.M. battery as at present and one M.T.M. battery.

Question 5. This was answered in the negative.

Question 6. G.O.C. 8th Infantry Brigade favored light trench mortars to infantry brigadiers, and the remainder to C.R.A.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade considered control should be with the infantry brigadier.

G.O.C. 15th Brigade said light and medium trench mortars should come under the control of the infantry brigadier; heavy trench mortars to remain under the control of C.R.A.

Question 7. G.O.C. 8th Brigade suggested a definite establishment of transport for light trench mortars.

G.O. M.G. Battaliam also referred to transport difficulties.

G.S.O. I/ said the idea of the questions was ~~probably~~ evidently to get first at the matter of organisation. Later on the tables would be drawn up regarding transport. and equipment

based on such organisation

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9. ENGINEER UNITS WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. C.R.E. said he strongly favored an organization of engineers or "Works Group" capable of handling any work expedient in any divisional area, and for satisfactory co-operation with and assistance to all arms, to comply with policy and plans of the divisional commander. For this purpose it required an organization of a very flexible nature and a large increase of engineer personnel. The only organization which would adequately meet the requirements was a three battalion organization, each of three companies, each company with a total establishment of 200 men - a total of 1800 per division. This would mean 9 modified field companies, each one capable of detachment from its battalion complete in all respects for special work when necessary, but always under C.R.E., and the whole group organized, trained and equipped for all general field works. It would be necessary for all the officers to belong to the "Corps of Engineers," and to be trained in time of peace to a certain standard in engineering as well as in military matters, and particularly in the same train of thought as regards co-operation with other arms.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade said there seemed to be just the danger that engineers would be considered highly skilled men and it would be difficult to get them. Infantry brigades might be informed that they could only have two or three sappers to supervise work.

C.R.E. said there would be skilled tradesmen and pioneers.

Question 2. C.R.E. strongly favored the whole "Works Group" ~~under C.R.~~ under C.R.E. as engineer battalions, and dispensing with pioneers as a separate unit.

Question 3. C.R.E. : No. Pontoon bridging equipment should be run up by mechanical haulage from Corps when required, C.R.E. arranging for teams and directing operations as required by the divisional commander.

Question 4. C.R.E. did not favor special units. Expert personnel could be drawn from engineers who are trained to carry out any work required in the field. Quarrymen and miners might be included as a trade in the establishment.

Question 5. C.R.E. said the general organization and composition of engineer units might be most efficient if the three companies of each battalion were different as regards equipment and in personnel. "A" Company entirely composed of skilled tradesmen with tools and equipment to suit. "B" Company entirely composed of semi-skilled men with tools and equipment for entrenching, wiring, pipe-laying, road making, light railway construction, and for moving heavy obstacles from roads, etc. "C" Company entirely composed of unskilled men with tools and equipment for entrenching, wiring, drainage, roads, and concrete mixing, etc. In each company the officers would be engineers and capable of engineering their own work and assisted with adequate sprinkling of skilled N.C.O.s.

10. SIGNAL SERVICE WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. O.C. Signal Company suggested that all signallers

of the division be included in a divisional formation. There would be a signal company at divisional headquarters, one at artillery headquarters and one at each infantry brigade. The brigade company would include battalion signallers. They could be then placed to the best advantage, and co-operation would be better. There would be better training also for all signallers. In battalions at present it often happened that the best men were retained at headquarters, whilst the less efficient men were sent out to the companies.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade said it seemed a good proposal.

O.C. Signals said there would be cable section, wireless section, motor cyclists, etc. at divisional headquarters. The artillery would also have a cable section. The O.C. of a company would be a captain, and there would be an officer with each sub-section.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade was not in favor of the proposals, and G.O.C. 15th Brigade said he viewed it with mixed feelings.

G.S.O. I thought that the one chain would make for efficiency.

Question 2. O.C. Signal Company said the pigeon service had hardly justified its existence.

C.R.A. quoted an instance at Polygon Wood where a pigeon message had been most valuable.

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Lofte
G.S.O. I said that during an action they had to keep the pigeons well back and it took a long time to get the messages. With a few exceptions, the pigeons did not appear to have done much good.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade : One or two good messages justify a lot of work in keeping up the service.

Divisional Commander : The trouble is that the pigeons are so unreliable.

Question 3. O.C. Signal Company : The Battalion Signal commander.

11. R.A.M.C. WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. The A.D.M.S. considered the present organisation of field ambulances as divisional units, three per division, and commanded by the A.D.M.S., as a group, had always proved satisfactory. It was desirable that the bearers should have a commissioned non-medical officer. Medical officers in many cases were not trained to deal with men and they knew nothing of military drill.

Question 2. The A.D.M.S. said the sanitary section should be retained. They should not however be split up for sanitary work in the corps area. That had been the trouble in the past. It affected the organisation of sanitary work in the divisional area.

Question 3. The A.D.M.S. considered the present arrangements satisfactory.

Question 4. (See A.D.M.S. reply).

12. R.A.V.S. WITH A DIVISION.

Question 1. D.A.D.V.S. considered it was advantageous to have one more A.A.V.C. officer, and a Sergeant A.A.V.C. with the A.S.C.

C.R.A. said he only had two veterinary officers, and required three.

G.S.O. I stated that the original B.E.F. establishment provided for a veterinary officer with each infantry brigade, field artillery brigade, and the D.A.C., but there was later a shortage of such officers.

Question 2. It was agreed that this was required.

13. H.Q. UNITS WITH A DIVISION.

Question 2. G.R.A. stated that the present composition of D.A.H.Q. had been capable of fully coping with all situations and worked satisfactorily. He recommended the attachment of trainees to be placed on the establishment.

Question 3. (a) Brigadier-General was agreed to.

(b) Alteration was not considered advantageous.

(c) G.O.C. 15th Brigade said there should be a Brigade Major and Staff Captain with a learner for each; Intelligence Officer; Gas Officer. The responsibility for Bombing and Musketry ought to be assumed by battalions, and this should allow of the abolition of the Brigade Musketry and Bombing officers.

G.O.C. 8th Brigade said he was strongly in favor of temporary rank of Major being given to the Brigade Major.

G.S.O. I said that the A.I.F. suffered in this respect as compared with the British army. In the A.I.F. a Captain frequently had to carry out the arduous duties of Brigade Major on Captain's pay, but in the British army Brigade Major was an appointment which carried a special rate of pay irrespective of rank.

G.O.C. 14th Brigade thought each brigade headquarters should have a "G" and a "Q" trainee.

The advisability of having an orderly officer on brigade headquarters was also discussed. The consensus of opinion was that with two learners on headquarters there was no necessity for an orderly officer.

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Draft

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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AMENDMENT TO DISPOSITION REPORT.

55th Battalion	...	RANCE
50th "	...	SOME St. GERY
14th A.L.T.M.Battery	...	RANCE

G. W. K. Capt.

Lieut-Colonel, G.S.,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

10th Jany. 1919.

Date	Location	Date	Location.