

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

Cyclists

Item number: 12/2/10

Title: 2nd ANZAC Corps Cyclist Battalion

April 1917



AWM4-12/2/10

WAR DIARY

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. 11, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 36 C 12	1917 April 1		Operations Order No 9 issued.	Appd 5
Sheet 23 T 29d	2		Battalion, less Lewis gun sections and details, moved off at 12.30 pm. to be attached to N. 3. Working Battalion. On arrival at Regina Camp, it was decided to group the three Coys together and work as one Coy, under one Coy. Commander. Capt Richards and Lieut Todd accordingly moved back to DEVILS leaving (Capt McHugh in charge)	
	3		Wire No 2 A8/254 received from N. 3. Division, appointing Col. Cyclist Battalion as Commanding Officer, New Zealand Working Battalion. Preliminary directions for formation of Working Battn. also disposition for Battn. Should it be called on for	Appd 7 C. H. H. 7 m. m.

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

11 ANZAC
CYCLIST BATT.

Army Form C. 2118.

Place Date Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Stk 27 1917
T 242 Apr 3

tactical purposes, handed over, also instructions re cutting of roads. Appx. III

4 Copy of recommendation by C.O.C., 2nd Anzac, reference to changes in equipment, personnel, etc. of a Coy. Cyclist Batta received. Appx. IV

Adjutant and Q. M. of Cyclist Batta. took over duties of Adjutant and Q. M., respectively, of N.Z. Working Battalion. Working Batta. now consists of A Coy (1st N.Z. Infy Bde), B. Coy (2nd N.Z. Infy. Bde.) and C. Coy (Cyclist Batta)

5 1 O/K to 2nd Army School of Cooking

Checked [unclear] [unclear]

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.

WAR DIARY
 OF
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

II. ANZAC
 CYCLIST BATTALION

Army Form C. 2118.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sht 28 T 29d	1917 April 7		Colours of Battn. changed - white edge around red diamond being reduced from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". (Authority - No 1590 of 3/4/17 - 2nd Anzac)	App. I
			(Strength of ^{Working} Battalion, 26 Officers, 822 O/Rs.)	
	11		Copy of reply from 2nd Army re changes in equipment received. (See April 4 th and Appendix).	App. V
	12		Approval for issue of 1 Infantry Rangefinder to Corps Cyclist Battn. given (Authority: 2nd Army R.O. 757).	
	14		Strength of Working Battalion 26 Officers, 836 O/Rs.	Checked by Evans 1 May

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WAR DIARY
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

II. ANZAC
 CYCLIST BATTALION

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sht 28 T 29d	1917 April 15		B. Coy of Working Battalion (drawn from 2nd Infy. Bde.) marched out to rejoin their Brigade. Party of 300 (100 per Squadron) from 2nd Anzac Mounted Regt. marched in and became B. Coy.	
	18		Approval of issue of 2 Ground Signal panels for use in aeroplane contact patrol. (Authority 2nd Army R.O. No 2251).	
	21		Party of 300 from 3rd N. 3 (R.) Brigade marched in at 10 am. and became B. Coy. Strength of Working Battalion 26 Officers, 830 O.K.	CW [unclear] [unclear]

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

II ANZAC
CYCLIST BATTALION

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendix
SH 28 T 29d	1917 April 22		1 O/R wounded.	
	27		20/R's wounded.	
	28		(Strengths of Working Battalions, 25 Officers 839 O/R.) Party from 1st N. 3. Infantry Brigade (4 Cos) marched out to rejoin the Brigade.	
	29		Party of 300 marched in from 9th Aust Infantry Brigade and became H. Coy.	<i>Strength of 1st N. 3. Brigade</i>

2nd Anzac Corps Cyclist Battalion.

OPERATION ORDER No. 9

1/4/17

Reference Maps 36, 36A, and 28 1:20,000

Para. 1. Orders have been received for the battalion, less Lewis Gun detachment, to move to REGINA CAMP, I 29 d 80.45 (Sheet 28) and be attached to New Zealand Division for purpose of laying cables for three weeks from 2nd inst. (inclusive).

Para. 2. Battalion will parade at No. 1 Post at 12.30 p.m. tomorrow (2nd). Companies will move off under own arrangements at the following times :-

H.Q. & No. 1 Coy	12.40 p.m.
No. 2 Coy	12.50 p.m.
No. 3 Coy	1.00 p.m.

Para. 3. Billeting party consisting of Lieut. R.L. Garden with one o/rank per Coy and Headquarters will move off at 9 a.m. from Battalion H.Q. and report to Officer Commanding, New Zealand Works Battalion, at REGINA CAMP and arrange billets for the battalion.

Para. 4. Dress: Full marching order with cycles, felt hats will be worn. After crossing the NIEPPE-BAILLEUL road, box respirators will be worn at the 'Gas Alert' position.

Para. 5. Billet Guards. One man per Company will remain behind at billets as Billet Guard.

Para. 6. Rations. Unexpended portion of day's ration will be carried. Q.M. will arrange for rations for 2nd inst. After 2nd inst. Battalion will be rationed from New Zealand Works Battalion R.Q.M.S. will proceed and remain with battalion. Hot meal will be served at 11 a.m.

Para. 7. Transport, baggage, etc. Limbers will report to Coys at 8 a.m. and will rendezvous after packing at 11.30 a.m. at Q.M.'s stores. Extra blanket, cooking utensils, and Coy mess stores will be packed on limbers. Cooks cart will report to Headquarters at 11.30 a.m. for Headquarters and mess stores. Officers' baggage will be delivered to wagon park before 11 a.m. Transport park will remain in present billets under orders of Q.M. All surplus stores, broken cycles, etc, will be stored under company arrangements at Company billets.

Para. 8. Dismounted men. Dismounted men will parade at 10 a.m. at Battalion Headquarters under Battalion Orderly N.C.O. and will be marched over to new billets by him. Five men from this party will be detailed to report to Q.M. and proceed with the transport as transport guard.

Para. 9. Marching out State. Marching out states will be rendered to the Adjutant by 12 noon.

(sgd) H.J. MacLennan, Lieut.
and Adjutant.
2nd Anzac Corps Cyclist Battalion.

To Major C.H.Evans,
2nd Anzac Cyclist Battalion.

Sender's Number Z.A. 8/254 3rd

Major C. Hellier Evans, 2nd Anzac Cyclist Battn., will take over command of N. Z. Working Battalion as from today ~~aaa~~ Major St J. BEERE will rejoin his Battn. forthwith ~~aaa~~ Add~~ed~~ N.Z.Working ~~Party~~ Bn. reptd 3rd N.Z.Rifle Brigade, and Major Evans.

From G.T. 2

1233

9

-2-

Continued.

10. The C.A.E. will arrange for the supply of the following tools:-

- 24 Axes.
- 500 Shovels.
- 300 Picks.
- 50 Spades.

11. Troops will report with rations for the 12th instant, and O.C., N.Z.Divl.Train will arrange for the delivery of 930 men's rations and 5 forage rations at the Reinforcements Camp on the 12th instant for consumption on the 13th instant. Rations for subsequent days will be drawn by Officer Commanding Battalion in the usual manner.

12. The A.D.M.S. will detail a water cart for use of the Battalion to report at Reinforcements Camp at 12 noon on 12th instant. Other transport, as required, will be demanded in the usual manner from O.C., N.Z. Divl.Train.

13. The personnel detailed above will continue to be borne on the strength of their permanent Units: all returns in connection with the appointment, promotion, transfer, etc. will be rendered direct by the Commanding Officer to Units concerned. The Commanding Officer will communicate direct with the Staff and heads of Administrative Services and Departments on all other matters.

14. Progress reports to be rendered to this Office by 6 p.m. each evening until the organization of Battalion has been completed.

Sgd....H. G. REID, Lt.Colonel,
A.A.&Q.I.G., N. Z. DIVISION.

Copies to:-

- C.A.E.
- 1st N.Z.Inf,Bde. A.D.M.S.
- 2nd N.Z.Inf.Bde. D.A.D.O.S.
- 3rd N.Z.(Rif)Bde. Commandant R'fots Camp.
- Div.Train. A.D.A.S., II NZAC.
- "Op Area Officer
- Major J.FOW, D.S.O. French & Belgian Missions.
- Lieut. J.E.SWAN. Field Cashier.

1300

APPENDIX No. III

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form 0.3117
(in parts of 100)

Index	Code	Words	Charge	This message is an a/c of:	No. of Message
Office of Origin and Service Instructions					Service
Sent				At	Date
At				To	From
By				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO } OC Cable Company Party
Regina Camp

Sender's Number: _____ Day of Month: 1 In reply to Number: BN7

See accordance with Brigade instructions in matter of defence of Brigade area now ordered to place 4 guides at Regina camp for the purpose of guiding any reinforcements which pass through Regina Camp in the way to the front but ~~are~~ in the event of attack, a.a.a. These men must stay at Regina Camp at all times, except when they are out exploring routes in Brigade area which small parties would be glad of your report in a few days to show that they have explored such routes & can conduct you or your officers to any part of the line if possible.

From _____ Place: _____ Time: _____

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

1233

APPENDIX No. III

11

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix	Code	In.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at
Office of Origin and Service Instructions			Sent			Services
.....			At		(Signature of "Franking Officer,")	From
.....			To			By
.....			By			

TO { *Off. Cable Duryin Park Regina*

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
	<i>1</i>	<i>B 47</i>	

*would prefer if you could
 ration but they can of
 course at a pick be rationed
 with the Coy (Reserve) in
 Prospect and you will have
 should be obliged to find accommodation
 for them and I am sorry that
 the Coy commander failed to let
 you know of this matter and*

From *150th Coy*
 Place *Luce*
 Time *10/10/16*
 (Z) *Commanding*
 Center. Signature of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 22,000 W 2195-1562. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

3rd New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade.

B.M. 755.

Headquarters,
31st March 1917.

Headquarters,
New Zealand Division.

In reply to S.G. 3/37.

In the event of the enemy attacking the front held by this Brigade and the 3rd Australian Division on my right, and in the event of this Brigade holding fast and the 3rd Australian Division giving way, the arrangements are as follows :-

(a) To protect my right flank the Company at CRESLOW FARM is earmarked for holding LOWDES AVE. from HUNTERS AVENUE (exclusive) to ESSEX FARM (inclusive) and a platoon of my 'A' Battalion is earmarked to hold St. YVES from DEAD HORSE CORNER to ROTTON ROW.

(b) Arrangements to help the Australians on my immediate flank depends upon the situation.

(1) Should the enemy break through to East of FLOBSTEERT WOOD and HUNTERS AVENUE hold, the Company at GLOSTER HOUSE is earmarked for counter-attack through the WOOD.

360 men of the Engineer Working Party would be immediately ordered to man the Subsidiary Line breastwork in FLOBSTEERT WOOD and if the situation demanded, the Companies thus relieved to be available for further counter-attack Eastwards through the WOOD.

(2) In the event of the Australians giving way to the South of FLOBSTEERT WOOD, I would not use my reserves for a counter-attack in South Easterly direction without orders from the Division.

Sgd... A. E. Stewart

Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 3rd N.Z. (Rifle) Bde.

cc. NZ Working Party.

For your information ~~_____~~

W. H. ...

Major

1. 4. 17

3rd NZ (Rifle) Bde

1200

15

IN CASE OF ATTACK BY THE ENEMY:

VI. In the case of attack by the enemy -

- (a) All troops get under arms.
- (b) All Units send two runners to report to Advanced Brigade Headquarters at the CATACOMBS. Battalions in reserve will each send an officer in addition.
- (c) Troops in the front line will stand fast and hold their ground at all costs.
- (d) Working parties in the front, support or subsidiary lines will be at the disposal of the Officer Commanding in whose area they are working.

Officers Commanding Battalions will take steps to ensure that all working parties immediately on arrival at the site of their tasks, obtain instructions as to their action in case of bombardment or attack.

- (e) 3rd CANADIAN TUNNELLING COMPANY and NEW TUNNELLING DETACHMENT attached will stand to arms at their Headquarters and send an officer to "C" Battalion Headquarters, CRESLOW FARM, for orders.
- (f) BRIGADE ENGINEER WORKING PARTIES will stand to arms at their billets. The Officer Commanding will proceed to CINDER FARM and wait for orders.
- (g) NEW ZEALAND WORKING BATTALION - Headqrs, REGINA CAMP, will be ready to move on receipt of orders.

NOTE: The 3rd Canadian Tunnelling Company, Brigade Engineer Working Party, and the New Zealand Working Battalion may be required to reinforce any part of the Subsidiary Line. In consequence all officers of these formations will reconnoitre this line and the emergency routes to it, both by day and night.

1000
Secret

3rd New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade .

S.M. 515

Headquarters ,

16th March 1917 .

TO: N.Z. Working Bn.

Reference S. G. 3/25 dated 15th March 1917.

IN CASE OF ATTACK

1. The N. Z. Working Battalion will fall in ready to move, on receipt of orders from Brigade Headquarters.
2. On receipt of the order "MOVE" it will proceed to a position of assembly on either side of the STRAND East of FLOERSSTEERT road and West of the Wood.
Headquarters to CRESLOW FARM.
3. Before moving the O.C., N.Z. Working Battalion will issue 2 bandoliers J.A.A. and 2 Mills Bombs No. 5 per man.

W.H. Haslam
Major.

Brigade Major.

Headquarters,
New-Zealand Division,

In connection with the buried system of communications now in progress, it will be necessary to cut barbed wire between T.18.c.7.7 and T.7.d.1.6 and between T.12.a.5.4 and T.6.d.6.1.

It is difficult to say when the wire will require cutting as the rate of progress is very variable and delay in waiting for the wire to be cut would cause serious inconvenience, especially in soil of a friable nature and likely to fall in.

A.D.A.S., 2nd ANZAC, has been instructed to cut the wire, when necessary, and to inform you direct, at once, of its having been cut.

Would you please arrange for re-erection of the wire after cutting?

(sd) G.W.GWYNN,

B.G.,G.S.,

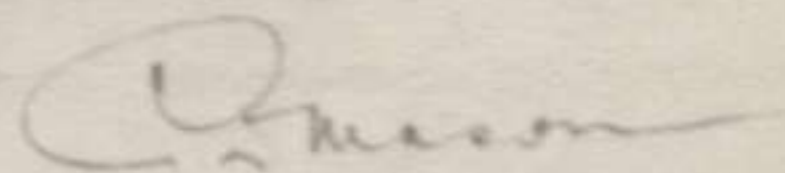
2nd ANZAC Corps.

Copy to A.D.A.S., 2nd ANZAC.

Major POW.,

2nd ANZAC WORKING BATTN,

For your information. Please advise me by telegram directly any wire has been cut, giving the map location.

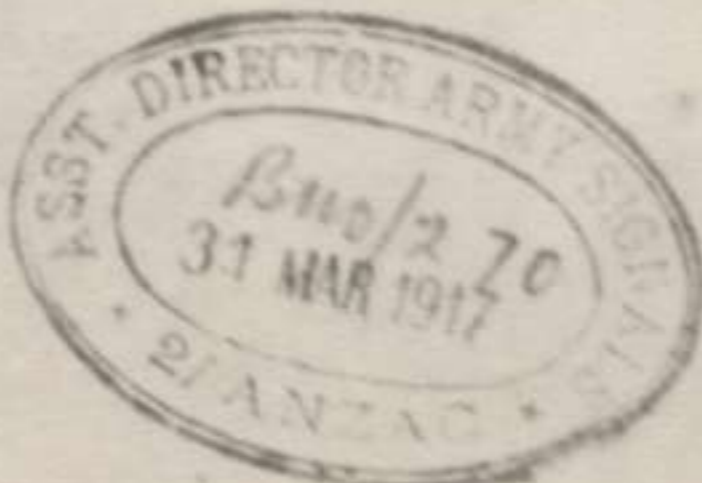


Captain R.E.

31/3/17.
W.

~~2nd ANZAC Corps Signal Company R.E.~~
for A.D.A.S., 2/ ANZAC.

Copies to:-
Lieut Saunder,
Lieut Wren,
Capt Holmes,
Lieut Ferguson.



No.3454/18-A.

Headquarters,
Second Army ' Q B

The following alterations in the equipment and personnel of the Corps Cyclist Battalion are forwarded and recommended for favorable consideration :-

(1) TRANSPORT.

The method of transport by H.D. Horses appears incongruous for a mobile Unit such as a Cyclist Battalion.

The carrying capacity of the present horse drawn transport would be about 10,000lbs. i.e. 4½ tons which could be more suitably carried in three small 30 cwt. lorries or two lorries and two light box cars for S.A.A.

Considering the saving in personnel (including a shoeing-smith and Veterinary assistance) horses and forage, the change is to be recommended on the ground both of efficiency and economy.

In lieu of a water cart a small trailer tank might be fitted on behind the lorry or water stored in petrol tins.

If this mechanical transport is adopted an artificer Corporal would be needed to take charge.

- (2) One Motor Cycle with side car might be provided with advantage for the C.O. which in case of need the Adjutant should be capable of driving. It is difficult for the C.O. to maintain efficient control when the Battalion is working with Cavalry on a wide front if he is only mounted on a 'push' bicycle.

(3) RANGE FINDERS.

3 Range Finders (Barr and Stroud) i.e. one per Company should be provided as they become available in order to obtain the full advantage from the Lewis Guns which have now been issued to the Battalion.

(4) SIGNALLING.

2 Signalling Panels or Flip Flaps for aeroplane signalling would be useful and could be carried on the bicycle.

- (5) Company Quartermaster Sergeants are required and they should be reinstated in the establishment.

(6) Summary of requirements recommended.

Company Q.M. Sergeants	-----	3
Artificer Corporal	- - - -	1.
30 cwt, lorries	- - -	2
Light Tenders for S.A.A. (15 cwt)	-	2
Range Finders (Barr & Stroud)	-	3
Motor Cycle with side-car	-	1
Signalling Panels	- - -	3

Headquarters,
2nd April 1917.

Lieut.General,
Commanding 2nd Anzac Corps.

C O P Y.

2nd ANZAC Corps.

Q/1622/19

Reference your 3454/18-A of 2nd inst. -

1. Mechanical Transport is not available and cannot be provided in place of Horse Transport.
2. The provision of a Motor Cycle with side car for the C. O. is being considered and a separate letter is being sent to you on this subject.
3. 1 Range Finder per Cyclist Battalion has been sanctioned.
4. 3 Signalling panels per Battalion have been recommended to G.H.Q.
5. As the establishment of a Cyclist Company is only 94 Other Ranks it is not considered that a G.Q.M.S. is required in addition to the C.S.M.

A.H.Q.

Sd.----- A. A. Chichester, Major General.

D.A. and Q.M.G. Second Army.

8th April 1917.

-2-

Headquarters
II Anzac.

No. 3454/18-A.

O.C.

2nd Anzac Mounted Troops.

Forwarded for information with reference to your No. 2255,
dated 24-3-17

9th April 1917

Captain,
D.A.A. and Q.M.G. 2nd ANZAC Corps.

Copy to Q Branch.

2nd Anzac Cyclists Battalion.
Forwarded for your information and return please.

2nd Anzac Mounted Troops.

10/4/17.

1917

APPENDIX No.

121

13

Ob.
2nd Lieut. Cap. St.
Tomwates

This refers to
Your memo
regarding Albatron
in your Battalion
Colours

W. D. Unlop

5
7
17

Capt. Regentant
2nd Lieut. M. Troop

II MZAO	
LIGHT HORSE	
REGIMENT.	
No.	2345
Date	5.4.17.

1800

RECEIVED
22 APR 1917
No. 1590.Q.
Date

Headquarters,
2nd Anzac Mounted Troops.

Appx V

Reference No. 2345 of 2nd instant.
The Corps Commander approves.

[Handwritten Signature]

Lieut.-Colonel,
A. Q. M. G.,
2nd A. & N. Z. A. C.

Headquarters,
3rd April, 1917.

Colours captured

APPENDIX No. V

19