

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

Cyclists

Item number: 12/2/11

Title: 2nd ANZAC Corps Cyclist Battalion

May 1917



AWM4-12/2/11

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

II ANZAC
CYCLIST BATTALION

Army Form C 2118.

200
2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sht 28 T 29d	1917 May 2		Polling in connection with Australian House of Representatives election was carried out during the day.	
	5		Strength of Working Battalion - 24 Officers 869 O/R.	
	6		At about 8.30 pm, 5 th , enemy opened up fire on roads and billets in our back areas. All parties who had not proceeded to their tasks were stopped. At about 1 am. (6 th) enemy's shells began to land around Regina Camp. The occupants, in accordance with orders, took to the fields. The fire slackened off at 3 am but broke out again at 3.30 am and finally ceased at about 4.45 am. No damage was done to the	Actual ground map

A6945 W1.W11471/M1160 3/2/20 12/16 D.D. & L. Form C/2118/14

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erased heading not required.)

11 ANZAC
CYCLIST BATTALION

Army Form 25112

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

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appointments

Place	Date	Hour		
Skt 28 T. Sqd	1917 May 6		camp, and only 8 casualties (mostly slight) occurred.	
	7		Lieut. Griffiths left for Lewis Gun Course, Class A. Instructions received from 3rd N.3 (R) Brigade that in the event of hostile attack, Working Battalion would come under their orders.	
			As a retaliation for the shelling on our back area, on the night of 5/6 th , every gun in the 2nd Army Area (excepting 12" howitzers) opened up fire from 8.45 pm to 8.50 pm on enemy billets and roads. As enemy retaliated, another burst was fired from 11 pm to 11.45 pm. No retaliation was received.	App. 2
			3 officers and 100 men of 33 rd Aust. Batta. relieved 3 Off and 100 men of 31 th Aust. Batta.	
			All ranks of Batta passed through a test of gas.	C. H. ...

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

11 ANZAC
CYCLIST BATTALION

Army Form C. 2118.

1917

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sht 28 T29d	7/17 Weddy 8		3 N. Cos (1 from each Coy of Cyclist Batta.) marched out to 2 Anzac Corps School.	
	9		2 Lieut. Ch. Dickeson marched out to 2 Anzac Corps School.	
	12		Strength of Working Battalion 15 Officers 634 O/R.	
	14		Operation Order No 10 issued, on receipt of order from H. G. Apperly Division	

Checked by
[Signature]

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WAR DIARY
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
 (Erase heading not required.)

11. ANZAC
 CYCLIST BATTALION
 Army Form C. 2118
 1234

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 3 429a	1917 May 15		<p>§ STEENWERCK Cyclist Battr. moved out at 10 am. from N. 3. Working Battr. leaving C.O. in Command of Working Battr. Cyclist Battr. came under temporary Command of Capt. A. D. H. High. Q. M. also remained with Working Battr.</p>	
	16		2 O/R detached for traffic control duty with R.P.M. 2 nd Anzac.	
	17		4 O/R left for Instructor's Course at Lewis Gun School.	
	19		New Zealand Working Battalion disbanded at 1 pm. C.O. (Mr. J. O. Evans) and Q.M. (Lieut. Johnson) rejoining Cyclist Battr. Report on cable - being forwarded to H.Q. Anzac.	

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

II ANZAC
CYCLIST BATTALION

Army Form C. 2118.

Summary of Events and Information

References and
references to
Appendices

Place Date Hour

Sheet 3A
A 292
1919
May
20

3 Officers and 30 O/R detached for duty with A.P.M. 2nd Anzac on Traffic Control.

Instructions received that Lewis gun detachment (less 2 guns) doing duty with anti-aircraft defences at STEENBEQUE would relieve Hotchkiss detachment from O.M.R. at RABOT on 25th inst.

Lecture on map reading (for Officers & NCOs) given by Major R. B. Wood, 2nd in Command, 2nd Anzac Mounted Troops.

21

Lecture to all Officers on "Reconnaissance" given by Major Rome, attached Corps Mounted Troops.
4 Officers and 100 men detached to A.P.M. 2nd Anzac for duty on traffic control.

Chas. Wood

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading, not required.)

11 ANZAC
CYCLIST BATTALION
Army Form C. 2118.
No. _____
Date _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 3b A 29a	1917 May 22		Lecture on "Advanced Guards" by Major Rome was attended by officers of the Battalion Extra C.S. Wagon, limbered, for carriage of tools and grenades, authorised by 2nd Anzac, collected from 29 th Prisoners of War Camp.	
	23		No 1 Coy and Battalion Officers attended a practice attack by a Brigade of the 25 th Division.	
	24		Letter of appreciation received from 2nd Anzac with reference to work of Battr. on cable burying. (see report 19 th May).	app IV
	25		Lewis Gun Detachment, 2 Officers, 6 guns with crews, returned from STEENBECK DE.	C. H. ...

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WAR DIARY
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II ANZAC
CYCLIST BATTALION.

Army Form C. 2118.

No.

Date

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Shat 30 H 29 ⁰⁰	1917 May 26		Lewis Gun Detachment of 2 Officers and 4 guns relieved detachment from Otago Mounted Rifles. Authority received from 2 nd Div for 2 20 PR attached to 1 st Div, to be struck off strength of Battalion.
	27		Lewis gun Detachment from No 1 Coy under Commanding Officer attended at Corps Commander's house.
	29.		Party detached to Town Major AR MENTIERES returned to Battalion.
	31		Work commenced on road to Boyle's Farm in view of pending operations. Work done by No 1 Coy and No 3 Coy details.
31 st			(Ben supplied the usual working parties during the month)

A6945 W1 W11413/M1160 550,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C/4118/14

Admiral's
mag

1234

Appendix I.

Secret.

3rd New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade.

Headquarters

B.M. 336.

7th May 1917.

TO: O.C. N.Z. Working Battalion.
 O.C. Pioneer Battalion.
 O.C. N.Z. Tunnelling Detachment.

BRIGADE PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.

The following extracts from the Provisional Brigade Defence Scheme are forwarded for your information and necessary action, please.

(a) Section A. Para. 5. Sub Para. (c) :-

In the event of an attack by the enemy, the following Units come under the orders of the G.O.C., 3rd New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade.

N.Z. PIONEER BN. - Headquarters
 RED LODGE T.18.d.70.30.

N.Z. WORKING BN. - Headquarters
 REGINA CAMP T.29.d.80.45.

N.Z. TUNNELLING - Headquarters
 DETACHMENT. PIGGERIES U.19.c.40.80.

(b) Section B. Para. 6. Sub Para. (e) :-

In event of attack by the enemy -

THE PIONEER BATTALION
 N.Z. WORKING BATTALION
 N.Z. TUNNELLING DETACHMENT

WILL each stand to arms at Billets and send an Officer to Headquarters, C Battalion, STAFFORD HOUSE, for Orders These Units may be required to reinforce any part of the Brigade front.

Acknowledge.

P. G. Purdy,
 Capt.
 Brigade Major.

2nd Anzac Corps Cyclist Battalion.

Operation Order No. 12

In the Field 14/5/17.

1. Orders have been received for the Battalion to move into Billets at A (Sheet 36) tomorrow, May 15th.
2. Battalion will parade at 10 a.m. on square S. of Canteen facing East in following order:-

Headquarters
No. 1 Company
No. 2 Company
No. 3 Company

3. Capt. H. McHugh will command battalion on march and in billets during temporary absence of Commanding Officer.
4. Dress. Full marching order with cycles. Steel helmets will be worn.
5. Rations will be carried on transport.
6. Transport will report at 8.30 a.m. west of farm near ? and will be loaded there under company arrangements with company stores, etc.
7. Dismounted men. All men for whom cycles are not available will parade at 8 a.m. at Battalion Headquarters under a N.C.O. to be detailed by O.C., No. 3 Company and will move by foot. N.C.O. will report to Adjutant at 7.30 a.m. for instructions. Five men will be detailed from this party as transport guard.

Adjutant,
2nd Anzac Corps Cyclist Battalion.

1234

APPENDIX No. *IIa*

"C" Form *Albert* Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 100.)
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

From <i>SM Co to ECPM</i> <i>Words 53</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp
Charges to collect	From <i>G B T</i>	At.....m.	<i>G K 24</i>
Service Instructions <i>G A I</i>	By <i>J Evans</i>	To.....	<i>14/5/17</i>
Handled in at.....	Office.....	m. Received <i>5.45 P</i>	m.

TO *G K 24*

*Sender's Number <i>G 793</i>	Day of Month <i>14/5</i>	In reply to Number <i>AAA</i>	
----------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------------	--

by cyclist Battalion attached to you
will return to corps HQ.
Troops tomorrow AAA Major EVANS
will remain in command until
completion of work AAA Remainder of
Working Bn. will rejoin units on
completion of work sometime this week
AAA Orders will be issued
by A DAS

FROM	<i>G A I</i>
PLACE & TIME	<i>5.20 PM</i>

* This line should be erased if not required.
(p. 8155) W.L. 7, 7496-2123 250,000 Parts. 1/17 H & S (E489.) Forms/C.2123/3.

APPENDIX No. III

"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121 (in pads of 100) No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of <i>Depose III A</i> <i>Scratched</i>	Recd. at	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions						Sent	Date
					At		
					To		
					By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
					From		
					By		

TO { O.C. 2nd Angas Cyclist Bn.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* ATB 920	20/5		

A.A. Detachment at STEEN BECQUE being relieved at 2:30pm ~~tomorrow~~ ^{23rd Inst.}
 Ref. 2nd Angas G 112/4/73 of 19 May -
 - 2nd Angas Cyclist Bn will relieve O.M.R. Sqdn Detachment at RABOT.
 Therefore please send 2 officers 4 guns and double gun crews straight through to RABOT on detachments arrival at your Billets tomorrow evening.
 O.M.R have been warned.

From 2nd Angas Corps Intd Troops
 Place
 Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) *Chas Dunlop Capt*
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 750,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16.

1917

II ANZAC LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.	
No.	H.F.B. R
Date	24.5.17.

Ob.

2. Augae Corp. Jm

Forwarded.

Must unlop

As attached
2 Augae M/Ts

24/5/17

II ANZAC.

No. G.166/-/1.173

23rd May, 1917.

O. C.

II ANZAC Corps Mounted Troops.

The attached reports are forwarded for information and communication to all ranks concerned.

The Corps Commander hopes that you will convey to Major C.H.Evans and to all Officers and men of the Cyclist Battalion his appreciation of the whole hearted and thorough manner in which this work was carried out.

S. R. Pope Major

for. R. G., G. S.
II ANZAC Corps.

'0',

II ANZAC Corps.

The work on the Buried Cable System in this Corps Area was completed yesterday, with the exception of a small length of about 400 yards in 25th Division Area, near MULVERGHEM, which should be completed by tomorrow.

The working party, comprising the N.Z. Working Battalion were returned to their units yesterday.

I attach copy report herewith from Major C.H.Evans who was in charge of the work.

The Battalion did extraordinary good work, all ranks taking great interest in the scheme.

The cables are buried at depths varying from seven to ten feet - all test out clear and have stood several direct hits from 5.9 shells.

Major C.H.Evans has been of the greatest assistance to me in carrying out the work and I consider that it is owing to his energy and supervision that the work has been completed in the time.

(Sgd) W.T.Dodd,
Lieut.-Colonel R.E.
A.D.Signals.
II ANZAC Corps.

1232
A.D. Signals.

REGINA CAMP.
19th May, 1917.

II ANZAC Corps.

Sir/-

"Buried System of Communications".

I have the honour to hand you herewith a report showing amount of work done in connection with above, by the New Zealand Working Battalion, during the period I have been in Command, viz: from 4th April to 19th May, 1917 (46 days in all).

A total distance of 26,992 yards has been excavated and cable buried at depths varying from 6 to 10 feet. You will notice that in most cases the number of men actually on excavation work does not exceed 50% of the total strength of the Companies, Battalion and Company duties, sick, 75 men per diem for baths absorb a lot of men daily so reducing the number available for work. Of those available a number are always required for various duties i.e., supervision, cable laying, reinforcing &c., and special parties for test boxes &c., which further reduces the digging strength.

To secure the safety of cable in bad ground where the required ground was not made, the buries have been reinforced with bursters (sandbags filled with bricks) and there were a large number of river, stream, drain and moat crossings, each of which required the erection of a substantial bridge.

The work has been proceeded with as expeditiously as possible, on 4 days or nights no work was done (1 day and 1 night through bad weather and 2 nights through heavy enemy bombardment in vicinity of work) in addition one party was shelled whilst working and had to abandon their work. During practically the whole of April the weather was very wet, consequently the ground was bad for working in and frequent slips in the trenches resulted, altogether over 1,000 yards has been lost on this account, during this month weather conditions have been good, the ground having dried considerably has materially assisted work.

The Officers and men employed have, on the whole, worked uncommonly well, often under very unpleasant circumstances both as regards weather and the persistence of enemy machine guns when near the front line.

The Company Commanders have generally given excellent service and although the work was not such as they, either in civil or military life, were used to, they took up the task enthusiastically and carried it through faithfully. In this connection I would specially mention Lieut. H. MCGOWN (2nd N.Z. Bde. Coy.) Capt. E. C. PARRY (1st N.Z. Bde. Coy.) and Capt. H. D. MCHUGH (2nd ANZAC Cyclists) also Lieuts. ANDETSON, GREENWOOD and 2/Lieut. HAY (Cable Officers).

The valuable assistance given me by the Officers detailed from Corps Signals also deserves mention, the advice and co-operation of Lieuts. SAUNDER and TUCKER has been particularly useful to me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

(Sgd) C. Hellier Evans, Major,
II ANZAC Corps Cyclist Battn.

Commanding (Tempy).

(New Zealand Working Battalion).

REGINA CAMP,

19th May 1917.

The A. D. A. Signals,
2nd Anzac Corps.

Sir,-

Buried system of communications.

I have the honour to hand you herewith a return showing amount of work done in connection with above by the New Zealand Working Battalion during the period I have been in command, viz from 4th April to 19th May 1917 (46 days in all).

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To secure the safety of the cable in bad ground and where the required depth was not made, the lines have been reinforced with bursters (sandbags filled with bricks). There were a large number of river, stream, drain, and moat crossings, each of which required the erection of a substantial bridge.

The work has been proceeded with as expeditiously as possible. On 4 days or nights no work was done, 1 day and 1 night through bad weather and 2 nights through heavy enemy bombardment in vicinity of work. In addition one party was shelled whilst working and had to abandon their work. During practically the whole of April the weather was very wet, consequently the ground was bad for

working in and frequent slips in the trenches resulted; altogether over 1000 yards has been lost on this account. During this month weather conditions have been good, the ground having dried considerably has materially assisted work.

The officers and men employed have on the whole worked uncommonly well, often under very unpleasant circumstances both as regards weather and the persistence of enemy M.G's when near the front line.

The Company Commanders have generally given excellent services and although the work was not such as they either in civil or military life were used to they took up the task enthusiastically and carried it through faithfully. In this connection I would specially mention Lieut. N. McGowan, 2nd N.Z. Bde Coy, Capt. E. C. Parry, 1st N.Z. Bde Coy, and Capt. H. D. McHugh, 2nd Anzac Cyclists, also Lieuts. Anderson, Greenwood, and 2/Lt. Hay (Cable officers).

The valuable assistance given me by the officers detailed from Corps Signals also deserves mention. The advice and co-operation of Lieuts. Saunder and Tucker has been particularly useful to me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) C, Hellier Evans, Major.

(2nd Anzac Cyclist Bn.)

Commdg. tempy.

New Zealand Working Battalion.

REGINA,

19th May 1917.

The A. D. A. Signals,
2nd Anzac Corps.

Sir,-

Working Parties.

Having been in charge of a working Battalion for the past 7 weeks may I be permitted to offer a few observations regarding the selection and organisation of large working parties.

First I would say that the long Continued employment of a soldier on heavy manual labour seriously impairs his immediate value as a fighter and a considerable amount of re-training is necessary before he can be considered ~~as~~ equal to his former state of efficiency. During the period he is simply a labourer; no opportunities exist (nor does time permit) for keeping up his drill or musketry.

The formation of improvised battalions where a certain number of men are taken from each service battalion does not result in the most suitable men for the work being selected, in fact it has rather the opposite result for Bn. and Company Commanders are inclined to send their worst men as it affords a chance of getting rid of them for a while. Again it being known to be or thought to be the custom to select men of the category mentioned above for working parties has a detrimental effect on the individual, he thinking he is sent for some fault. I know this impression is erroneous but nevertheless it exists.

The evils of an improvised organisation are always apparent in the difficulties of administration. The various administrative personnel such as Adjutant, Bn. S.M., Bn. Q.M.S. and Coy S.M. and Q.M.S. have to be appointed from men without experience with the necessary consequence of increased discomfort to the men.

I would suggest that where work demanding the services of a large number of men for a considerable time requires to be done, it would be better to use several complete units, i.e. Battalions in turn giving each unit a definite task and a definite period in which to finish. By this method units would not be split up, Battalion, Company, and Platoon commanders would retain their own men, and not only would better and more expeditious work result but the discipline and fighting qualities of the troops would remain unimpaired.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) C. Hellier Evans, Major.

2nd Anzac Corps Cyclist Bn.

Report on work done for 2nd Anzac Corps in connection with Buried System of Communications during period 4th April to 19th May 1917.

Company or Unit	1 N.Z.Bd Coy,	2 N.Z.Bd Coy	2 ANZAC MT.Regt	2 ANZAC Cyc.Bn.	3 N.Z.R.B Coy,	9 A.I.F. Bde Coy	
Period engaged	4-4-17	4-4-17	17-4-17	4-4-17	21-4-17	29-4-17	
to	28-4-17	16-4-17	21-4-17	14-5-17	18-5-17	18-5-17	
Personnel							
Avg. daily Str.	293	296	301	234	305	321	
Avg. on Co. etc. duties	56	61	51	65	42	62	
Avg. sick	12	13	9	8	20	9	
" at baths) & other duties)	10	4	-	2	3	24	
Avg. available for work employed as under	205	218	240	159	240	226	
Avg. actually digging	123	155	184	102	147	142	
" supervising	13	16	13	8	18	17	
Stretcher bearers	4	4	6	8	4		
Cable party	31	27	25	17	28	16	
With Engineers							
Buildg. Test boxes etc	34	17	-	11	16	6	
On sundry jobs re- enforcing line,) bricking, carrying)	-	19	12	13	27	45	
Work							
Total days worked	7	2	4	18	9	10	
" nights "	13	6	1	19	16	10	
Total	20	8	5	37	25	20	
No. days lost thro weather & enemy fire	3	3	-	4	3	-	
Length of Bury com- pleted In yards							
at 6 ft deep				1214	2769	2388	6371
7 "	132	-	1390	4153	883	-	6558
8 "	4290	1881	-	1915	2545	2936	13567
9 & 10	-	-	-	108	240	148	496
Total length	4422	1881	1390	7390	6437	5472	26992
Avg. length in yards per day for party	221	235	278	200	257	274	
Avg. length in ft per man (all depths)	5.40	5.20	4.50	5.87	5.24	5.80	
Avg. cubic ft per day a man excava- tion only (all depths)	96	94	63.5	87.6	79.3	90.4	
And a third for falling in	32	31	21.1	29.2	26.4	30.1	
Total task cu.ft.	128	125	84.6	116.8	105.7	120.5	

(sgd) C. Hellier Evans,

18th May 1917.

Major.