

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

Signals

**Item number:** 22/13/2

**Title:** 3rd Australian Division Signals  
Company

December 1916



AWM4-22/13/2



# 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

(Erase heading not required.)

3RD. DIV. SIGNAL COY. A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEENWERCK NORD	28/11/16		Unit resting 24 hours. Good weather. Day spent improving billets & erecting temporary shelter for horses. Major Wilson with Major French (O.C. Signals) inspects Signal office D.H.Q. (GT 2) in Chateau grounds, thence to Div. Report Centre at Ecole, Armentieres, (GO 21) and Bde. Signal office forward (GO 2 and GO 3). Motor cyclists learning roads from Frank's Force D.R.s. Cpl. Egerton C.S. to hospital. No. 3 Section continue in train.	
	Wed. 29/11		Very cold day. Men in good health. 40 men with N.C.O's left for Div. Report Centre i/c Sgt. S. Fountain at 10 a.m. Major Wilson visited ARMENTIERES. Accompanied by Area Officer went over portion of right sector. Conditions of line almost hopelessly mixed. Wires carelessly laid, unlabelled, and hanging anywhere. Miles of unused cable in every direction. No. 4 Section moved to ARMENTIERES. No. 2 Section moved ARMENTIERES and took over from 103rd Bde. of 34th Division. At 5 a.m. No. 3 Section arrived STEENWERCK and take over G.T.3.	
	Thurs 30/11		Signals (GT 2) taken over at 8 a.m. AYC Staff installed satisfactorily. O.C. all-day in office engaged in routine and arranging administrative details.	
	Friday Dec 1st		Dull and cold. Documents taken over from Major French. Lieut. L.G. Simpson appointed censor for this unit. 4 D.R.'s sent to G.O. 21 for special duties when required. Roads very muddy. Spr. HOPPER J.J. rejoined from Hospital.	
	Sat. 2nd		No. 4 Section took over communications of HOUPLES sector. Spr. Griffiths S.G. & Dvr. Huston, G.F. to Hospital.	
	Sun. 3rd		Major French left 10 a.m. New line to D.O.O. STEENWERCK.	
	Mon. 4th		Frozen weather conditions. Lieut. L.G. Simpson and Lieut. Parker (R.E.) go over Ecole office. Lieut. C.H. Ferguson pushing erection of stables.	

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STEENWERK	Mon. 4/12/16		Very difficult task due to mud. Rubble obtained during night by our waggons from dump at HOUPINES. Watering of horses now fairly satisfactory. Matters straightening out well. Complaint from C.R.A. delay two important messages. Trouble traced to G.O.21. Messages received but delayed in being sent out. Suitable action taken. In Company Order 120 today Lieut. G.H. Simpson transferred from 3rd Pioneer Battalion as Lieut. to complete X establishment dated 16/11/16.	
	Tues 5th		Car sent to G.O.21 to replace telephones. Lieut. Parker (R.E.) left for Corps. Sent back to Corps 10 Table Sets, 3 D.3's and 6 doz. mixed terminals. O.C. met Capt. Carr re necessity of new lines. No.4 Section did good work last night in communication. Shortage of phones at G.O.3. Lent them 3 of H.Q. No.3 from Company stores. Battalions require more in front. Cpl. Egerton C.S. rejoined from Hospital. Cpl. Healy V.P. to Hospital.	
	Wed 6th		O.C. indisposed. Dvr. Palmer S.H. to Hospital. Dvr. Poole W.R. and Spr. Griffiths S.G. rejoined from Hospital.	
	Thurs 7th		Freezing. O.C. went to ARMENTIERES and saw Lieut. <sup>Macartier</sup> <del>Healy</del> then on to Lieut. Tuckett and inspected proposed sites for burys on left sector. Got our own linemen returned from Corps area party. Spr. Sims J.F. and Spr. Worthington T.P. to Hospital.	
	Fri. 8th		O.C. went over right sector with Lieut. Miller and L/Cpl. Milliken (Lt. McArthur not available). Went from Panel L to Battn. Hdqrs. Cpl. Healy V.P. rejoined from Hospital. Spr. Harvey F.W. to Hospital.	
	Sat 9th		O.C. inspected Left Battalion bury with Lieut. Tuckett. Subsequently Lieut. McArthur was informed our men were going to see the job through and make up cable themselves before going up to trenches. O.C. cancelled Lieut. McArthur orders to Lt. Miller and Lt. Tuckett re transport. Small bury done today 60 yards cable. McArthur not present at any time. Detailed a Corporal to carry out work of supervision. Spr. Sims J.F. rejoined from Hospital.	



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STEENWERCK	Sunday 10/12/16		Cold and cloudy. Through to G.O.3 on direct line.  O.C. to G.O.21. Saw Tuckett, Miller & Simpson C.H. Discussed several matters. Returned H.Q. 1.15 p.m. Thence BAILLEUL to lecture by D.D. Signals on "Further use of Fullerphone <del>app.</del> " All arrangements in hand for bury. Lieut. Tuckett in charge party and bury. O.C. conferred G.O.C. re maintenance gangs to clear up old cable etc. Approval given & sent out from D.H.Q. Lieut. Simpson L.G. appointed take charge party. Asking 3 men from each Battalion.	
	Tues 12		Very wet: snowing in morning. New D.R.L.S. to Brigades. Present system very unsatisfactory. O.C. arranged see Arty.B.M. tonight re S.O.S. lines. Bury going on well, continued tonight. Lieuts. Miller, Parker, Ferguson, Simpson C.H. attending to same. Lt. Bowen attended one last night. Advice that 5 boxes comforts onway from Comforts Fund rep. Asked for further parties for bury on Right Bde. for Friday and Saturday nights. Spr. Underwood G.H. to Hospital.	
	Wed 13		O.C. visited G.O.21 and G.O.3. Arranging for maintenance gangs reporting 14th and Artillery S.O.S. lines. Dvr. Vassie J. to Hospital.	
	Thurs 14		O.C. went to G.O.21. Most of men asked for had reported and working parties made up. Arrangements put in hand for a start on Friday. Spr. Brown D. returned to unit from HAVRE. G.O.3 made responsible for lateral <del>at</del> D.R.L.S. consequent upon his forwarding despatches for 9th Bde. via D.H.Q. Signal office. Spr. Underwood G. rejoined from Hospital.	
	Fri 15		Dull weather. New D.R.L.S. time table commenced from 7 a.m. O.C. left with Lt. Simpson 9.30 a.m. for G.O.21. Inspected working parties re-arranging lines, making cable for bury L Q section etc. Leaving Lieut. Simpson G.O.21, O.C. proceeded to G.O.3 and out to trenches. Went over all Right Bn. area and visited 5 Signal dug-outs viz. G.R.4, G.R.10, G.R.3, SS and G.R. 5. In every case except one S.O.S. line not in good order or took too long to raise. Men in charge appeared know very little about their job. Operating bad. Satisfied that if D.3 have	



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STEENWERCK	2nd 15/12/4		to be replaced by D.4 considerable trouble will be experienced. All these except G.R.4 which is subsidiary line have direct line to batteries, but apparently line wants improving. 2nd lorry (No. 31609) for Electric Light apparatus reported with Dvr. Cutts and Thomson. Div. Supply Column states take Doery, Heighway and Harvey on the strength to complete establishment. O.C. saw Lieut. Miller re bury and detailed Lt. C.H. Simpson to attend in addition to Lt. Ferguson. Length of bury 850 yards.	
	Sat 16	AM -	At 9.30 O.C. went to G.O.21 and saw parties working on rearranging wire. Store-room arranged for salvaged material; conferred with Lieut. Miller re last night's bury. Report that Infantry were not properly controlled by their officers. Job started very late (after 9 p.m.) and was not concluded before 5 a.m. Bad organisation of working party and lack of supervision caused much delay. Lt. Bowen detailed to attend <del>last</del> night's bury. Lt. Ferguson also attending. Lt. Simpson L.G. went on to supervise working parties on Right Bde. and returned 4 p.m. Stated work suspended in trenches about 1.30 p.m. owing hostile shelling. Bury from Q. to Right Bn. Hdqrs. about 400 yards. Lt. Miller i/c.	
	Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>		O.C. proceeded to 2nd Army Troops Supply Col. with "Singer" car (8/10 h.p) and drew 4-seater Sunbeam (12/16 h.p.) in lieu thereof. Bde. Major rang up re one of our Companies in front line Left Bde. without any communications. Matter being investigated. Douglas motor cycles - broken frame - evacuated.	
	Mon 18		With Lieut. Miller, O.C. inspected Right Bn. H.Q. and Company Signal offices of Right Bde. Wiring, generally speaking, much better than in Left Bde area. Saw working parties at Square <del>House</del> Farm and in trenches. 8 p.m. "wind dangerous" message received. All concerned advised.	
	Tues 19		Snowing. O.C. conferred with Area Officer and arranged to get copy of his map showing routes of buried cables as the only tracing we had is out of date; also line diary in our possession out of date - not been written up for two months. Cpl. Healy left to take copy of map and write up book from information available. With Lt. Miller O.C. went over Left Bn.	



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	Tues 19/12/16		area, except Left Coy., where enemy were shelling with minnenwerfers and too dangerous to go along trenches. Proceeded to SQUARE FARM & saw working parties. Returned H.Q. about 3.30 p.m. Spr. Sanderson G. to Hospital.	
	Wed 20		Cold, dull. Report re cable buries prepared by O.C. on statements of officers concerned. Two men both trained as Drivers but only one classified as such reported from Signal Depot, Abbeville. Only one vacancy in unit. Spr. Brown D. having been returned on 14th instant.	
	Thurs 21		Dull, slight rain. Lt. Simpson L.G. indisposed. In company with Lt. Parker T.J., O.C. proceeded to ARMENTIERES to select O.P. exchange. Dvr. Palmer struck off strength as from 6/12/16.	
	Fri 22		Calm, dull, light wind. A.D. Signals called requesting stores for Corps Signal School. Referred Q. Bury for 26th, now postponed 27th. Area Officer wants return of Area Stores. Dvr. Dewar transferred to No. 1 Section. Coy. Order 125, para. 1, instructing weekly inspection and report on equipment.	
	Sat 23		A.D. Signals inspected site for O.P. Exchange and approved same. A.A. & Q.M.G. reports G.O.C. not approve of lending Signal equipment without authority Corps or Army Cmdr. Xmas Puddings and general gifts fund received and distributed to various Sections. Line G.O.3 failed: Area party unable to find spare or trace fault and aerial line now as temporary measure. A.D. Signals requested recovered wire be sent to Corps. New Ballot set arrived.	
	Sun 24		Fine, sunshine. Lorries and car to ESTAIRES for fortnightly inspection. Dvr. Donohue returned to unit and Cutts transferred back to 3rd Div. Supply Col. Lieut. Miller reported on way to G.T.3. O.C. arranged give him full issue of N.S.W. gifts and <del>xxxx</del> distribute remainder pro rata	



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STEENWERCK	Sun 24		to rest of Company. Drew horses to complete establishment and replace casualties. No. 2 Section return STEENWERCK for rest. 9 orderlies from 9th Brigade reported. 11th Bde. men returned to their Battalions. No.3 Section take over communications ARMENTIERES sector.	
	Mon 25		Fine, clear and calm. Lt. Parker reported all S.O.S. lines connected batteries to companies they cover on Div. front. "G" informed. Lt. Simpson C.H. reported lines completed to Water Tower, from Pumping Station for Pioneer Bn. Spr. Fitzgerald P.G. to Hospital.	
	Tues 26		Xmas Day. O.C. visited G.O.21, G.O.2 and G.O.3. Very quiet day. G.O.3 (10th Bde.) had a stunt in evening but caused no extra work to A.Y.C. Telephone lines laid by No.4 Bde. Section to enemy's parapet and communications maintained throughout.	
	Wed 27		O.C., Lieuts. Simpson & Miller inspected the cellar for O.P. Exchange and then on to Y Panel and G.O.14. Back at 1 p.m. Spr. J.S. Haresnape 73629 reported to Sig. office from VV Cable Section vice McArthur on 10 days leave.	
	Thur 28		Frost, calm day. O.C. & Lt. Simpson with Cpl. Willats visited SQUARE FARM and then on to Rt. Coy. of R. Bn. Triumph 1914 motor cycle received in lieu of broken Douglas evacuated.	
	Fri 29		Strong wind, dull, wet. O.C. went forward and tested D.5 for special S.O.S. bells. With Lt. Bowen inspected bury and saw working parties on LOTHIAN AVENUE.	
	Sat 30		Fine, wind strong. O.C. forward inspecting. Arranged withdraw motor cyclists from G.O.21 and put 1 each at G.O.2 and G.O.3. Spr. Hurley, No.4 section, struck off strength, sick.	
			Misty, steady rain. O.C. went to G.O.21. Thence G.O.3 and with Lt. Tuckett inspected work from H.G.2 over that sector of line. Good progress	



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STEENWERCK	Sat 30/12/16 Sun 31		<p>made. Lines improving. Saw G.R. 3, G.R.4 and G.R.5.</p> <p>Calm day. Dvr. Huston returned from Hospital. Spr. Howie L.B. to Hospital. Portion of No.2 Section left STEENWERCK for G.O.21 where all Battalion and Company Signallers commenced School.</p>	