

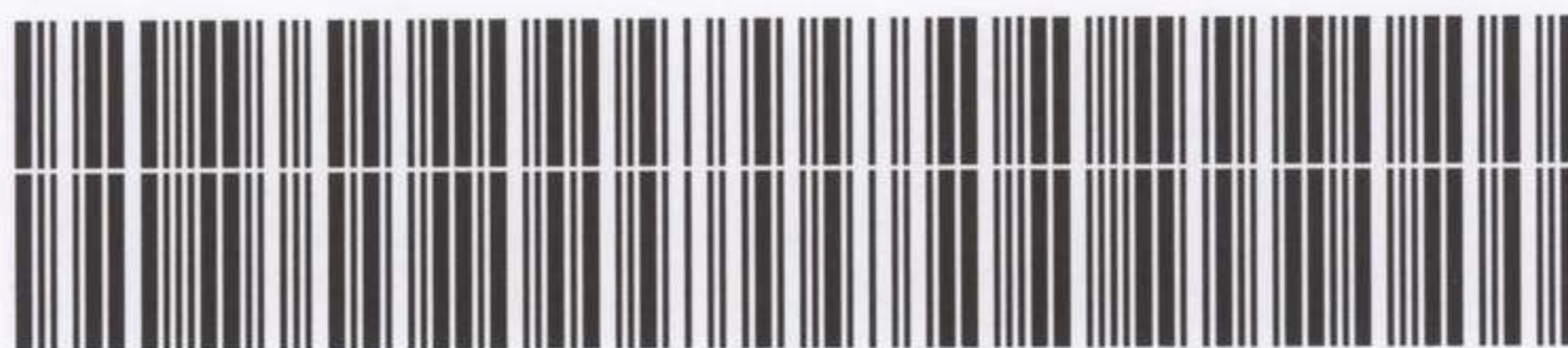
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Signals

Item number: 22/1/33 Part 2

Title: Assistant Director Signals, 1st
ANZAC Corps and Assistant Director
Signals, Australian Corps

February 1919



AWM4-22/1/33PART2

WAR DIARY

Army Form E. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field.				
Feb.	19		I visited 1st and 2nd Divisional Signal Corps and found that everyone appears to be well satisfied re their demobilisation; A large percentage are desirous of Non-Military Employment before demobilisation. This, I think shows good sense as it will in most cases benefit these men considerably.	
	2.		1st. Embarkation quota " from Corps Signal Company left here today. Consisted of one officer (2/Lieut. Sladen) and 50 O.R's. All these men were very jubilant as the lorries departed with them for Charleroi from whence they leave by train for Havre.	
	3.		Communication received from Army asking whether it could be arranged that Divisional Signal Companies do with less Motor Cycles or any vehicles. Sent to O.C's Div. Sig. Coys. for early report. Notification received re the opening of an Aust. Officers club in Brussels.	
	4.			
	5.		Notification received from D.A.G. that approval given for promotion to Major of Capts. (T/Majors) C.H. Joseph, M.C. and J.M. Grant, M.C. also that Capt. Tinkler's (2nd. Div. Sig. Coy.) suggested promotion to T/Major and to command 5th. Div. Sig. Coy. was not approved but that Capt. Tinkler could proceed to take command of 5th. Div. Sig. Coy. with his present rank. This I consider most unfair and a bad attitude to adopt at this stage of the Campaign. It means that for an officer 4 years of commissioned rank in the field his work is thought that much of. 2nd. Draft of Corps Sig. Coy. personnel left today for return to Australia. 2/Lieut. Purdue in charge of 23 other ranks. This makes a fair clearing out of 1915 men of the Company. More satisfaction than heretofore now prevaild.	
	6.		I made arrangements for Corps Wireless Officer to visit 1st. M.G. Btn. for purposes of lecturing on wireless.	
	7.		Lecture to Bn. a success and another visit asked for when it is convenient. All roads in a pretty bad condition with snow which is now freezing. Asked that, D.R.L.S. run to 2th. Aust. Division be cancelled today. "G" Staff refused. Don't know how the D.R's will reach this or any other place.	

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Field.				
Feb.	8th.		D.R.L.S. to Divisions done as far as possible with Box Car, but is not satisfactory. Arrangements made with Army to take over all stores on 91098 of a Corps Wireless Section.	
	9.		I was visited by O.C. Signals, 3rd. Army Brigade Signal Sub-section re the demobilisation of his section. Information imparted to him of decision of Brigade commanders to allow Sig. sub-sections to proceed to join Aust. Corps Signal Company when Brigade do not require services further.	
	10.		Lieut. Col., Williams, D.S.O. returned from U.K. leave. I interviewed "G" staff "A" staff re demobilisation. I was visited by Capt. F.U.J. Tinkler re his promotion to T/Major and conveyed to him the D.A.G.'s ruling on this matter.	
	11.		I made arrangements to have a line put through from Recquignes to Corps Workshops at Jeumont, also to install a 10 line exchange at latter place and post switchboard operators (2) to work it.	
	12.		I visited 2nd. Div. Sig. Coy. and enquired into their methods of demobilising Cable Sections. Found D.A.D.O.S. will not as yet take any responsibility. He says O.C. Div. Sig. Coys. are responsible for gear right to base. Not able as yet to find whether Base will accept one Section Gear only. Decided to ask Army to take all signal controlled stores etc. This will assist considerably by taking the responsibility off Div. Sig. Coys. hands for safe custody of stores.	
	13.		I was visited by Capt. Bowen, 1st. Div. Sig. Coy., and he informed me that D.A.D.O.S. 1st. Div. had allotted him room for 8 axles and 20 or 30 horses for Base. Arrangements to be made with "Q" for these to be sent.	
	14.		Final arrangements for Corps Wireless Officer - Lieut. R.L. Mashford - to proceed to England for duty with Demobaust. This officer will look after the equipment of the Wireless Sections of the Australian Post-Bellum Army, (including mounted sections).	
	15.		I proceeded to Army to make arrangements - D.A. Sigs. agreeable ^D for Div. and Corps Sigs. to hand in certain sections of their controlled stores. <i>It was decided by D.A. Signals.</i>	

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Feb. contd.	15.		and Army that this would be practically impossible as it would necessitate double handling which Army is desirous of avoiding. D.D. Signals advised that arrangements would be made with own D.A.D.O.S's. Nominal roll of officers A.I.F. Sig. Services rendered Army.	Appendix. 1
	16.		I conveyed this information to O.C's Div. Sig. Coys. instructing them push with their Divisional "Q" branch for early disposal of horses and as much other material as possible. I visited Aust. Corps Sig. Company sports which were successfully carried out.	
	17.		I proceeded to old German Signal dump at Franhere and obtained a certain number of different types of telephone instruments for the Australian War Museum. These instruments are quite a handy size and should give efficient working. The types collected were 5 Line Double Cord Switchboard, 6 Line Cordless, 3 Combined Buzzer and Metallic Phones, 1 Table Set and Power Buzzer. The latter is very small and folds up neatly and would be very useful easily carried under service conditions, but it has not the reliability of the English and French Power Buzzer. These Instruments will be packed and forwarded in due course.	
	18.		Received an allotment of Imperial Personnel for Demobilisation. This will affect the Corps Heavy Artillery as all their Brigades are composed of Imperial Personnel. The allotment is two per day but it will not always be possible to send two per day from these Brigades as they are somewhat depleted just at present.	
	19.		I had previously convened a conference of Divisional Signal Company Commanders to discuss Demobilisation generally. This took place at 3 p.m. with all Div. Sig. Commanders in attendance.	Appendix. 2
Ham sur Heure.	20.		I got into communication with Chief Signal Officer, 4th. Army re the handing in of all surplus W/T. gear of Div. Sig. Coys. including C.W. sets loaned to Artillery formations. Return to store of all rated watches on Div. Sig. Coy. establishment asked for.	
	21.		I was notified by 5th. Div. Sig. Coy., that the demobilisation of their horses was progressing satisfactorily, 65 X and Y class horses having been allotted to base. I also visited 1st. Div. Sig. Coy., and there I found everything going on well, at the	

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Ham sur Heure.	21.		same time conferring with the O.C. upon the shortening of the lines in his area when any is proposed, the 4th. Aust. Division move up towards 1st. Division from Dinant.	
	22nd.		I was visited by Capt. Bowen, 1st. Coy. and Capt. Tinkler, 2nd. Coy., with reference new Signal procedure and reviewed the position made possible by conference on 19th. inst. C.S.O. 4th. Army wired approval Div. Sig. Coys. handing in surplus stores and W/T Gear.	
	23rd.		Particulars of Imperial demobilisation sent to Army. This work should be carried out by Army, in my opinion, as half of the Demob. instructions - Imperial - only, reach this office, and it is most difficult to follow the procedure laid down. The Imperial Brigades attached to our Corps Heavy Artillery receive Demob. instructions regularly and act on them, consequently we are usually ignorant of facts stated. Army asked to remedy this by either taking over demobilisation or being regular in the supply of instructions. Distribution of prizes won at Corps Sig. Coy. sports necessitated my presence. Major Genl. Mc. Clagan officiated.	
	24th.		I was asked by C.S.O. 4th. Army if it is possible for me to supply the 42nd. Div. at Charleroi with 14 miles of D5 or D8 single cable. This will be arranged from Mob. Store table stores of 2nd. Div., and Army will supply receipt to 2nd. Div. as though this cable was handed into Army.	
	25th.		I sent Lieut. Caporn to Corps Heavy Artillery Sig. Section to see what papers and particulars they had re Imperial demobilisation. They have very few papers or instructions. Lieut. Hiscock sent to C.H.A. to carry on and at same time to have a general tightening up of discipline. I gave instructions for another pair to be put through from here to Thuilles. Returned 30cwt. surplus cable to Army dump.	
	26th.		Pair to Thuilles completed. I sent an officer to Army to get as much information as possible re Imperial demobilisation. This was done but the information received was not of a very helpful nature. 1st. Bde. R.G.A. returned 1 lorry load of surplus signal stores to this office.	
	27th.		I interviewed "G" Staff re the handing over of Imperial demobilisation to the C.H.A. Imperial Staff. Investigations being made. Receipts for all stores of 4th. Aus. Div. Sig. Coy.	

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	27th.		handed in to D.A.D.O.S. 4th. Aust. Div. forwarded to me for information. I have informed O.C. Signals that the way he went about handing the stores in was incorrect, in this, that only part stores were handed in instead of all. Instructions issued to remaining Divisions that this method must cease forthwith. Return under A.G. Letter 8460/1 (O) submitted to Army.	
	28th.		@ 1. 3 ton lorry load of stores - Technical and cable - returned to 4th. Army dump at Franriere. I wrote to C.S.O. 4th. Army re proposed transport of a Divisional Signal Company. This needs adjustment considerably.	Appendix. 3.