

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/38/11

Title: 21st Infantry Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-23/38/11

21 Bn

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Date. 1916	Place and Time.	21 st Bn H.I.C.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
July 1 st	RUE MARLE	This Unit still engaged on Defence works + Fatigues Enemy dropped a 3" Shell in front of Bn Headquarters We had three men slightly wounded. Transport in Quartermaster's Stores were inspected -	Vol I
2		Church Parade - + Naval Fatigues	
3		Naval Working parties - Officers instructed in Bayonet fighting 7 to 8 AM - 4.15 PM Lecture to Officers - The Attack on The Bluff -	
4		Cleaning Billets + handing over to 2 nd A.Z. Bde. + route march to Steenvreck area.	
5	STEENVRECK	Cleaning Rifles + Ammunition + Company Drill -	
6		Company Administration + Platoon Drill Twenty men of 10 th Reinforcements reported for duty -	

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Date. 1916	Place and Time.	21 st B ⁿ A. D. J.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
July 7 8	STEENWERCK "	Cleaning Billets & packing Kits Left Steenwerck at 2.30 PM & route marched to MERRIS where we arrived at 4.30 PM. - Billeted -	
9		Left MERRIS at 7 AM & marched to EBBLINGHEM arriving about 1.35 PM. - Billeted.	
10		Left EBBLINGHEM at 11 AM. & marched to CHAMPAGNE where we arrived about 2.40 PM	
11	6 AM	Transport - D Coy left CHAMPAGNE. Remainder of Unit left at 8 AM & marched to ST. OMER which was reached at 8.15 & 10 AM respectively - The transport personnel of the Unit were all entrained in 20 minutes & train left at 11.3 AM. arriving at LONGEAU at 6.45 PM Detrained & cleared the Station in 20 minutes and.	

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July 11	Continued	and marched to ST SAVEUR - Arriving about 11 P.M.	
12	ST. SAVEUR	Billed in ST. SAVEUR - Care & inspection of feet	
13	"	Inspection of Transport & Lecture to Officers on "Work"	
14	"	Platoon Drill + Battle in Attack - C.O.s visited Front line near ALBERTS	
15	"	Battalion in Attack. Platoon + Coy Drill + Bayonet Fighting	
16	"	Work as previous day + in addition Swimming parade	
17	VILLERS BOCHAGE	Left ST SAVEUR at 10 AM + marched to VILLERS BOCHAGE.	
18	"	Adjusting equipment + Platoon Drill	
19	"	Left VILLERS BOCHAGE at 11 AM + marched to PUCHVILLERS where we arrived at 2.25 PM + Billed	
20	"	Fitting & experimenting with "Fighting" equipment	
20	"	Left PUCHVILLERS at 9 AM + marched to VARENNE	

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Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
July 21	VARENNES	A & B Coys - Route march C & D Coys Bayonet-fighting & Platoon Drill Signalling - L. Machine guns Special instructions	
22		Similar work as previous day - 2 Coys route march in forenoon & 2 Coys in afternoon each accompanied by transport	
23	"	Church Parade. Fitting equipment inspection of gas helmets Field Dressings etc	
24	"	Route marching (2 Coys at a time) Bomb throwing & Bayonet-fighting Special instructions to Officers in use of Lewis Machine guns	
25	"	Work as previous day. also Stokes Mortar demonstration	
26	"	Left VARENNES at 5 AM route march to BRICKFIELDS near ALBERT. C.O. visited POZIERES & returned & marched thence to SAUSAGE VALLEY where we bivouaced in trenches	
27		3 Coys & 60 men on fatigue from Bivouac to front-trenches	

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Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
July 28	POZIERES	The Battalion less 120 men on latrines carry rations. Water etc to front trenches	
29	..	Moved two Companies to front trenches NORTH of POZIERES and relieved the 22 nd Bn. One Company remaining in trenches at CHALK-PITS and one in trenches near Reg. Aid Post. Enemy's Artillery very active	
30		Preparing orders for attack on German line & making preliminary arrangements re keeping direction etc. Taking over trenches from 23 rd Bn. whom we relieved. in the afternoon of this date.	<p data-bbox="1914 1560 2436 1799">J. Robertson Lt Col C.O. 2nd Bn. A.I.F.</p>