

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/38/9

Title: 21st Infantry Battalion

May 1916



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Date. 1916	Place and Time.	21 st AM. H. 9 Y. Vol 3	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
May 1	JESUS FARM.	All Billets were thoroughly cleaned up & Section Drill & Bombing Instruction was carried out.	
2		Floors of Huts in which troops were billeted were taken up & the interior of huts sprayed with disinfectant.	
3		Enemy fired 6 - 8.2 shells near ^{one} of our Billets but did no damage. The R.M.O. lectured to Unit on "Use of Gas Helmet" - all helmets were inspected & Steel Helmets issued to troops. Working parties were detailed for various duties, principally burying cables & erecting & repairing wire entanglements on second & third line trenches. These parties were working mostly at night - & were called on during the whole of our stay in these Billets i.e. during the month of May. The few men who were not on fatigue were given instruction every day, & those who were on fatigue at night - also did two to	

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Date. 1916	Place and Time.	21 st Bn. A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		<i>Continued</i>	
3	JESUS FARM	Three hours. Bayonet fighting. Bombing or Drill during the day	
4		Reconnaissance of Route to rendezvous of Battalion vs. LA. R. OLANDERIE FARM - & then to BOIS GRENIER also all POSTS, EMERGENCY ROADS.	
5		Usual working parties - Bayonet fighting & Bombing instruction - at 8.10 PM an "Alarm" was received & at 8.15 PM all Coys reported being ready to move. We stood to arms in Billets until 10.15 PM. when Brigade reported "all clear"	
6		Usual Working & Instructional parties	
7		Church Parade - Usual fatigues. Special arrangements made in case of fire in Billets.	
8		Usual fatigues & Bathing parties - O. Coys. make a reconnaissance to Battalion rendezvous.	
9		Usual fatigues & Draining as per syllabus	

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Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
May 10	JESUS FARM	Usual Fatigues - Bayonet Fighting & Physical Drill	
11		Same work as previous day - Checking "Iron Rations"	
12		Lt Gen. W.R. BIRDWOOD inspected Billets & men at work - Bayonet-fighting. Physical Drill - Machinegunners & Bombing Arranged with Engineer Officer for trenches to be used in event of our Billets being shelled.	
13		Usual Fatigues - Bayonet Fighting - Inspection of Billets	
14		Usual Fatigues - Church Parade -	
15		Usual Wire & Cable Fatigues - Bayonet Fighting - Physical Drill	
16		Same as previous day	
17		Usual working parties - Arrangement of work to be carried out to	
18		improve shelter trenches near Billets Usual Fatigues - + Instructional Parties	

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Date. 1916	Place and Time.	21 st Bn A.I.B.F	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
May 19	JESUS FARM	Usual working parties - Same as previous day	
20		Usual Fatigues - Bayonet fighting & Bombing	
21		As on 21 st inst.	
22		Usual Fatigues & Instructional parades	
23		Same as previous day	
24		As previous day	
25		Works as previous day	
26		Usual Fatigues etc	
27		Usual Fatigues & Instructional Parades	
28		Usual Fatigues. Arrangements to vacate billets	
29		Cleaning up & checking stores	

