

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/38/21

Title: 21st Infantry Battalion

May 1917



AWM4-23/38/21

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.

Vol X
Sheet 1

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

dt Col J W S Jones DSO
Commanding 21st Bde AIF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917			
	May		Ref Map Ecoust - St Mein Edition 3 $\frac{1}{10,000}$	
	1 st		Relieved 26 th Bn in front line C4 b58 to U28C43 opposite REINCOURT with 2 Companies whilst 2 Companies garrisoned Sunkun Road in C4 cad	J.F.
		AM 4-40	Relief complete. Heavy enemy barrage from enemy artillery on our front Casualties killed OR 1 wounded OR 5	
			Reinforcements reported for duty at Detail Camp. 7 OR 42 The names of the officers are 2/Lts B Brsemers, J A Macdonald, A Walmsley, S. A. Edmondson, S R Dranden, E Hansen & C B. Atkinson	
	2 nd		Heavy shelling during day Casualties killed OR 1 wounded OR 8 Final preparations made for attack on Hindenberg Line St Watt & 4 runners report to 186 Bde then 2/Lt Duke of Wellington on left for liaison duty. Sgt Winstanley & 4 runners report to 23 rd Bn on right for similar duty. St Jones Adjutant of 2/Lt Duke of Wellington reports to C.O. for liaison duty	J.F.
	3 rd	AM 2-30	16 markers placed in NO MANS LAND to snath waves to form up	J.F.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Lt Col J. S. Jones DSO

Commanding 21st Bn AIF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE	May 3 rd	AM 3.15	Battalion move from front line on to markers in 4 waves numbered 5 to 8 as part of the 6 th Bde operation the 22 nd Bn supplying waves 1 to 4	
		AM 3.30	Enemy placed artillery 77 & 4.2 & minnowpew barrages on NO MAN'S LAND & front line	
		AM 3.45	Our artillery barrage opened & attack on HINDENBERG LINE launched Heavy shelling by enemy & numerous various colored flares fired by him	
		AM 4.25	OG1 trench taken with little operation other than shelling	
		AM 4.45	25 th Bn garrison our original front line	
		AM 5.5	English attack on Bullecourt (on immediate left) appears to have failed left flank of original front line protected by 3 Vickers guns	
		AM 5.30	Report received that 6 th wave is in OG2 trench. Many officers casualties Successfully bombed enemy down trenches in spite of fierce opposition	
		AM 5.35	Enemy machine guns still active from Bullecourt playing on original front line	
		AM 5.36	Orders issued to reorganize & push on to 2 nd objective	
		AM 5.47	Battalion of 185 th Bde seen withdrawing from Bullecourt and inquiries showed that their attack had failed	

A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13

J. J.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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at Col J W & Jones & Co
Commanding 21st Battr AIF

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Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 3 rd	2 nd 7.30	A wounded Signalling NCO reported that Brigade attack on right of 6 th Brigade appeared to have failed owing to heavy casualties amongst officers NCOs & men. Shelling by enemy at this stage very light but many casualties caused by snipers & machine gun fire from direction of BULLECOURT & REINCOURT.	
		2 nd 7.28	At Hunt reported that he had reached 2 nd objective & was pushing on. Severe fighting in progress against enemy machine guns in strong posts at 2213 95.00. Casualties very severe on both sides.	
		2 nd 7.35	English troops on left still withdrawing & 3 tanks in distance are returning. 26 th Battr attack BULLECOURT from 28c 7.3 but forced to withdraw after losing a platoon from machine gun fire.	
		2 nd 8.45	Severe barrage by enemy artillery along original front line. Casualties to date: officers killed 3 wounded 4 O R (estimated) 200	
		NOON 12	Telephonic communication impossible owing to breakages by enemy fire but communication maintained by runners. Party at 2 nd objective forced to withdraw to O.C. 2. As far as possible	

Jf

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Lt Col J Jones & Co

Commanding 21st Bata

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 3 rd		<p>Under very severe machine gun fire men from shell holes and all wounded are collected and brought back. About 100 men under Capt Bland & Lt Jones are holding O B 2 from U 22 d 85. 45 to U 22 C 30. 30 with 2 Vickers Guns in U 23 C 04</p> <p>A composite party from all Battalions hold O B 1 from 22 d 90 to 29 A 20 95</p> <p>24th Bata hold O B 2 from 23 C 35. 30 to SUNKEN ROAD on right</p> <p>Much enemy movement in 23 D + 29 D. bombing proceeding</p>	
		5 pm	<p>Enemy counter attacking on right and left with bombs but driven off</p>	
		pm 5-30	<p>Left liaison reported that 7th English Division was attacking BULLECOURT</p>	
		pm 7-30	<p>^{OR} 30 with 1 Lewis machine gun sent up to reinforce unit</p>	
		pm 10	<p>Fresh attack on our left against Bullecourt made by 7th English Division one trench taken which was afterwards lost. Enemy shelling quiet</p>	
	4 th	5 AM	<p>Relieved by 1st Brigade & Battalion moved to original front line Relief complete. Prisoners taken ^{OR} 6</p>	<p>J.J. J.J.</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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At Lt JWD Jones DSO
Commanding 21st Bde AIF

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices									
	May		Very heavy enemy shelling on Railway line from C5A to U27d also BANK ROAD running through C5A U29A+D Casualties ^{OR} 25 in our sector										
		pm 11	5 officers + 120 O.R. dig strong posts in advance of O B 2 and on return Battalion is relieved by a Battalion of 3 rd Brigade and Unit moved to the NOREUIL — LONGATTE ROAD										
		5 ^h	Situation normal Received Reinforcement ^{OR} 6										
		6 ^h	Situation normal										
		7 ^h	Situation normal										
		8 ^h	Unit moved to LE SARRS camp Received ^{OR} 36 reinforcements										
			Casualties during operation										
				<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>0</td> <td>^{OR} 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>wounded</td> <td>10</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missing</td> <td></td> <td>49</td> </tr> </table>	Killed	0	^{OR} 25	wounded	10	250	Missing		49
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Lt Col J W D Forbes DSO

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Commanding
2nd Battalion A.I.F.

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ	MAY 9th	9am	The Battalion moves to MAMETZ Side Camp of Camp via HERBERT ROAD to COURCELETTE - MARTINPUICH. Beauville Road to CONTALMAISON - FRICOURT - MAMETZ. Arrived 2pm.	J.F.
	10th		Organised games + recreation	J.F.
	11th		Recreation games, Capt A W Hutchin reports from Side for Temp duty. Capt J R M Mahon. RMO. proceeds on PARIS LEAVE. Reinforcements 0 RS 11.	J.F.
	12th		Training + games. Cricket match. Capt Island + 19 other ranks proceed on Seaside leave	J.F.
	13th		Side church Parade. Fine weather. Lieut A E Richards + 38 other arrive from Base. Sgt A V Barnes appointed to Commissioned ranks.	J.F.
	14th		Training Sgt J S Rigby from 6th L T M Bty appointed 2nd Lieut eight other ranks proceed on English furlough	J.F.

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Det Lt Col H W Forbes 1950
Commanding 21st Bn
AIF.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ	15 th		Army base Commander visits the Bde. Fine weather. J & C M's commenced.	J.F.
	16 th		Court Martials in progress. Wet weather. Lecture in Huts. 2 Lt H W Garton evacuated sick.	J.F.
MILLEN COURT	17 th	9am	The Battalion moves to MILLEN COURT. Route via MEAULTE - VILLE BUIRE - LAVIEVILLE. Arrives 2pm. CSM Mason app 2 Lieut 5 th officer report for duty from 24 th Bn. 2 Lt H W Taylor 2 Lt J M McLachlan 2 Lt J O'Leary 2 Lt W J Seales 2 Lt H W Corney.	J.F.
	18 th		Training further program with J & C M's. Capt A G Brown proceeds on English furlough. Lieut J L Watt taken over duties as Adj. Three other ranks on English leave. 2 Lt J Rigby + 2 Lt B Bollingham report for duty. Reinforcement 10 other ranks.	J.F.
	19 th		Training	J.F.

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Lt Col I W D Jones DSO

Commanding 21st Bn AIF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Millencourt	1917 May 20 th		Church Parade. Fine weather.	J.F.
	21 st		Musketry & Training. Court Martials concluded	J.F.
	22 nd		Training, Musketry. Capt H K Mc Mahon ^{RMS} returns from leave.	J.F.
	23 rd		Courts Martials promulgated. Lectures, Musketry Training & games. 7 Lt W A L Agnew & 7 Lt W Macconnochie report for duty from Wounded List	J.F.
	24 th		Training & Musketry. 7 Lt B Bismarck evacuated sick.	J.F.
	25 th	8am	Bathing Parade	J.F.
	26 th		Training. Major H A Crowther DSO reports back to Unit for duty from seconded dist	Hac

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Lt Col J W D Jones DSO

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Commanding 21st Bata AIF

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
Millencourt	May 27 th		Church Parade. Battalion Sports held in the afternoon	H.A.C.												
	28 th		Tactical scheme to exemplify lateral bombing, attack on strong points - cooperation with L.T.M.s carried out at MILLENCOURT by Coys. 6 th Inf Bde staff in attendance	H.A.C.												
	29 th		Reinforcements received OR 17 Training Lt Collins reported for duty from second dist Reinforcements received OR 19 C.O. leaves Unit to proceed to England on duty	H.A.C.												
	30 th		Training. 6 th Inf Bde Sports Meeting held at HENENCOURT. The Corps Commander has awarded Military Medals to the following NCOs & Men: 311 Sgt F Winstanley S, 942 L/C Oliver WF 3878 Plt M. J. J. 9, 1075 Plt Skinner AF 5091 Plt Smith W, 2417 L/C Jaylor TB, 743 Plt Sedgman S, 1006 Sgt Reilly AE 875 L/C Hogg S, 4930 L/C Bott S.E.H. 914 L/C Kram E.H.													
	31 st		Training. <table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Present effective strength</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">OR</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> <td style="text-align: center;">658</td> </tr> <tr> <td>attached</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95</td> </tr> </table>	Present effective strength	0	OR		40	658	attached	6	14	Detached	18	95	
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Henry A. Crowther Major
Commanding 21st Battalion