

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/38/8

Title: 21st Infantry Battalion

April 1916



AWM4-23/38/8

21st. BATTALION
6th. Inf. Bde

(32)

Date. 1916	Place and Time.	21 st Bn. A. I. F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
APRIL 1	GLOMENEHEM	Battalion engaged in Section Drill. Rifle exercises C.O. visited front line trenches of Left Sub Section. arrived back at Billet at 12.15 PM. 1/2 Apl.	
2		Church Parade. C.O. Explained new position to Officers & gave hints on points to be observed on occupying our Sub Section of trenches Inspection of all Billets by C.O.	
3		Inspection of Billets - Route march, Section Drill	
4		Packed Kits - Route march to HAVERSKERQUE where unit arrived at 6 PM. & went into Billets.	
5	HAVERSQUE	Left HAVERSQUE at 9.15 AM. route march to SHILLY. which was reached about 4 PM. & men were Billeted.	
6	SHILLY	Unit remained in Billets. Cleaning Rifles & checking Ammunition C.O. accompanied by Second in Command. & C's Coys. & M.S. Officer left SHILLY at 9 AM. & visited all sections of front line trenches & made necessary arrangements for taking over from 10 th Lincoln.	

C.11066.

Date.	Place and Time.	21st BATTALION 6th Inf. Bde	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916			
Apr 7	SAILLY 6.30 PM	Machine Guns. Snipers + advance party sent forward to left sub section of front line. Battalion route marched to FLEURBAIX. & took over sub section of firing line & support trenches. Relief completed by 11.5 PM.	
8		Inspection of trenches & posts in sub section - Nothing of importance -	
9		Manual Sniping - Enemy Artillery fairly active. 4/77 cm shells landed near JAY. POST. no casualties & practically no damage.	
10		Manual Sniping - Enemy Artillery very active. A great number of H.E. shells & Shrapnel fell in rear of our sub section in vicinity of TIN BARN AVENUE. No damage was done - Parties were engaged pumping water out of an communication & front trenches - Gas helmets & Field Dressings checked -	
11		Enemy again shelled JAY. POST. & old communication trench near TIN BARN - No damage. Our Snipers claim to have hit 3 of enemy.	
12		Manual Sniping - otherwise quiet.	

34

Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Apr 13	WYE FARM	Inspection of trenches & posts - arranging relief - detailing guides for relieving unit. Taking over billets in FLEURBAIX - Battalion relieved at night by 22 nd Bn. - Very quiet day.	
14	FLEURBAIX.	Batt in Billets. Arranged Bombing & Machine gun classes also A.C.O. classes.	
15	"	Detailing fatigue parties for entanglements. Communication trenches do	
16	"	335 on fatigue duties as previous day - Enemy shelled one of C Coy's Billets the house was completely demolished - Nearly all arms & equipment was saved - Men were hurried to the support trenches in the vicinity - Only one slight Casualty.	
17	"	Usual fatigue parties - Remains of Batt. were marched to Div Baths & had a bath & received clean underclothing.	
18	"	Similar to previous day. Fatigue parties being changed by the men who visited the baths the day on the 17 th & vice versa.	

2ND BATTALION
2ND Inf. Bde

35

Date. 1916	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
FLEURBAIX		Relieved 22 nd Bn. in Sub Section of front-line trenches. a look over all trench lines etc
Apr 19 20	WYE FARM	Inspection of trenches - Enemy very quiet - Heavy rain all day & trenches very full of water. Dug Outs & parapets were repaired & improved
21		Still very wet. All available pumps working. trying to bale out trenches. Nothing of military importance.
22		Inspection of trenches. Sniping fairly brisk. Our Snipers claim two hits at enemy. We had one Casualty (Pte Morsey killed) A few shells were fired into JAY. POST. No damage done.
23		Inspection of JAY. POST. & front-line. Quiet during day - Rifle & Machine gun fire active at night.
24		Inspection of trenches also HUDSONS & CITY. POSTS. At night our patrol consisting of Pt-A S. ROBERTSON. CPL SADDINGTON &

C.11056.

36

Date. 1916	Place and Time.	BATTALION No. 1st Bn.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Apr 24	WYE FARM	<p>Pte MOYES - was ambushed by an enemy patrol - All three were hit - St-Robertson was wounded in the back. Pte Moyes was hit in the thigh - Corp Saddington was shot through the heart & killed a relief party of 8 men went out & brought in the Corp's Body & assisted the wounded Officer's man over the parapet to our trenches. This was accomplished without further casualties as the enemy refrained from firing (for a time) evidently being afraid of striking their own patrol which had "lobbed" for their own lines - Great Honour was shown by the whole the men in the firing line in wanting to get over the parapet & go to the assistance of our patrol. but all were stopped except 8 men -</p>	
25		<p>Fairly quiet day, night - work was continued on "Dug outs" & parapets - "Duck boards" were raised & improved -</p>	
26		<p>The Battalion was relieved at night by 25th B. & returned to billets</p>	

C.11056.

37

Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Apr 26	FLEURBAIX	Inspection of Billets - Now marched to Div Batts at ERQUINGHEM	
27	..	" " Billets. also Transport Horses & Vehicles & Horses.	
		Usual working parties for entanglements & trenches	
		10.15 PM A gas alarm was given as the Batts "stood to arms" in billets - until 12.10 PM. when all was reported clear -	
28		Usual working parties -	
29		Packing & arranging to hand over Billets to new unit also inspected our new Billets at JESUS FARM.	
30		Inspection of Billets - Handing over to 8 th Bn. & route march by Platoon & Corps to new area. New Billets were reached & all settled down by 1.30 AM (1/5/16) Order for gas alarm or gas alarm issued -	J Hutchinson Lt Col C.O. 21 st Bn. H. J. G.