

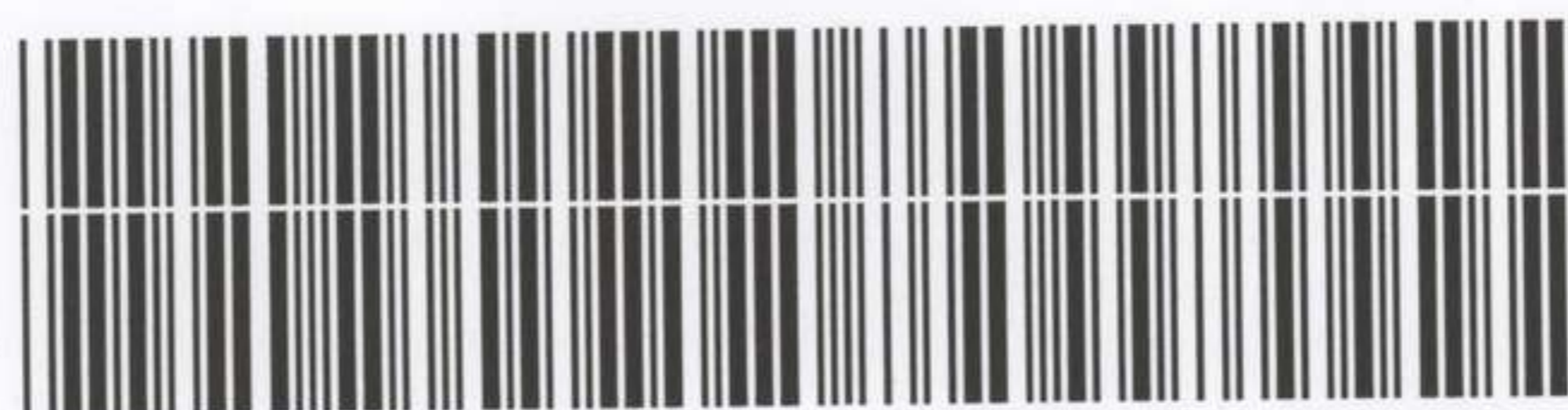
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number: 23/38/10**

**Title: 21st Infantry Battalion**

June 1916



AWM4-23/38/10

A2 43

Date. 1916.	Place and Time.	21 <sup>st</sup> Batta Vol 4	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JUNE 1 <sup>st</sup>	RUE MARLE	New Billets taken over in RUE MARLE. Half the Batta on Engineering work the remainder marched to near CROIX DU BAC for inspection by Prime Minister of Commonwealth of Australia	
2		Inspection of Billets - The unit was divided up in various parties for work on Support & Communication trenches.	
3		Similar work as previous day. CO & O.C.s Coys made a reconnaissance of emergency roads from Billets to position of Assembly in case of Attack	
4		Usual fatigue parties - also Church Parade	
5		Inspection of work in hand also reconnaissance of emergency roads to front trenches	

C.11056.

Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
June - 6	Rue MARLE	Improving Billets - Usual fatigue work on -	
		Support - Communication trenches	
7		Usual fatigues. Preliminary arrangements for	
8		Training Bunkers - Usual fatigues. Inspection of front line trenches	
9		Preliminary arrangements for relieving 25 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> A I D	
10		O.C. Coy inspected front trenches - Usual fatigues	
11		Usual fatigues - Specialists i.e. Mach fitters. Super	
12		Observers - Scouts - went into trenches.	
		Inspection & vacating Billets - Both went into	
		trenches as left - Both in late Sub Section relief	
		Completed at 11.10 PM.	
		Usual trench routine. Conference of Officers of B <sup>n</sup> .	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916 June 12	Continued	regarding improvements to trenches & engineering work to be done - Scheme of defence of position etc	
13		At about 10 AM enemy fired 11 Shrapnel shells over ORCHARD in rear of our right Company & between 10.15 & 12.10 PM enemy fired 11 Shrapnel & 9 High explosive over our support trench in rear of same Company. Two casualties were reported. Enemy's machine guns active during the evening. Our guns retaliated but as shells were bursting out of range of our observers the effect could not be seen.	
14		A patrol of 1 Sgt & 4 men patrolled NO MAN'S LAND. nothing unusual to report. Work of demolishing Dig Outs in unoccupied portion of line & repairs to Duck boards were carried out. Right Coy sent out 4 wire parties each consisting of 1 NCO & 3 men to inspect wire in our front.	

C.11066.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916	Continued		
June 14		Enemy's Artillery very active about 32 HE + 19 Shrapnel shells were fired on our support trenches during the afternoon. No damage was done. Enemy's MG fire very active from about 9.30 to 10 P.M. afterwards everything very quiet.	
15		Enemy fired about 11 Shrapnel + H.E. shells into our trenches. No damage was done. Usual demolition + repairs also wire entanglement were carried out. Our Artillery retaliation approach to be very effective.	
16		106 H.E. Shrapnel shells were fired into this section. No casualties. Our artillery replied effectively. A patrol of 1 Officer + 10 men went out patrolled NO MAN'S LAND. Nothing to report.	
17		Nothing to report. Sniper claim to have accounted for two of the enemy. Patrol of 1 Off 50 Rank in NO MAN'S LAND reported	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916 June	18	<p>on our Wire &amp; State of ditches etc in our front</p> <p>Enemy's Aircraft very active - planes observed at 11 30 AM. 3 30 - 6 45 PM.</p> <p>We established a new listening post in front of trench 64.</p> <p>Enemy fired several bombs into communication trench near CHARD'S FARM - No damage done - Enemy's Snipers particularly active towards morning probably new troops. Enemy's Artillery retorted by shelling trench <sup>64</sup> 65 <del>LITTLE</del> POST - SALIENT. Support trenches in rear of 66 + 68 - mostly 77 mm - Very little damage. Usual Patrols reported everything normal in NO-MANS LAND.</p>	
	19	<p>Enemy's Artillery again active - posts as mentioned yesterday were shelled again today. Otherwise everything normal.</p>	
	20	<p>Enemy's Artillery particularly active - LITTLE POST THE SALIENT. &amp; all post trenches were heavily shelled - the line was thinned</p>	

C.11066.

Date.	Place and Time.	21 <sup>st</sup> - 13 <sup>m</sup>	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
June 20	Continued	out as much as possible. & men moved up to dugouts in close support trenches. Our parapets were damaged. but otherwise very little damage done.	
21		Nothing unusual to report.	
22		At 4.3 P.M. enemy opened a heavy bombardment which continued until 4.5.7 P.M. 8.2 & smaller shells were used. & most of these were directed towards trench 63. Communication trenches were damaged. but otherwise nothing serious. This trench was relieved by 24 P.C. went into Bellefleur RUE MARLE	
23		Battalion in Bellefleur. Working parties supplied each day & night for engineering works i.e. support trenches	
30	inclusion	Wire entanglements etc.	J. Hutchinson Lt Col

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