

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/38/12

Title: 21st Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/38/12

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

2240

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 I
Sheet 1.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Lt Col H. D. Forbes

Commanding 21st Batoⁿ

AI F V ~~VI~~

Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Poziaris	Aug. 1 st		Reference map <u>Poziaris</u> $\frac{1}{5000}$ line held from point 22 to 44, 51, 69 to Orchard Corner thence to 72 line heavily shelled night and day. During night 31 st / _{1st} new forward line dug from ORCHARD CORNER to POINT 56 thence to 55 joining up with 5 th Brigade	J.F.
	Aug 2 nd		"A", "C" and "D" Companies relieved by 2 nd Companies of 23 rd Battalion on night 1 st / _{2nd} . Relief not completed until daylight. Relieved companies moved to SAUSAGE VALLEY.	J.F.
	Aug 3 rd		"B" Company and Lewis Machine Gun Section relieved night 2 nd / _{3rd} Lewis Gun Officer Lt Stone killed. 12 Reinforcements received. One Company 46 th Bato ⁿ attached for duty. Re-equipment and reorganization carried out.	J.F.

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SHEET 2

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
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Army Form C. 2118
Lt Col J W D Jones
Commanding 21st Battalion
A I F

Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAUSAGE VALLEY	AUG 4 th		Capt Crowther attached to Division for temporary duty. Lt Boothman, Adjutant, to ANZAC for temporary duty. Battalion engaged in carrying duties between CHALK PIT to FRONT LINE	J. J.
	Aug 5 th	AM 5:30	Night 4/5 th 22, 23, 24 th attack O.C.I + 2 with success. 21 st Batt: held in reserve. Two Companies moved forward to CHALK PIT trenches as closer support. Balance of Battalion CHALK PIT, Battalion duties. Capt Crowther returned from Divisional duties.	J. J. officers Killed Lt E.C. Catani Lt J Stone Wounded Lt M B Kelly " W J Darley " E M Hunt 2nd Lt A M Smith P. Rey nolds P.E. Hurvay 2nd Lt J F Hutchinson
	Aug 6 th	3 pm 7 pm 11 pm	Whole Battalion on carrying duty. Relieved by 4 th Brigade Battalion moved to bivouac at TARA HILL TARA HILL shelled. No casualties to this Unit Casualties sustained from 29 th ult to date -	Other Ranks Killed wounded missing 27 246 7

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

Reinforcements received. 0 OR 237. 2 7

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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Sheet 3

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Lt Col J W D Jorks

Commanding 21st Battalion

A I F

Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TARA HILL	Aug 7 th	7-30AM	TARA HILL evacuated. Route March to WARLOY. Bivouac for night	J.J.
WARLOY	" 8 th		Moved to Billets WARLOY. Reorganization of Platoons	J.J.
"	" 9 th		Billets WARLOY	J.J.
LA VICOENE	" 11 th	9 am	"B" Company detailed for Salvage Company to report 4 th Division at ALBERT Route March LA VICOENE via VAENCOURT, HERRISART, RUBEMPRE, TALMAS to bivouac at LA VICOENE. Inspected by His Majesty King George V en route	J.J.
			March to BERTAUCOURT LES DAMES via CANAPLES, HALLOY	J.J.

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WAR DIARY
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At Col J W D Jones
Commanding 21st Battalion
AIF.

Army Form C. 2118

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Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BERTAUCOURT	AUG 12 ^m		Rest training. 5 1/2 hours training daily.	J.J.
"	13 ^m		Church Parade	J.J.
"	14 ^m		Training. Night attack on trenches by companies.	J.J.
"	15 ^m		Training	J.J.
"	16 ^m		Training and re-equipment.	J.J.
"	17 ^m		Training and re-equipment as incidents become available.	J.J.
"	18 ^m	9.2m	Billets evacuated Route March to LA VICOGNE via HALLOY, HAVERNAS and NOURAS. Bivouaced LA VICOGNE. Rained all night.	J.J.
LA VICOGNE	19 ^m	8-30am	Route March to ROBEMPRE via FERME DU ROSEL, and VAL DE MAISON to ROBEMPRE	J.J.
ROBEMPRE	20 ^m	8-30am	Route March to VADENCOURT WOOD. Billeted in huts. Church Parade, Inspected by Corps Commander	J.J.

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Lt Col J W D Forbes
Commanding 21st Battalion
AIF
Army Form C. 2118

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Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VADENCOURT	Aug 21 st	2 pm	Route March VADENCOURT to BITCHFIELDS near ALBERT bivouaced	J. J.
BITCHFIELDS near ALBERT	22 nd	5 am	"B" Coy Battalion less Transport & Details moved via TARA GULLY, SAUSAGE VALLEY to WIRE TRENCH. Reconnaissance made of trenches held by 10 th , 11 th , 12 th and 1 st Battalions. REF Map FERME DE MOUQUERT 1/5000.	J. J.
		7:30 pm	Battalion less "B" Coy moved into trenches held by 10 th & 11 th Battalions. Line taken over being 91 in R. 27 D to 01, 21, to approximately R 28 C 8 1/2 0 Relief carried under heavy shelling.	J. J.
OEI	23 rd		At 2:35 am new position reported by Companies as taken over. During the day trenches improved as much as possible during daylight. During night trenches deepened throughout whole length. Patrols reconnoitered towards 73, 03, 24, 36, 66 and 95. 1 Platoon and an officer cleaned out trench from Sunkard road through point 38 to Point 65. This work was completed before dawn.	J. J.

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Army Form C. 2118
Lt Col I W G Jukes
Commanding 21st Battalion
A I F

Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OG 1	Aug 24 th	9 AM	"A" Coy withdrawn from line and moved to TOM'S CUT between point 75 and 12	
		2 pm	"C" & "D" Coys took over line from 24 th Battm points 55 through Quarry to 81 point 69 in Skyline trench R 33 & C 5 1/2 9 1/2, 24 th Battalion taking over line vacated by 21 st .	
			Position taken over strengthened and improved	
		9-30 pm	Patrols reconnoitred towards ^{points} 54, 77, 27. V shaped enemy trench located about 200 yards from line held on line 55, 27 trench dug from Quarry in direction of point 77	J. J.
QUARRY	25 th		Position strengthened. Dump established at Quarry for ammunition, bombs water tools &c. Salvage work carried out & rifles equipment &c assembled at Quarry. Further patrol work preparatory to attack carried out along whole front.	J. J.
	26 th	12 m	"D" Company moved from SAUSAGE VALLEY to QUARRY and "A" Company from TOM'S CUT to QUARRY	
		4-452 m.	Enemy position 54, 77, 27 attacked with "A" & "B" Companies plus 2 Platoons "C" and "D" together with carrying parties	J. J.

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Lt Col JWD Forbes

Army Form C. 2118

Commanding 21st Battalion
AIF

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Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUARRY	Aug 26 th		<p>left flank being protected by one Company 90 strong 22nd Battalion</p> <p>Attack was successful at point 77. Points 27 and 54 however proved to be very strong in men and machine guns. Reinforcements despatched to both these points and fresh efforts made to carry them by bombing but without success. ^{Some of} The Company operating on right flank appeared to go beyond their objective and in falling back suffered heavily. A further attempt on point 54 was made at 12-15 pm after heavy artillery had operated. Owing to artillery not successfully finding the range this attempt was again frustrated by enemy machine gun fire. An enemy trench mortar was captured + destroyed.</p> <p>On relief of this Unit during night 26/27th position at point 77 and to the Eastward handed over to 14th Battalion</p>	<p>Y. J.</p> <p>Y. J.</p>

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Lt Col J W D Innes

Army Form C. 2118

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Commanding 21st Battalion
AIF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																
	1916		<p>Casualties during period 22nd/26th August</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Officers</u></td> <td><u>Killed.</u></td> <td><u>Wounded</u></td> <td><u>Missing</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Capt R G Smith</td> <td>Lt J W Pearce</td> <td>Capt A S Robinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lt CAW Clambrough</td> <td>Capt AR Macneil</td> <td>Lt A Bratty</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lt E J Clark</td> <td>Lt CN Bartels</td> <td>Lt SH Richmond</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>" CR Longdon</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Capt J Sale</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Lt H Butterross</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Lt B Black</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Other Ranks</u> 34 213 131</p>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Killed.</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>		Capt R G Smith	Lt J W Pearce	Capt A S Robinson		Lt CAW Clambrough	Capt AR Macneil	Lt A Bratty		Lt E J Clark	Lt CN Bartels	Lt SH Richmond			" CR Longdon				Capt J Sale				Lt H Butterross				Lt B Black		
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ALBERT	Aug 27 th		<p>On being relieved by 4th Brigade during night 26th/27th Battalion moved to BRICK FIELDS hence to billets at ALBERT.</p>	J. J.																																
WARLOY	28 th		<p>Route march to billets at WARLOY Reinforcements received to the number of 67 other ranks</p>	J. J. J. J.																																
HERISSART	29 th		<p>Route march via VADENCOURT, to CONTAY to HERISSART</p>	J. J.																																
	30 th	7am	<p>Route march via REBOMPRÉ, TALMAS, LA VICOGNE VERT GALAND FERME VALHEURHEUX to billets at BONNIEVILLE</p>	J. J.																																

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Lt Col J W S Forbes
Commanding 21st Battalion
AIF

Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
BONNEVILLE	Aug 31 st		<p>Bills at BONNEVILLE Refitting and Reorganization</p> <p>Effectives Present strength of Battalion</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Other Ranks</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">491</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">attached R.M.O. Chaplain, & Capt. P. Bruns</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Detached — 55</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>14</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>546</u></td> </tr> </table>		<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>		11	491	attached R.M.O. Chaplain, & Capt. P. Bruns	3.	Detached — 55	Total	<u>14</u>	<u>546</u>	<p style="text-align: right;">J. J.</p>
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