

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/9/21 Part 2

Title: 6th Training Squadron, Australian
Flying Corps

February 1919



AWM4-8/9/21PART2

CONFIDENTIAL.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

No 6 T.S. A. 7. 6.

FOR

February 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

EL Spragg L. Stays

Signature of Officer Commanding

*EL Spragg L. Stays
for P.O.*

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Minchin-hampton.	1919.			
	Feb. 1st.		Sky overcast, very heavy frost. No. flying. Forms signed by Cadets willing to serve in Reserve which may be formed by A.M.F.	
		2	Ground frozen, sky overcast. 1 hr. 10 mins. total flying time.	
		3	2/Lt. E.K. Denton posted to Air Ministry for overseas.	
		4	Good flying day. Six pupils went first solo and all were O.K. Notification of early repatriation of University students.	
		5	Snow and driving sleet rendered flying impossible.	
		6	2/Lts. Robertson & Dungey graduated and passed Category "B". Cadet Dalton "A". Major Harrison reported his arrival from Australia.	
		7	Cadet Myers crashed an S.E.5., caused by bad landing. R.A.F. Salamander salvaged and handed over to A.R.S.	
		8	Good flying day. 2/Lt. Fletcher and Cadet Bowler each crashed an Avros. Afternoon holiday granted by Station Commander.	
		9	Three N.C.Os reported their arrival from overseas and were taken on strength of Squadron.	
		10	Alterations made in general routine of working hours enabling pupils to fly until 5.30 pm.	
		12 & 13	Squadron fortnightly holiday.	
		14	Lieut. H. Taylor (pupil) posted to Sutton Veny for return to Australia.	
		15	Applications called from pilots for permanent commissions in R.A.F. A.I.F. Lists show promotion of 11 second Lieutenants to Lieutenants. Lieut. Spragg took over duties of Adjutant from Lieut. Wharton, MC.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
 (A10266) Wt W5300/P713 720,000 2/18 Sch. 92 Forms/C2118/16

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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- 2 -

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	
		15	Witnesses proceeded to London to attend Court Martial of 1st AM. Drain. Lieuts. Lindsay and Fry to A.I.F. Hqs. re Industrial Administration course at Manchester. Raining all day, no flying.
		1820	Sopwith Scouts of this Squadron handed over to Wing for disposal in anticipation of cessation of flying on March 15, 1919.
		21	Good flying morning. General rain falling later in day. General Commanding S.W. Area arrived and inspected all buildings on Aerodrome.
		22	Heavy rain no flying. Afternoon Squadron holiday.
		23	Lieut. Spragg appointed Adjutant No. 6 T.S. vice Lieut. L. Wharton.
		24	Perfect flying day. General muster parade of all ranks for photograph. Cadet Dalton graduated and passed Category "B".
		25	Cadet Keen reported Buckingham Palace for investiture of M.C. Lieut. Gordon graduated and passed category "B".
		26 & 27	Squadron fortnightly holiday.
		28	Cadet Matthey Smith passed Category "A". Ten new machines handed over to Squadron by R.A.F. 2/Lts. Jones and G.L. Boileau promoted to Lieutenants.

*6/10/1919 Spragg
7/10/1919 T.S. A.F.C.*

WAR DIARY

OF

No. 6 Training Squadron A.F.C.

FOR

February

191⁹

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
(1)	Copy of Squadron Record Book.
(2)	Wireless Report
(3)	Gunnery Report
(4)	Squadron Commander's Report.

12
6th Training Squadron,
Australian Flying Corps.

V 439
Minchinhampton,
Gloucestershire.

SQUADRON COMMANDER'S REPORT.

During the greater part of the month the weather conditions greatly interfered with the training of pupils in flying. Low clouds and ground mists preventing dual instruction. At intermittent intervals the weather would clear and on these occasions every serviceable machine went up and instructors took every opportunity to lessen the large number of pupils requiring instruction. The pupils have shown great keenness in their work and on one occasion 6 pupils went on their first solo, all putting up a most satisfactory performance.

No fatal accidents occurred during the month and as this makes the fifth month in succession with ^{out} a pilot or pupil being even seriously injured, it reflects great credit on all ranks concerned.

The Sopwith machines of this Squadron were handed over to the Wing in anticipation of cessation of flying on the 15th March.

On the 23rd a parade was held. It was explained to the 1915 personnel that they could either be sent away to the various concentration camps in England awaiting embarkation to Australia or remain with the Squadron and return as a complete Unit. All ranks were in favour of remaining with the Squadron. During the month four pupils completed their training and passed Category "B" successfully.

Laurence Gifford Major,
Commanding 6th Training Squadron, A.F.C.

13
6th Training Squadron,
Australian Flying Corps.

439
Minchinhampton,
Gloucestershire.

WIRELESS REPORT.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

During the month of February 24 Pupils (Officers and Cadets) training as Flying Officers were trained in Morse and the Buzzer Circuits, Silent Key and Morse Inker Machines, in both receiving and sending up to the required R.A.F. standard of 8 words per minute.

Several pupils have been so far interested in their work that they have continued their classes and attained speeds as high as 20 words per minute.

All pupils who have actually passed out at 8 words per minute have been kept up to the standard of proficiency by attending the classes for practice. Attendance generally has been good and all results most satisfactory.

Of the whole school only 6 pupils now require to pass out before the termination of flying, viz. March 15th, 1919, which we hope to accomplish before that date.

Lieutenant and Adjutant,
6th Training Squadron, A.F.C.

REPORT ON GROUND AND AERIAL GUNNERY TRAINING
FOR MONTH ENDING 28th FEBRUARY, 1919.

Higher training was resumed and the 5th and 6th Squadrons went back to Squadron training.

The pupils of this Squadron numbered 30 divided into 5 classes.

The number of Instructional days during the month was 14 the rest of the time being occupied by parades and Squadron holidays.

Instruction was given on C.C. Gear, Vickers Stoppages, Ring sights and model Aeroplane practice, also range practice.

There were 8 range days, consisting of 5 Vickers and 3 Lewis practices. Vickers Gun - 2060 rounds were fired.

Lewis Gun 737 rounds, making a total of 2797 rounds of Mk. V.11 ammunition used.

During the month 15 R.A.F. tests were passed after several practices. At each test breakages, consisting of striker pin and 1 cartridge guide spring for Lewis gun, and 1 fusee spring for Vickers Gun.

The average daily attendance of pupils was 24.

Camera Gun work - Nil.

Aerial Firing. Aerial firing practice was carried out by 4 pupils, some of them firing more than once.

Details. 3,400 rounds were fired scoring 240 inners, and 22 bulls. Approximately 1 shot in every 13 was a hit.

E. P. Pragg
Lieutenant and Adjutant,
6th (T) Squadron, A.F.C.