

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/10/3

Title: 7th Training Squadron, Australian
Flying Corps

May 1918



AWM4-8/10/3

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

7.9.8.49/2.
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Leighterton.	2/5/18.		B.E.2.E., C/7036. arrived from A.R.S. and posted to "B" Flight.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown:- 8 hours 45 minutes.	19
"	3/5/18.		2nd.Lt.D.R.Williams and 1st.A/M.Armour evacuated sick to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown, 4 hours 20 minutes.	19
"	4/5/18.		2nd.A/M.Munday returned from Beaufort War Hospital.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown 10 hours 30 minutes.	19
"	5/5/18.		Lt.E.T.Woods, Wireless E.O., reported his arrival from 3rd Squadron, A.F.C.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown 3 hours 50 minutes.	19
"	6/5/18.		2nd.A/M.Victor returned from Course of Instruction in gear fitting at Uxbridge.	19
"	"		D.H.6, C/6815., arrived by air and posted to "A" Flight.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown 9 hours 25 minutes.	19
"	7/5/18.		Lt., T.E.Tregillis proceeded to report to A.F.C. H.Q., London, on appointment as Instructor Central Flying School., Australia.	19
"	"		No Flying.	19
"	8/5/18.		R.E.8, D/1512., arrived by air and taken on Charge.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown, 8 hours 55 minutes.	19
"	9/5/18.		BE2E, C/7039 and BE2E, C/7038, taken over from A.R.S. and posted to "B" Flight.	19
"	"		Chaplain Durnford.M.C., attached to this Station.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown, 11 hours 50 minutes.	19
"	10/5/18.		Lt., S.J.Moir Graduated on RE8, first Graduation in Squadron.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown 17 hours 10 minutes.	19
"	11/5/18.		2nd.A/M.Simmonds.N.W. admitted Tetbury Hospital as result of Motor Cycle accident.	19
"	"		Capt' Macnaughton discharged from Tetbury Cottage Hospital.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown 13 hours 20 minutes.	19
"	12/5/18.		Pupils time flown 11 hours 10 minutes.	19
"	13/5/18.		Pupils time flown 10 hours 50 minutes.	19
"	14/5/18.		RE8, E/124., received by air from Coventry, and posted to "C" Flight.	19
"	"		Pupils time flown 6 hours 40 minutes.	19
"	15/5/18.		2 N.C.O's and 6 mechanics marched in from A.F.C., Depot.	19
"	"		No Flying.	19
"	16/5/18.		Pupils time flown 11 hours 25 minutes.	19
"	17/5/18.		Pupils time flown 16 hours 50 minutes.	19
"	18/5/18.		Pupils time flown 21 hours 40 minutes.	19
"	19/5/18.		Lt.R.G.Francis arrived from 3rd.Sqdn', for duty whilst waiting for Instructors School.	19

CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

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Leigherton.	19/5/18.		Pupils time flown 20 hours 15 minutes.	18
"	20/5/18.		4 Wireless operators taken on strength from Minchinhampton.	18
"	"		Pupils time flown 24 hours 15 minutes.	18
"	21/5/18.		Cadet H.L.Morcom Graduated as Pilot.	18
"	"		Cadet H.L.Morcom crashed on RE8,C/2476.,and severely injured and burnt,machine catching fire on ground.Admitted to Beaufort War Hospital,Bristol.	18
"	"		RE8,E/128.,arrived by air from Coventry.	18
"	"		Pupils time flown 17 hours 55 minutes.	18
"	22/5/18.		Cadet C.C.Lewis returned from Hospital.	18
"	"		Cadet S.Hawke Graduated as RE8 Pilot.	18
"	"		BE2E,B/6194.,arrived by road from A.R.S.	18
"	"		Pupils time flown 16 hours 15 minutes.	18
"	23/5/18.		Pupils time flown 5 hours 20 minutes.	18
"	24/5/18.		Pupils time flown 4 hours 35 minutes.	18
"	25/5/18.		Pupils time flown 10 hours 30 minutes.	18
"	26/5/18.		RE8,E/125.,arrived by air from Coventry,posted to "C" Flight.	18
"	"		Pupils time flown 15 hours 25 minutes.	18
"	27/5/18.		Lt,Francis marched out to Air Board,Strand for posting Overseas as Flt' Cmmdr'3rd.Sqdn'.	18
"	"		Sgt' King MM.,Proceeded to H.Q.,4th Wing,R.A.F.,for disciplinary course.	18
"	"		Lt,S.J.Moir proceeded to Group Instructors Flight,Old Sarum,for Course of Instruction.	18
"	"		Pupils time flown 12 hours 35 minutes.	18
"	28/5/18.		Lt,K.A.Roberts proceeded to Art& Inf'Co-operation School,Winchester.	18
"	"		2nd.Lt,D.R.Williams and Cadet Morcom posted to Group Pool.	18
"	"		Pupils time flown 13 hours.	18
"	29/5/18.		No Flying,weather "dud".	18
"	30/5/18.		BE2E,B/6193.,arrived from A.R.S.Leigherton and posted to "B" Flight.	18
"	"		Pupils time flown 5 hours 45 minutes.	18
"	31/5/18.		Pupils time flown 25 hours 10 minutes. Total Flying time for month 393 hours 20 minutes.	18
SUMMARY. At the end of May the Squadron had 3 Instructors and about 20 pupils,just half the establishment,and about two thirds the establishment of machines,and two thirds that of mechanics &c.The shortage of Riggers among the reinforcements from Australia has been a handicap all through. The Squadron turned out 3 Service pilots,one of whom (Lt,Moir) is now an Instructor in the Squadron,having Graduated very well at the R.A.F.Area Instructors School The other two,Lts,Kilburn and Fayrell had previously Graduated on Scouts in other Squadrons.				2

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A'001) Wt. Wt:71/M2031 750/CO 5/17 Ech. 52 Forms C2..6/14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Leigherton.			<p><u>SUMMARY. Continued.</u> In addition 4 pupils were Graduated "A" Lt. Moir and Cadets Morcom, Hawke and McDonald.</p> <p>Cadet Morcom is making good but necessarily slow, progress at Southmead Hospital.</p> <p>Great courage and promptitude were shown by Cpl Horne and 1st. A/M. Spike, who at great risk to themselves, rescued Cadet Morcom from his burning machine, and undoubtedly thereby saved his life. Attached is a copy of the report sent in.</p> <p>The number of machines written off during month, namely one, is very small for a training Squadron even allowing for the rather low average Flying time of 12½ hours a day.</p> <p>This pupils Flying time is however very good for the small number of Instructors available, especially as most of the pupils were in the elementary stage. The very small number of crashes also reflects great credit on the 3 Instructors, Capt Wrigley, Lt. Donnelly and 2nd. Lt. Abbott, all of whom have worked splendidly.</p> <p>The average daily percentage of machines and engines serviceable (over 85%) also speaks very well for the work of the N.C.O's and Mechanics, especially in view of the general difficulty in obtaining spares.</p> <p>The weather during May was on the whole very good.</p>	App. A.

W. K. Anderson Major
O.O. No. 7 (1st) Squadron A.F.C.

From...Lieut.S.J.Moir,
No.7.T.S.,A.F.C.

To.....Officer Commanding,
No.7.T.S.,A.F.C.



App. A

I was on the Aerodrome on the 21st. May when Cadet Morcom crashed on RE8,C/2476.,bursting the petrol tank, and the machine caught fire. I wish to bring to notice the action of Cpl. Horne and 1st.A/M.

Spike who immediately rushed up, before any fire extinguishers could be got going and climbed on to the burning machine, raised Cadet Morcom off the safety belt, unfastened it and lifted him out of the machine. During this time, the flames were rising 10 feet round the Pilot. By the time they got him out several fire extinguishers were being played on the fire but Cadet Morcom had been rather severely burnt; Cpl. Horne was also slightly burnt about the hands and face, and 1st.A/M. Spike on the arm.

It was only their prompt action that saved Cadet Morcom's life.

Leighterton, Glos.
21/6/18.

(Sgd) S.J.Moir, Lieut. A.F.C.

W. H. H. H.

74th Hq. B. May 1918.

App. A