

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/11/3

Title: 8th Training Squadron, Australian
Flying Corps

July 1918



AWM4-8/11/3

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

July 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Leighterton	1.7.18		An epidemic of an infection known as "War Influenza" is very prevalent amongst Officers and men of this Squadron. Nothing of a serious nature has as yet occurred. The following order has been issued by 1st Wing A.F.C. Headquarters :- "No Instructors or Pupils who have had Influenza will fly before being passed by the M.O., and will then fly Dual before going Solo". Lieut. G. H. Blaxland crashed in an Avro Mono, and as a result of injuries received was admitted to No. 2 S.G.H., Bristol. Injuries were of a serious nature. Weather of 1.7.18 - Fine.	
do.	2.7.18		Four (4) Cadets are posted for Instruction from A.F.C. Depot. Capt. R. W. McKenzie.M.C. proceeded to attend No. 1 School of Special Flying, Gosport. One man reported back from King George's Hospital, London. Weather of 2.7.18 - Fine and calm - dull.	
do.	3.7.18		Fatal aeroplane accident occurred which resulted in the death of Aus. 2882. 1a/m. Banks-Smith.S.A. No. 8 T.S.A.F.C., and Lieut. G. R. Thompson (No. 7 T.S.A.F.C.) One man was taken on the strength from 1st Wing. A.F.C. One man was admitted to No. 1 S.G.H. Edgbaston, Birmingham. Weather of 3.7.18 - Clear - Light breeze.	
do.	4.7.18		The South Western Group advise the necessity for Economy in Petrol. Capt. N.H.Hobbs. M.C. (18th Battn. A.I.F.) posted for temporary duty as Adjutant. Weather of 4.7.18 - Fine - Light Breeze - Hazy.	
do.	5.7.18		All work proceeding satisfactorily. Weather of 5.7.18 - Fine - Slight Breeze.	
do.	6.7.18		Two Cadets having graduated were granted leave. Weather of 6.7.18 - Fine - Slight Breeze.	
do.	7.7.18		All Officers and other ranks with exception of those on duty were granted leave from A.D. 7.7.18 till 0900 - 9.7.18. Weather :- Cloudy - Light Breeze.	
do.	8.7.18		Squadron Fortnightly Hoilday.	
do.	9.7.18		Capt. N. H. Hobbs M.C. a/Adjutant of No. 8 T.S.A.F.C. posted to No. 7 T.S.A.F.C. Weather:- Cloudy - Showery.	
do.	10.7.18		Two N.C.O's and one (1) man were taken on the strength of No. 8 T.S.A.F.C. from A.F.C. Depot. Weather :- Wet and Cloudy.	
do.	11.7.18		The following is an extract which was published for information through Squadron Orders :- "Approval has been given for the formation of 2 Two Squadron Stations, which will be called	

(Continued)

WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE - SUMMARY.

Sheet .2.

(Erase heading not required.)

July 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Leighterton	11.7.18		1st Two Squadron Station A.F.C. and 2nd. Two Squadron Station A.F.C. to be component Units of 1st Training Wing, Australian Flying Corps with establishments as laid down by Royal Air Force for such Units.	
do.	12.7.18		Weather :- Stormy and Cloudy. A Summary of the valuable work rendered by Capt. G.C.Wilson. M.C.,D.C.M. and Lieut. H. Taylor.M.C.,M.M. was published for general information. For these services His Majesty the King has awarded both Officers the Military Cross. One Armourer was taken on the strength from A.F.C. Depot.	
do.	13.7.18		Weather :- Rough, Squally and rain. All work proceeding satisfactorily.	
do.	14.7.18		Weather :- Rough. Three Cadets are posted for instruction from A.F.C. Depot. Lieut. H. Taylor. M.C.,M.M. proceeded to Sandown Barracks, Isle of Wight, to attend a course of instruction for Defensive Measures against Gas.	
do.	15.7.18		Weather :- Stormy. Two Air Mechanics having been in Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol for a period of more than 28 days are struck off the strength of No. 8 T.S.A.F.C.	
do.	16.7.18		Weather :- Dull, Slight Breeze, Showery. It is notified, the letters from members of the A.I.F. to all parts of the British Empire (except the United Kingdom) from the United Kingdom will be carried free of charge. This also applies to letters addressed to the Allied Countries, Denmark, Spain, Switzerland and Uruguay. When posted in Zones of the Expeditionary Forces Abroad the United Kingdom is included in the British Empire. Capt. R.W. McKenzie. M.C. reported back from No. 1 S.S.F. Gosport.	
do.			Weather :- Cloudy, Strong Breeze. All Batmen and Cooks on the strength of No. 8 T.S. were struck off strength and posted to the strength of Leighterton Station.	
do.	17.7.18		All work proceeding satisfactorily.	
do.	18.7.18		Weather :- Cloudy, Slight breeze. Owing to rough weather flying was hindered considerably. Only 9 hours being done.	
do.	19.7.18		Weather :- Stormy. One Sailmaker was taken on the strength of No. 8 T.S. from No. 7 T.S.A.F.C.	
do.	20.7.18		Weather :- Dull, Hazy, Showery. Lieut. J. A. Robertson - 1st Battn. A.I.F. is taken on the strength of No. 8 T.S. for duties as Adjutant Lieut. D. Ellis received orders to proceed Overseas as an Observer and in consequence vacated his post as Adjutant of No. 8 T.S.A.F.C.	

(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/16

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

SHEET .3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Leighterton.	20.7.	18	Lieut. J.K. Lancaster proceeded to School of Aerial Fighting, Turnberry. One N.C.O. having been in Tetbury Cottage Hospital for a period of 28 days is struck off strength of No. 8 T.S. and posted to the A.F.C. Depot. Weather :- Cloudy and Stormy.	
do.	21.7.	18	All work proceeding satisfactorily. Weather :- Stormy and Showery.	
do.	22.7.	18	Heavy rain throughout the greater part of the day hindered flying.	
do.	23.7.	18	One man was struck off the strength of No. 8 T.S. and posted to No. 7 T.S. as a Bombing Instructor. All ranks (except those on duty) proceeded on leave from A.D. 23.7.18 to 0900 - 25.7.18. Weather :- Cloudy and rainy.	
do.	24.7.	18	Squadron Fortnightly Holiday.	
do.	25.7.	18	One Officer was taken on the strength of No. 8 T.S. from No. 1 School of Navigation and Bomb Dropping. Weather :- Stormy.	
do.	26.7.	18	Lieut. E. F. Pflaum was appointed Temp. Flight Commander, and to be Temp. Captain whilst so employed. Weather :- Stormy.	
do.	27.7.	18	Lieut. H. Taylor. M.C., M.M. reported back from Sandown Barracks, Isle of Wight having completed Course in Defensive Measures against Gas. It is notified that no Aeroplane would in future fly over or land at Bournemouth. Weather :- Cloudy, Breeze.	
do.	28.7.	18	Fine day with a slight breeze, very favourable for flying. Total flying hours being 41hrs.55mins.	
do.	29.7.	18	An excellent day for flying. All work proceeding satisfactorily. Weather :- Fine.	
do.	30.7.	18	One N.C.O. was taken on the strength ex .A.F.C. One man was admitted to the No. 2 S.G.H., Bristol suffering from injuries received by an Aeroplane propellor. Injuries were pronounced - not serious. Weather :- Fine.	
do.	31.7.	18	Weather very fine and hot. Total Flying time for day 34hrs. 55mins.	

WAR DIARY

OF

NO. 8 TRAINING SQUADRON. A. F. C.

FOR

J U L Y 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No. 1. Subject. Report by Commanding Officer.

The work of the Squadron for July has proceeded satisfactorily, but has been rather hampered by periods of bad weather, and an epidemic of influenza.

The total flying time was 542hrs. 15mins. and pupils flying time 477hrs. 25mins, whilst a total of 102hrs. 35mins formation flying has been done. The improvement in formation flying has been very marked, and a special officer supervises the work, and leads most of the formations. Results have amply justified the appointment.

Aerial firing has been carried out whenever the weather permitted with the result that 11,138 rounds have been fired from the air with a total of 426 hits.

The Squadron was congratulated by the G.O.C. for the results obtained in aerial firing. 131 Camera gun films have been taken with 808 successful shots. 10 pupils have graduated "A" and 7 fully trained service pilots turned out. These are the first service pilots turned out by the Squadron, and henceforward the numbers per month will increase. Now that the instructors have got into their swing - much time that was wasted in the earlier periods is made use of. There has been one accident in which Lieut. G.H. Blaxland was seriously injured, and la/m. Banks-Smith was killed while flying with a pilot of No. 7 Squadron.

The permanent buildings on the Aerodrome are gradually being completed, and work in consequence is being carried out in a more efficient manner.

The complete absence of crime has been most marked and the morale of the Unit is good.

The instructors and men have worked admirably throughout a difficult period, and the results have justified their efforts and gained the praise of the Wing and Group Commanders.

Strength of the unit on 31st July :-

Officers 32.

Cadets 16.

Other ranks. 99.

WAR DIARY

OF

 441
 NO. 8 TRAINING SQUADRON. A. F. C.

FOR

J U L Y 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

The following is a summary of various tests passed by pupils of No. 8 T. S. A. F. C. for July 1918 :-

<u>Test.</u>	<u>No. of Pupils passed out.</u>
Height Test.	18.
Morse. A & B.	7.
Formation Flying No. 1.	5.
do. Cat. "B".	1.
Compass Course Flying.	1.
Reconnaissance.	3.
Bombing (Ground Tests).	19.
Forced Landings.	3.
Cloud Flying.	5.
Engine running (Escargot).	6.
Map Reading.	9.
Cross Country :- Map Reading.	13.
Stoppages in Air :- (No. 13)	3.
<u>Gunnery:-</u>	
(1) Aerial Firing (Cat B)	2.
(2) New Test Vickers B.	5.
(3) Lewis 3.	6.
(4) Diving at Target (No. 4)	17.
(5) Vickers. E.	4.
(6) Vickers F. 1.	5.
(7) Vickers. A.	4.
(8) Lewis 1, 2, and 5.	6.
(9) Vickers C. and F. 2.	8.
(10) Lewis 4 and 6.	5.
(11) Vickers A and C.	11.
(12) Aerial Gunnery No. 4.	4.
(13) do. No. 12.	4.
(14) Vickers. D.	5.
(15) Aerial Fighting.	4.

Copy of letter from G.O.C., No. 7 Group. R.A.F. :-

"I am instructed by the G.O.C. to convey to you his appreciation of the increase of Aerial Firing last week throughout your Wing. The performance of 7 T.S. and 8 T.S. reflects great credit on all ranks concerned.

Will you please convey the G.O.C.'s congratulations to the Officer Commanding 7 and 8 T.S.

The increase in No. 5 T.S. was also gratifying."

Flying Times.

July 1st to 31st 1918.

100. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31.



Total flying hours

Pupils Time