

AWM4

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/12/7

**Title: Aeroplane Repair Section, 1st Wing,
Australian Flying Corps**

January 1919



AWM4-8/12/7

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Leigherton	1st Jan.		<p>On the morning of the first, the whole Section returned from their twelve days Christmas leave, undoubtedly looking fit and well after their welcome change. The Messing Officer was kind enough not to remind them too suddenly that they were in camp once more by providing them with turkey for dinner. Naturally, this did not last for long.</p> <p>We returned to find 45 machines awaiting repairs or erection, and two awaiting write-off. Although some of the repairs were heavy, we can record quite a good month's output, having repaired or erected 27 machines. Also 21 wrecked machines were salvaged, and written off charge. During the month 23 machines for repairs were received into this Section, but on examination some were found to be unfit for repair accordingly the application for write-off was submitted in each case.</p> <p>As the Flying Corps now had a fairly good idea as to when they would be likely to return to Australia, clearing-up operations were commenced in earnest. Machines in for repairs were re-examined and those which were calculated to occupy most of the time in repairing were written off charge. Quite a considerable quantity of repairable parts and scrap soon accumulated, and we were constantly forwarding lorry-loads of same to Yate.</p> <p>About the third week in January, Major Brinsmead (Staff Officer for Aviation) visited the Aerodrome and explained to a Station Parade all the arrangements in connection with the A.F.C. returning to Australia. He also called for any questions or complaints with the result that he left the men well satisfied with the arrangements for repatriation. He also informed the parade that flying would cease on 15th March.</p> <p>During this month, we suffered our first death through accident. A Leyland lorry loaded with men was proceeding to Stroud on Saturday 25th. The road was very greasy, being covered with frozen snow onto which a light rain had fallen, and at one very bad turn in the road, the driver lost control. The lorry skidded and some men were thrown out, 2/AM Davis F.G. being unfortunately caught in the wheel of the lorry and killed instantly.</p> <p>On 12th January, the Section celebrated its first anniversary, having been formed at Tern Hill on 12.1.1918. Since that date it has grown considerably, and has repaired considerably over 300 machines, which, if reckoned financially, would mean a big saving to the A.I.F. During the twelve months the Command of the Section has changed only once, Captain W.A. Coates "MC" having taken over from Captain A.E. Geere early in the history of the Section.</p> <p>We have grown from a strength of one Officer and fourteen other ranks to three Officers and 192 other ranks.</p>	

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W.A. Coates
 Captain O.C.
 A.R.S. 1st Wing A.F.C.

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4787

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Leigherton	1st Jan		<p>The health of the Section during this month was not so good. This is accounted for by the fact that the influenza was once more prevalent throughout the country. This was added to by the conditions caused by the bad weather this month. The admissions to the hospital totalled 11, including Captain Coates, our O.C. Discharges totalled 8. Although some of the cases were serious, we are pleased to record that there were no deaths from illness.</p> <p>The Strength of the Section was not altered much. One Officer being struck off strength and another being taken on in his place. Also one W.O. and 2 other ranks were struck off strength.</p> <p>The discipline for the month was not above the average.</p> <p>The establishment of the Section was completed by the promotion of one Flight-Sergt to T/W.O. 2nd Class, and one 1/AM being promoted to T/Corpl. Five 2/AM's were appointed 1/AM's and two 3/AM's to 2/AM's.</p> <p>The strength of the Section on 31.1.1919 is 3 Officers and 25 N.C.O's and 165 O/Ranks.</p>	

Coates
 Captain O.C.
 A.R.S. 1st Wing A.F.C.