

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

Flying Corps

**Item number:** 8/6/25

**Title:** No 3 Squadron, Australian Flying  
Corps

January 1919



AWM4-8/6/25

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~~TRIPLICATE.~~

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**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron A.F.C.

FOR

January 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

Max Shelley.  
Lieut + R.O.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sq. A.F.C.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Wrigley Capt  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sq. A.F.C.

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 <sup>348</sup>

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/1/19		A fine but cloudy day opens the New Year. All has been very quiet today, and no flying has taken place.	
	2/1/19		The weather has been bad today and only one practice flight has been carried out. Tonight is our guest evening, which takes place every fortnight. Brig Gen. L.E.O. Charlton C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C. 5th Brigade, Royal Air Force was present to say goodbye to us prior to his departure for America. He is a splendid Officer and we are very sorry to lose him.	
	3/1/19		Until about 4pm the weather was fair and warm, but the rain came again at that time and it seems to be set in. Major W.H. Anderson D.F.C. the Squadron Commander is obliged to remain in his room today having injured his left knee in a fall last night.	
	4/1/19		Rain fell early this morning but the sky was fairly clear about 10am. <sup>3rd</sup> The Army Brigade of Australian Artillery organised a large Race Meeting for this afternoon at METTET, a good number of our Officers being present. Major Anderson is still confined to his bed but looks better than he did yesterday.	
	5/1/19 6/1/19		The bad weather seems inclined to lift, but low clouds are still hindering any attempts on the part of our pilots. During a clear spell one flight of twenty minutes was carried out. Major Anderson is still unable to walk about, and Capt H.N. Wrigley has temporarily assumed Command of the Squadron. Sports are held up a considerable amount owing to the bad state of the ground round the village. Several football matches have been arranged for afternoons later in the week and we hope that the weather will be suitable.	
	7/1/19		The morning started clear and cold but by noon low clouds covered the sky and a strong wind and <del>some</del> short showers of rain set in. Major Anderson has gone to Hospital today as his knee is still bad and requires special treatment.	

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	8/1/19		<p>A good clear day. Most of our Pilots took advantage of the change in the weather and the total hours flown are well into double figures.</p> <p>The Squadron played the 7th Batt. A.I.F. an Aust. Rules football match this afternoon on the Squadron ground. The Infantry proved to be too strong for us.</p>	
	9/1/19		<p>The weather is still good but there has been no flying as Thursday is the Squadrons weekly holiday.</p>	
	10/1/19		<p>The fine weather continues but one can never judge by appearances at this time of the year and it is quite likely to change. A good <sup>deal</sup> of flying has been carried out during the day.</p>	
	11/1/19		<p>The good weather could not last. Today is wet and cold and flying is impossible. A very large Australian mail has arrived after several weeks without any at all.</p>	
	12/1/19		<p>All these days have been rather dull without any actual rain. Flying and sport have been carried on, although conditions have been rather unsuitable.</p> <p>All "B" class men have been disposed of now, having left for the Base at Le Havre prior to embarking for Australia.</p>	
	13/1/19			
	14/1/19			
	15/1/19		<p>A beautifully fine day but none of our Pilots have been flying as Thursday is the Squadron holiday.</p>	
	16/1/19		<p>These three days have been more or less wet and cold and flying has been impossible.</p> <p>The Squadron met the 4th Batt. A.I.F. in a Rugby Football Match at ACOZ. Both teams played well, the 4th Batt. winning by three points.</p> <p>The 5th Brigade R.A.F. Concert Party performed here on the 18th. A very fair show but they require practice.</p>	
	17/1/19			
	18/1/19			
	19/1/19		<p>Today has been very cold with a thick fog. Several of our Pilots took to the air, but conditions were very unsatisfactory and they were forced to <del>ascend</del> descend.</p> <p>The 2nd Aust. Division of Artillery held a large Race Meeting today at THUIN. Many of our Officers were present.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20/1/19		<p>Today commenced with a very hard frost, but a finer day could not be wished for. Many practice flights were carried out, a welcome change after so many days of bad weather. Mount St Quentin, Waterloo, and several other places of historical interest were successfully photographed.</p> <p>An Australian Rules Football Match between this Squadron and the 23rd Batt. A.I.F. at HAIES. The scores were 53 to 24 in the Battalions favour.</p> <p>The Squadron Cinema showed for the first time tonight. All the pictures were good and the Hut was full.</p>	
	21/1/19		<p>Lt Col J.A. Channer D.S.O. has relinquished command of the 15th Wing. Major Henderson takes over.</p> <p>The frost still holds and today has been extremely cold although fine and clear. Many successful practice flights have been recorded, the flying times totalling 11 hrs 10 mins. We had another good attendance at the Cinema tonight. We are all very thankful for this form of amusement, as it gives all ranks something to occupy themselves with.</p>	
	22/1/19		<p>A beautiful fine day again with a hard frost. <sup>Major</sup> <del>Brigadier</del>-Gen. Higgins, <sup>D.S.O.</sup> G.O.C. 5th Brigade R.A.F. visited and inspected the Squadron this morning.</p>	
	23/1/19		<p>The frost still holds but a fair number of clouds have come over early. The Squadron Orderly Room has been moved today into a larger building bringing it considerably closer to our billets and mess.</p> <p>Snow has fallen at intervals during the day but not in any volume.</p> <p>The Commanding Officers Touring car has been returned to No 4 Air-Craft Park as unserviceable for which we expect to get a new one in return.</p> <p>A wire has come tonight informing us that the whole Squadron is to be re-equipped with Bristol fighters, with Sunbeam - Arab engines. This will <del>be</del> indeed be a welcome change.</p> <p>8pm has brought a perfectly clear sky and the frost is gripping hard.</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place Date Hour

24/1/19  
25/1/19  
26/1/19  
27/1/19

All cold days with a lot of snow. No flying has been attempted at all, and owing to the snow and hard frozen ground sport has been out of the question. The chief occupation has been snow-balling and several of the Officers have been skating on a swamp near the village. The Cinema is progressing well, the programme is changed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the Hut is well filled every night.

28/1/19

We are still under a snowy sky but several machines took to the air during the afternoon. Two new Bristol Fighters with Sunbeam engines have arrived at the Squadron to be taken on strength, this appears to be the beginning of our re-equipment. We are now taking on strength a number of Royal Air Force Officers, whose Squadrons are being demobilised. The first of these arrived this morning.

29/1/19

The weather does not seem inclined to clear. All the roads and paths are covered with a thin coating of ice. It is very hard to keep on ones feet and the Motor Transport is doing its work under difficulties. The Squadron Officers held a guest evening in the Mess tonight, but there were only five guests and a quiet evening was spent.

30/1/19

All flying and sport is out of the question. The sky is dull and over-cast and all roads and sports grounds are terribly slippery. A Football Team from the 7th Tunnelling Company arrived to play this afternoon but conditions were unsuitable and they were obliged to return.

31/1/19

The same weather conditions prevail, but roads are a little less slippery and Transport is working under fewer difficulties. A thaw appears to be commencing.

IN THE FIELD.

*Max Milly* Lieut and R.O.  
3rd Squadron.  
A. F. C.

*Max Milly* Captain  
Temp. Commanding 3rd Squadron A.F.C.