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

Flying Corps

**Item number:** 8/6/26

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

February 1919



AWM4-8/6/26

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

318

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

3rd Squadron a. F. C.

FOR

February 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

Max. Shelley  
Lieut. F. O.  
3rd Squadron a. F. C.

Signature of Officer Commanding

3rd Sq. a. F. C.

# 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.)

348

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1.2.19		<p>The thaw that appeared to be commencing ended abruptly with a very heavy fall of snow and a hard frost on the first of these three days. Flying is out of the question and all sport is held up.</p> <p>We now have an Officer detailed to superintend the supply of coal for the whole Squadron. It is an excellent arrangement, ensuring that everyone gets their correct issue.</p>	
	2.2.19			
	3.2.19			
	4.2.19		<p>These three days have been very bad indeed. Heavy snowstorms have taken place and mists have been so thick that no flying has been attempted.</p>	
	5.2.19			
	6.2.19			
	7.2.19		<p>Two fine but exceedingly cold days. A little flying has taken place but owing to the heavy frosts and snow all Machines are being overhauled before going into the air. Roads are still covered with frozen snow, and they are so slippery that all heavy Transport is cut down to a minimum.</p> <p>We have been informed by the D.A.A.G., A.F.C. that we shall probably leave for England about the middle of this month and we are all highly pleased.</p>	
	8.2.19			
	9.2.19		<p>Two beautiful fine days with cold frosty nights. A little flying has taken place but Machines are still being overhauled. Skating is at present one of the principal occupations of the Squadron, there being several ponds in the vicinity of the Village.</p>	
	10.2.19			
	11.2.19		<p>The weather remains fine and several practice flights have been carried out. The nights are still frosty and snow that fell nearly three weeks ago is still on the ground. Skating still continues and many of us are getting quite expert.</p>	
	12.2.19			
	13.2.19		<p>Still perfect fine day after a cold frosty night, and skating continues on all the ponds around the Village. Several practice flights have been carried out, but football and other competition games have been at a stand-still.</p>	

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348

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14.2.19		On the first of these days the inevitable thaw set in, and snow, ice and all signs of frost are quickly disappearing. The sky has been very overcast and a good deal of rain has fallen. Flying has of course been out of the question.	
	15			
	16			
	17	"	We are all anxiously awaiting orders to start moving in the direction of England, for our re-equipment. We are expecting to move during this week.	
	18.2.19		Weather very dull, heavy clouds hanging about at 2 or 300 feet. Official orders to move came through this morning. All serviceable Machines are to be flown from TARGIENNE on the first fine day, and handed over to the Royal Air Force at St Omer Main Aerodrome. Tonight was the last night at the Squadron Cinema, songs and pictures making quite a good show.	
	19.2.19		A slight improvement is noticeable in the weather this morning, but it is not reliable enough for our Machines to undertake the long flight to St Omer. The Officers farewell guest evening took place tonight. Ten or twelve guests were present and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all.	
	20.2.19		A clear sky opened the day and all Machines that were detailed to fly to St Omer left Tarcienne about 10 am. On arrival at the destination all Aeroplanes are to be handed over to the Royal Air Force. If all goes well the rest of the Squadron will leave by Transport convoy early tomorrow.	
	21.2.19		Everyone rose early this morning in order to get on the move about 9 o'clock. The morning dawned fine and we hoped for a good journey but unfortunately we ran into heavy rain later in the day. Our direction ran through Phillipeville, Beaumont, Maubeuge, and Valenciennes to Douai where we are to rest tonight. Between 9.30 and 10 am the whole Convoy was moving and all went well until two of our Side-Cars and one Heavy Lorry were forced to stop owing to Engine trouble. The main Convoy continued the journey, the breakdown Tender remaining behind with the disabled vehicles. Douai was reached about 6pm where we found excellent billets and hot meals ready for all. Unfortunately the Transport that had Engine trouble did not arrive tonight. About 4pm the weather changed and heavy rain fell during the greater part of the night.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2.1.5/14

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or  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22.2.19		<p>The weather did not improve to any great extent and the Squadron commenced the second days travelling in a fall of rain.</p> <p>Our course today lay through Lens, Bethune, and Lilliers, to Clairmarais Aerodrome, about ten miles from St Omer, and the whole Convoy that left Douai this morning arrived at the Camp at 3.30 pm after a very successful and quick trip.</p> <p>On arrival at our destination we found that the Camp was in very bad order, it not having been occupied since November last. At present we are on the strength of the 91st Wing R.A.F.</p>	
	23.2.19		<p>The whole Squadron took the opportunity of taking a well earned rest as no fatigues or Parades wer required. Later in the day all Ranks commenced the task of making their accomodation more comfortable and by nightfall we wore a more contented look.</p>	
	24.2.19		<p>Today dawned with a heavy overcast sky and a considerable amount of rain fell. Very little work is being done in the Squadron and we are waiting for our next order to move.</p>	
	25.2.19		<p>The same weather continues and the Personnel have very little to occupy their time with. A number of the Squadron went to visit Bailleul to visit the old Aerodrome and haunts of the Squadron, and many photographs were taken. Several cars were able to penetrate well towards Passchendaele where many of our own Infantry are buried.</p>	
	26.2.19		<p>A dull cold day with low clouds. Orders have been received informing us that we move on the morning of the 28th inst to LE HAVRE for embarkation to England.</p>	
	27.2.19		<p>A slight improvement is noticeable in the weather today. All arrangements for tomorrows move are complete and we intend to leave the Camp very early in order to arrive at our destination in daylight.</p>	
	28.2.19		<p>Weather fine but very cold. The Squadron rose early and by 9am we moved out of Clairmarais Camp in a large Convoy of Motor Lorries provided by No 1 Aircraft Depot R.A.F. Proceeding by St Omer, Fruges, Hesdin, Abbeville, and Blangy we arrived at the Town of Neufchatel where billets had been arranged for the Squadron to rest for the night. Number 2 Squadron A.F.C. have been moving with us since we left Abbeville and the two Squadrons are close together in the Town.</p>	

*Max Shelley* Lt

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2.16/14

*J. M. Angley*  
Captain Temp. Cndg. 3rd Sqn

## WAR DIARY

## APPENDIX

OF

3rd Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.

FOR

JANUARY.  
FEBRUARY.  
MARCH.

1919

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.		
1.	Commanding Officer's Report.	}	
2.	Armoury Section Report.		<i>In duplicate.</i>
3.	Wireless Section Report.		
4.	Sports Officer's Report.		

348

Headquarters 3rd Squadron,  
Australian Flying Corps.C. O.'s Report for JANUARY 1919.

Although the weather during January has been very unsettled, much valuable work in the photographic line has been carried out by the Squadron, and valuable Official Photographic Records were obtained ~~for~~ for Head Quarters 4th Army. During the bad weather and leisure days many Football Matches took place, both with other A. I. F. Units, and with R. A. F. Squadrons, in the vicinity. Major-General. Higgins, who has taken over the command of the 5th Brigade, R. A. F., formally inspected the Squadron and expressed his pleasure with the work being done.

C. O.'s Report for FEBRUARY 1919.

(The weather during the month has still been unfavourable but valuable photographic work was, nevertheless, carried out. It was heard unofficially on the 16th that the Squadron was to move shortly. Official Orders for the move were received on the 18th and the Squadron was to hand over all machines and stores, and move on the morning of the 20th. This date was afterwards altered to the 21st. A very busy time followed and the Squadron worked night and day until all the stores had been checked and handed in to the Aircraft Park. This work was carried out under great disadvantages, as the Squadron had lost the whole of its Orderly Room and Equipment Staff some six weeks previously, when they had either been transferred to special duties, or had been admitted to hospital. The transfer of the Squadron from Tarcienne to Le Havre was carried out very smoothly, and great credit is due to all ranks for the fine way in which they worked.)

C. O.'s Report for MARCH 1919.

During this month the Squadron's transfer to Hurdcott was completed, and great credit is again due to all ranks for the way they worked, during this period. On arrival at Hurdcott the necessary Medical Inspections, Medical Boards, and re-clothing operations were quickly carried out, and the Squadron proceeded on its 14 days leave. From the expiration of leave, until the end of the month, nothing but the usual routine work has taken place.

*J. M. Strigley,* Capt.,  
Commanding 3rd Squadron, A.F.C.

Hurdcott.  
1-4-19.

348

2.

)) ARMOURY SECTION, 3rd SQUADRON, A. F. C.Work done for Period 1-1-19 to 14-2-19.

Drawing Camera Guns.  
 Harmonising Sights and Fixing Guns to Machines.  
 Built Targets for Aerial Firing.  
 General Maintenance of Vickers and Lewis Guns.

Work done for Period 14-2-19. to 20-2-19.

Stock Taking and Return of all Stores to  
 4th A. P., R. A. F. CHARLEROI.

Work done for Period. 20-2-19. to 31-3-19.

Squadron Duties.

(sig)  
 H. H. G. G. G.  
 N.C.O. /c.  
 Gunnery Section.



348

WIRELESS SECTION, 3rd SQUADRON, A. F. C.

JANUARY.

Report for ~~FEBRUARY~~. 1919.

3.

During the first half of this month the men were still enjoying a well-earned rest, and in most cases were extremely well billeted, in Civil quarters.

Towards the end of the month orders were received from the 5th Brigade R. A. F. to collect all personnel and equipment from the various Artillery Units, and to prepare for a general move to England.

Report for FEBRUARY. 1919.

The first ~~three~~<sup>two</sup> weeks of this month proved to be as strenuous as any experienced by the Section while Overseas, especially for those who were members of Squadron Headquarters.

The approximate strength at this time being about ~~200~~ 75 Australian Other Ranks and about the same number from the Royal Air Force. The equipment issued out by this Squadron amounted to nearly 70 Wireless sets, these being distributed amongst many Artillery Units of the A.I.F. and The B.E.F. The collection of these installations proved to be an extremely arduous task, more especially on account of the ~~xxx~~ severe weather conditions which prevailed at the time. However, with the assistance of a most efficient Motor Transport Section the collection of these ~~xxx~~ Wireless Sets was at last completed and brought back to the 3rd Squadron. All Royal Air Force men who were working with this Unit still remained at the various Units for later collection.

During the week commencing 15th February 1919, all this equipment was returned to the 4th Aircraft Park Royal Air Force, in Charleroi; and, for the first time in France, all the men of the Wireless Section were united.

The 21st of this month saw the complete Section on the road for LeHavre awaiting Transport to England. After 20 months it appears that we are at last about to return to our Native Land.

Report for MARCH. 1919.

After spending two days at the A.G.B.D. at Le Havre we sailed for England on the 3rd arriving at No. 6. Camp. Hurdcott, Salisbury Via Weymouth on the 4th.

The remainder of this month has been spent on ~~xxx~~ 14 days leave, and making preparations for embarkation to Australia.

*T. J. Carmody*

N. C. O. i/c Wireless Section,  
3rd Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.

318

S P O R T S.

3rd Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.

JANUARY. 1919.

Rugby.	Australian Rules.	Soccer.
1st. V 3rd Battn. Lost.	18th. V 23rd Battn. Won	15th. V 20 Sqn R.A.F. Won.
10th V 75 S. R.A.F. Won.	25th. V 8 Bty A.F.A. Won	
20th V Corps H.Q. Lost.		

FEBRUARY. 1919.

Rugby.	Australian Rules.	Soccer.
2nd. V 35 S. RAF Won.	6th V 24. Battn. Lost	1st V "O" Flt RAF Won
8th. V 59 S. RAF Won.	10th 23. Battn. Lost.	3rd 6 S. RAF Lost.
15th. V 4th Battn. Draw.		7th V. 57 S. RAF. Draw.

Left France.

MARCH. 1919.

N I L.

*W. A. ...*  
 Lieut.,  
 Sports Officer, 3rd Squadron, A.F.C.

Hurdcott.  
4-4-19.