

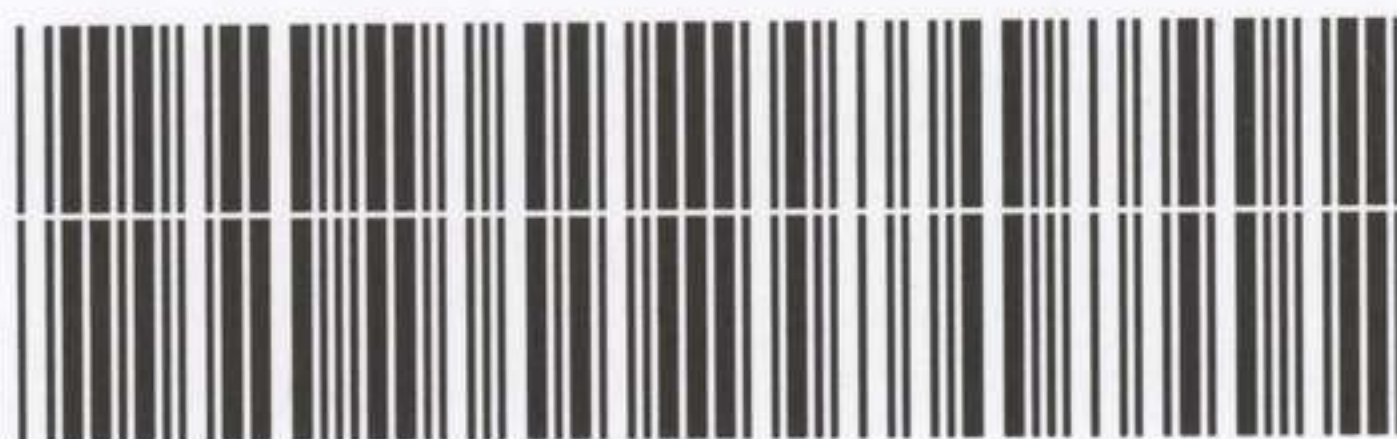
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/6/5

Title: No 3 Squadron, Australian Flying
Corps

April 1917



AWM4-8/6/5

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A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E

W A R D I A R Y

O F

N o 6 9 Squadron Australian Flying Corps

F O R

April 1917

Signature of Officer compiling

E. G. Knox Captain

Signature of Officer Commanding

Darius Blake
Major

No. 69 Squadron, A.F.C.
WAR DIARY

April, 1917 (1)

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sth. Carlton			<p>April saw the turning out of the first pilots who had done the whole of their higher instruction in No. 69 Squadron. These were :-</p> <p><u>FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS</u></p> <p>2/Lieut. (Hon. Lieut.) F.E. TREGILLES 20/4/17.</p> <p><u>FOR THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS</u></p> <p>2/Lieut. H. KIRBY, 7/4/17, 2/Lieut. F. LIBBY, MC, 7/4/17, 2/Lieut. D. MACKAY, 11/4/17. " J. MITCHELL, MC, 13/4/17, 2/Lieut. J. A. PATTERN, 22/4/17, Lieut. W. HELMORE, 24/4/17.</p> <p>April also saw the first of the very few fatal accidents in the history of the Squadron as a training Unit.</p> <p>4/4/17 Cadet H.C. WARREN, A.F.C., on the evening of 4/4/17 was being given dual instruction on a naval type GNOME AVRO by 2/Lieut. C.P. LOWRY - the pupil in the front seat. The machine had just "taken off" and done one left hand turn close to the ground when it was observed to get into a spin and crashed on the Western edge of the aerodrome. Cadet WARREN was killed. The instructor, although badly shaken, suffered no injury. The Court of Enquiry on the accident found that the pupil got the machine into the spin the instructor not being able to get the machine out owing to insufficient height. Cadet WARREN was buried in NEWPORT Cemetery, LINCOLN.</p>	

No. 69 Squadron, A.F.C.

WAR DIARY

or

April, 1917 (2)

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Sth. Carlton			<p>Applications had been called earlier in the year from the A.I.F. for those desirous of training as Pilots and Observers in the A.F.C. Some of these came to No. 69 Squadron for higher instruction as the list of pupils will show. A number had graduated in other Squadrons and many of these were posted to No. 69 Squadron the other Australian Squadron in England at that time, No. 68, not the being in a position to receive them.</p> <p>Several Officers of the original Squadron were also posted back to the Squadron.</p> <p><u>PUPILS POSTED TO NO. 69 SQUADRON DURING APRIL.</u></p> <table><tr><td>2/Lieut. A.E. MUNCASTER, R.F.C., 1/4/17,</td><td>Cadet H.C. WARREN, A.F.C., 1/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>Cadet, L.H. RUDD, A.F.C., 1/4/17</td><td>2/Lieut. J.A. PATTERN, R.F.C., 5/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>Lieut. W. HELMORE, R.F.C.</td><td>Sergt. R. CLEGG, R.F.C., 1/4/17.</td></tr><tr><td>" G.F. WARD, R.F.C., 19/4/17.</td><td>2/Lieut. L. READ, R.F.C., 22/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>2/Lieut. J.B. HINCHCLIFFE, R.F.C., 22/4/17</td><td>Lieut. W.A.M. COX, R.F.C., 23/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>" E.D. BONISTEEL, R.F.C., 23/4/17</td><td>2/Lieut. P.S. BURGE, R.F.C., 23/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>" R.S.V. ELLIOTT, R.F.C., 27/4/17</td><td>2/Lieut. E. HOLDSWORTH, R.F.C., 27/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>" H.D. LYSONS, R.F.C., 27/4/17</td><td>2/Lieut. G. LONGDEN, R.F.C., 27/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>" C.G. MALLOUS, R.F.C., 27/4/17</td><td>" G. DODDS, R.F.C., 27/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>" N. CLARK, A.F.C., 30/4/17</td><td>" C.R. BURTON, A.F.C., 30/4/17</td></tr><tr><td>Cadet F.C. BAXTER, A.F.C., 27/4/17.</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The following Officers who came from Australia with the Squadron returned to it during April after graduating in the Squadrons named -</p> <p>2/Lieut. (Hon. Lieut.) A. GRIGGS, from No. 82 Squadron, BEVERLEY, 20/4/17.</p>	2/Lieut. A.E. MUNCASTER, R.F.C., 1/4/17,	Cadet H.C. WARREN, A.F.C., 1/4/17	Cadet, L.H. RUDD, A.F.C., 1/4/17	2/Lieut. J.A. PATTERN, R.F.C., 5/4/17	Lieut. W. HELMORE, R.F.C.	Sergt. R. CLEGG, R.F.C., 1/4/17.	" G.F. WARD, R.F.C., 19/4/17.	2/Lieut. L. READ, R.F.C., 22/4/17	2/Lieut. J.B. HINCHCLIFFE, R.F.C., 22/4/17	Lieut. W.A.M. COX, R.F.C., 23/4/17	" E.D. BONISTEEL, R.F.C., 23/4/17	2/Lieut. P.S. BURGE, R.F.C., 23/4/17	" R.S.V. ELLIOTT, R.F.C., 27/4/17	2/Lieut. E. HOLDSWORTH, R.F.C., 27/4/17	" H.D. LYSONS, R.F.C., 27/4/17	2/Lieut. G. LONGDEN, R.F.C., 27/4/17	" C.G. MALLOUS, R.F.C., 27/4/17	" G. DODDS, R.F.C., 27/4/17	" N. CLARK, A.F.C., 30/4/17	" C.R. BURTON, A.F.C., 30/4/17	Cadet F.C. BAXTER, A.F.C., 27/4/17.		
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No. 69 Squadron, A.F.C.

WAR DIARY

April, 1917 (3)

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Sth Carlton			<p>Lieut. V.A.NORVILL from No. 13 R.S., DOVER, 22/4/17. " J.L.SANDY, " No. 82 Squadron, BEVERLEY, 30/4/17.</p> <p>The following cadets were posted to No. 69 Squadron during April on graduating in Squadron named :-</p> <p>Cadet F.C.AGNEW, from No. 82 Squadron, BEVERLEY, 25/4/17. " G.E.WILSON, " 63 " CRAMLINGTON, 26/4/17. " H.A.TONKS, " 54 " 30/4/17.</p> <p>In addition Lieut. D.BADGERY from No. 67 Squadron who had been in England since December 1916, was attached temporarily to No. 69 Squadron.</p> <p>About this time considerable interest was manifested by all concerned on the type of machine which the Squadron would take overseas and the probable date of embarkation. The programme of developments issued by the R.F.C. for the month stated that the Squadron would probably go overseas in June on REBs.</p> <p>The authorities of both the R.F.C. and A.F.C., however, were not quite settled about types and for a time an order was general that all pilots of the A.F.C. should be tried out on scouts. This was particularly noticeable during the month of May when all A.F.C. Pilots in No. 69 Squadron were sent to No. 81 Squadron, SCAMPTON, for test as scout pilots. By virtue of the same order the Squadron</p>	

No. 69 Squadron, A.F.C.

WAR DIARY

or

April (4)

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Sth. Carlton			<p>Commander was allowed to convert a number of AVROS, 80 GNOME, to AVROS, 100 MONOSOUPE, then the principal machine on which the young Scout pilot received his early higher instruction. "A" Flight (Captain W.H.ANDERSON) was chosen as the 'Scout' Flight. "B" Flight (Captain H.D.E.RALFE) was given all the dual instruction for the 2-seater pupils on GNOME AVROS and "C" Flight (Captain R.S.BROWN) was responsible for furnishing the 2-seater pupils off in BE2E's.</p> <p>It was during April that the nomenclature of the Squadron was again changed by W.O. memo. W.O./399 of 31/3/17 which read :-</p> <p>"It is notified that the correct nomenclature of Australian Air Units will be -</p> <p>. No. 69 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, and the following designation hitherto adopted will be discontinued forthwith.</p> <p>No. 69 (Australian) Squadron, R.F.C.</p>	