

AWM4

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/1/10

Title: 2nd Brigade, Royal Flying Corps

January 1917



AWM4-8/1/10

WAR DIARY

Army Form

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.)

Vol 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	2nd Brigade R.F.C.	Remarks and references to Appendices
OXELAERE			JANUARY 1917		
			<u>Positions of Units</u>		
			H.Q. 2nd Brigade	OXELAERE	27O17645
			H.Q. 2nd Wing	EECKE	27O20d
			H.Q. Squadron	ST SYLVESTRE	28P22c67
			Squadron No 1	BAILLEUL	28S9c
			No 6	ABEELE	27K36a
			No 42	BAILLEUL	28S20a99
			No 46	DROGLANDT	28K1a
			No 20	CLAIRMARAIS	27K276
			No 45	ST MARIE CAPPEL	27P25H
			No 53	BAILLEUL	28S20a99
			<u>Kite Balloons</u>		
			H.Q. 2nd Kite Balloon Wing	MONT ROUGE	28M22628
			5th Company (2025 section)	LOCRE	28M29d00
			6th Company (9052 section)	NIEPPE	36B20621
			7th Company	OUDERDOM	28G1472
			8th Company	N of POPERINGHE	28A14606
			2nd A.A.P.	HAZEBROUCK	28V1400

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	<u>1st</u>		Low clouds all day - very little flying.	
	<u>2nd</u>		No 1, 6 & 42 Squadrons each did a tactical squadron. No 7 Sq did a trench shoot - No 6 Sq successfully engaged 4 hostile batteries, obtaining 11 OK's. A few photographs taken. The flight of No 41 Sq returned from CORMONT.	
	<u>3rd</u>		Low clouds & high wind all day.	
	<u>4th</u>		Low clouds & rain. No 7 Sq did a successful trench reconnaissance, four hostile batteries engaged, 4 OK's. 70 planes exposed, 65 of which were on practice flights. No 53 Sq moved from IAD to BALLEUL. No 1 Sq handed over 3 transport 2-seaters to No 6 Sq & 3 to No 1 AD. They drew 6 transport single seaters from IAD.	
	<u>5th</u>		Low clouds early - afterwards clear intervals. 8 Hostile batteries engaged, 3 gun pits hit, 1 explosion among ammunition. H.A. were active. Lt. Jamison & Lt. Thomson No 7 Sq were killed in combat doing Artillery Registration by a HALBERSTADT single seater - the machine fell, just behind our lines near ST ELDI. 57 Planes exposed. A hostile machine dropped 3 bombs on VLAERTINGHE from a height of 12000' inflicting a few casualties - one of our wireless operators was wounded.	
	<u>6th</u>		Low clouds & mist all day - only few test flights possible. Lieut Blofield (pilot) & Lieut Young No 53 Sq were when getting out of the ground, BALLEUL cut the top off a tree and crashed on to the roof of a house next door to the village. The pilot was unhurt, observer killed, machine completely wrecked.	

1070
Pr J. B. ...
Brigade ...

WAR DIARY

Army Form 24

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OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>7th.</u>		Very busy early - fine for a few hours then low clouds & rain. Four trench reconnaissance done by Corps squadrons three flashes located. Four hostile batteries engaged, 4 explosions caused among ammunition. No 6 Sq did a good shoot with 160 lb high. Pathy on a hostile battery - 400 rounds were fired for effect, 18 000 ^{lb} obtained & one explosion which sent up a flame to a height of 200 ft. No 20 Sq took some photos near U.L.C. H.A. were active - a Roland scout attacked an Artillery machine of No 6 Sq killing the observer. Rind Bennett. A 7ERD was found to land near BRANOUTRE after a combat - the machine caught fire on landing, the pilot Sgt Mottershead was badly burnt & the observer Rind Gower slightly wounded.	
	<u>8th.</u>		Rain & hail storm most of the day. No 6 Sq located 8 flashes. No H.A.	
	<u>9th.</u>		Low clouds & rain all day.	
	<u>10th.</u>		Low clouds & rain - occasional bright intervals. 5th Company's balloon was attached and destroyed by hostile aircraft - the clouds were at 2000' & the balloon at 1800'. The observer Rind Gavin and 2nd Lt WHITLOCK made successful parachute descents. A hostile machine appeared out of the clouds where 6th Coy balloon is generally up but it was on the ground at the time.	
	<u>11th.</u>		Low clouds rain & snow all day.	
	<u>12th.</u>		Low clouds & rain most of day - short bright intervals during afternoon. No 6 Sq did one flash reconnaissance locating 3 flashes. A few test flights. No 32 K. B. Section joined 6th Balloon Company from England.	
	<u>13th.</u>		Rain & Snow all day.	



R. J. Barton Capt
Bongate Major
W. J. de R. Col

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form 101

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>14th</u>		Thick fog all day.	
	<u>15th</u>		Thick mist all day with exception of one short interval. No 1 Sq successfully engaged one hostile battery hitting two gun pits. No H.A. seen. No 46 Sq exposed 18 plates over the lines & 18 the side for practice. No 6 Sq dropped 3 bombs on dump. 28 D9C 9-6. Gen Trenchard visited Nos 42, 1, 41 & 6 squadrons & stayed night at 30th H.A.	
	<u>16th</u>		Mist all day. Gen Trenchard visited No 45 Sq.	
	<u>17th</u>		Snow all day. No flying possible.	
	<u>18th</u>		Snow & rain all day. No flying done.	
	<u>19th</u>		Low clouds all day. No service flying. No 20 Sq moved to BOESINGHEM.	
	<u>20th</u>		Low clouds all day. No 41 Sq sent out a special patrol of 2 machines which crossed the lines to a depth of one mile between BOESINGHEM and ZONNEBERG - no movement was seen.	
	<u>21st</u>		Low clouds all day. Snow frost. No 46 Sq took 15 oblique photographs at a height of 1800' of VIII Corp. front. Personnel and transport of flight of No 1 Sq went to COMONT.	
	<u>22nd</u>		Low clouds & mist. A few trench & flash reconnaissance done by Corps Wing. One hostile battery engaged, several OK's. No 1 Squadron (knight stated) took 15 photographs of enemy's trenches at a height of 2000' - they were urgently required by IX Corps. knight. Within No 42 Sq carried out a successful trench reconnaissance in an armoured 1312 from a height of 250 feet for 2nd A.N. 2 A.E.	472
	<u>23rd</u>		Fine all day - very frosty. 18° during night. Perpendicular visibility good - mist interfered with artillery observation. No 41 Sq carried out an Army Reconnaissance over Northern Army Area but no unusual activity was seen.	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23rd	(cont)	<p>Four batteries were engaged, six explosions caused. Observers had difficulty in seeing the battery and battery ground signals owing to the snow. AA were active - there were some indiscriminate combats. About 300 plates were exposed, of these 125 were taken by No 2 Sq. 2 Lt. Kyle and Bombadier Harrison of No 25 Sq reported missing from photographic reconnaissance. 2 Lt. Cole, No 21 Sq missing, 'F' battery AA report seeing one of our machines attacked by 4 HA & downed near 20 V 9. 2 Lt. Northcott No 25 Sq wounded in a combat and Capt Beaulah No 6 Squadron. No 1 Sq returned to Morane Parasols to IAD. Taking over 6 Newport Scouts in exchange.</p>	
	24th		<p>Few, very frosty, hazy. Corps Sqdns located 15 flashes. Two hostile batteries were engaged several OK's. The snow & mist made observation difficult. Corps Squadrons did a lot of photography, 179 plates exposed. No 20 Sq had great trouble with their engines owing to the frost. AA very active N of KENNEL, 13 indiscriminate combats, 2 downed. Sgt Tooms No 21 Sq downed a hostile machine near ZONNEBEKE (confirmed by AA). AA reported another machine brought down near CHELVVELT by the same pilot, in this combat Sgt Tooms was killed, his machine crashed near KPRES (our side of line). 2 Lt. Waters of No 6 Sq on a photographic flight was killed in combat, his observer 7 Sgt Sharpby landed the machine near VLAMERTINGHE. 2 Lt. Benton & 2 Lt. Pouch No 53 Sq missing - they went out to take photos round WANNETON - the AA report seeing a B2c brought down near WANNETON in a fight. 2 Lt. Dawson No 261 Sq was wounded, he landed his machine safely.</p>	5173

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendix
	25th		<p>Weather fine, very frosty - a good deal of haze & mist about. No 20 Sq carried out a reconnaissance over Northern Army area but saw no unusual activity. No 6 Sq did one trench reconnaissance, squadrons located 14 flashes. 5 hostile batteries were successfully engaged one or two OK. A great amount of photography done, 170 plates exposed by Corps squadron, 62 by Army Wing. AA were very active especially in salient. A photographic reconnaissance of 4 machines from No 20 Sq sent 5 hours over MENIN, one of them was brought down by Lieut Lucas & Lieut Gibson, another was forced to land under control. Lieut Alder & Lieut White were brought down in the combat, the other pilots saw their machine flattened out near the ground. Lieut Houghton No 33 Sq was wounded by a Hun while doing photography.</p>	
	26th		<p>Time very frosty, hazy. No 20 Sq did a reconnaissance round ROULERS + STADEN seeing no unusual activity. They were attacked by 5 Roland Scouts over WESTROSEDEKE, Lieut Stead & Lieut Gibson brought down one of them - Lieut Wainwright & Lieut Golding brought down a second. One hostile battery engaged. Several flashes located. A lot of photographs taken, 95 by Corps squadron & 33 by No 45. No 45 were attacked by 5 Huns, 71 Sgt Webb & Corp'l Fleming were brought down in flames over MENIN. Lieut Hollingsworth of No 6 Sq was wounded in combat.</p>	
	27th		<p>Fine, very frosty. No 45 Sq carried out a Reconnaissance STADEN-ROULERS-LEDEHEM-MENIN-WERVIC but saw no unusual activity. 5 Hostile batteries engaged. 103 plates exposed chiefly by Corps Squadron. AA were slightly less active than during last 3 days - only one machine shot down. A hostile AA battery near HOUTHEVLOT has for last 3 days fired search signals at same height as our machines crossing the lines & in equal number.</p>	<p>HLF  13/13/1918 13/13/1918</p>

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	28th		Fine all day, very frosty - visibility good especially in Northern Area. No 20 Squadron carried out a reconnaissance toward STADEN & ROULERS. they saw no unusual activity - a few Army photos were taken over the reconnaissance. Corps squadrons located 10 flashes. 7000 hostile batteries successfully engaged - a number of shoots down by Nos 46 & 53 Squadron. 65 plates exposed, mostly in Corps area. HA were active but not quite as much as on first few days of the fine weather. There was only one indecisive combat by 41 by 2nd Lt Barker. No 1 Sq was very slightly wounded by hostile anti aircraft.	
	29th		Fine all day, frosty. No 20 Sq did the reconnaissance LANGENHARCK - LICHTERVELDE - ISEGHEN - ROULERS seeing nothing abnormal - a few photos were taken toward ROULERS, the observer, 2nd Lt Golding was slightly wounded in a fight. 7 Hostile batteries were engaged, 76 gun pits hit & several other OK's. Corps squadrons exposed 94 plates, Army 100. HA were active - there were 9 indecisive fights. No 1 Sq completed with Transport Scouts & transferred to 2nd Wing.	
	30th		Low clouds & snow all day, one flash reconnaissance done by 42 Sq & one or two patrols by 2045 Sq early. A few test flights. Brigade Conference at HQ. No 1	
	31st		Low clouds & snow till 1 pm, afterwards a few bright intervals. No 25 Sq took advantage of one of these & carried out a low reconnaissance THIELT - THURVOUT - CORTEMERCK no unusual activity seen. Only one successful artillery shoot on a hostile battery - a few flashes located. Corps squadrons saw a few HA, otherwise none seen. Eleven	(17) 2) Bartel 3)
		Photographs taken by Corp. Sgt. Blot Murphy returned.		

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

476

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 1 1918.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances 7 (flash) 3.

Successful 1 (flash)

Unsuccessful 6 (flash).

No. of Artillery observation flights 20.

Successful 3.

Unsuccessful 17.

Targets successfully ranged on 3.

Hostile Batteries successfully engaged 3.

No. of photographic Reconnaissances 8 S. 1 U. 7.

Gun Pits Hit.

Explosions caused among ammunition.

Flashes located
.....

Plates exposed 27.

Patrols 3.

Escorts 1.

Special missions -.

No. of flights for test or practice, or to deliver aeroplanes 33.

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

Visibility fairly good from 8. to 10.a.m., clouds came up later rendering conditions very poor for observation.

No. 6. Squadron had three successful shoots for effect.

No. 46. Squadron had successful photographic flight.

Nos. 1, 6. & 42. Squadrons gained some information re enemy lines:—

Working parties and Timber seen in Craters at O.2.d.1.7 and O.2.d.5.7. (Sheet 28). A mine shaft is suspected at W.24 a.6.5. (Sheet 28).

No. of pilots available 70.

No. of pilots flying 50.

Aeroplanes

S 63.

U 2.

Total time flown 61 hrs. 12 mins. (of which 14 hrs. 57 mins. were test, etc.).

KITE BALLOONS.

No. of ascents _____

Targets successfully ranged on _____

No. of observers taken up _____

Points of interest:—

Total time in air _____ hours _____ minutes.

R. J. Purcell Captain

for Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding,
SECOND Wing,
Royal Flying Corps

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 5 / 1 / 1916.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances	<u>9</u> (flash) <u>2.</u>	{ Successful <u>2.</u>	
		{ Unsuccessful <u>9</u> (flash).	
No. of Artillery observation flights	<u>25.</u>	{ Successful <u>9.</u>	
Targets successfully ranged on	regd by. <u>DIV HVY.</u> <u>2</u> <u>16.</u>	{ Unsuccessful <u>16.</u>	
Plates exposed.	No. of photographic Reconnaissances <u>8.</u>	S. <u>3.</u>	Hostile batteries successfully engaged <u>8.</u>
	Patrols <u>4.</u>	U. <u>5.</u>	Gun Pits Hit. <u>3.</u>
	Escorts <u>2.</u>		Explosions caused among ammunition. <u>1.</u>
	Special missions <u>-</u>		Flashes located <u>7.</u>
No. of flights for test or practice, or to deliver aeroplanes	<u>51.</u>		

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

Short clear intervals. Mostly cloudy and some ground haze.

Two successful sheets and several flashes located, one successful zone call by No. 1. Squadron. No. 6. Squadron had four successful shoots, three gun pits hit, a fire caused and ammunition seen bursting in one case. The Pilot and Observer of Artillery machine after successful ranging were shot down by H.A. falling in shot 28. I 32.

Successful photographic flights by No. 42 & 6. Squadrons, several attempts at photography by No. 1. Squadron, exposures made, but clouds coming curtailed the flights.

Hostile Aircraft very active all day.

The hostile machine bombed VLAMERTINGE at 4.7 PM. A pilot of No 46 states that this H.A. was about 12000' at the time.

No. of pilots available	<u>68.</u>		
No. of pilots flying	<u>55.</u>	Aeroplanes	{ S <u>61.</u>
			{ U <u>8.</u>
Total time flown	<u>80</u> hrs. <u>4.</u> mins. (of which <u>18</u> hrs. <u>48.</u> mins. were test, etc.).		

KITE BALLOONS.

No. of ascents _____ Targets successfully ranged on _____

No. of observers taken up _____

Points of interest:—

Total time in air _____ hours _____ minutes.

C. J. Murphy

Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding,
SECOND Wing,
Royal Flying Corps.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

478

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 22 / 1 / 1916.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances	<u>4</u>	}	Successful	<u>4</u>	Flash.
do (Flash)	<u>7.</u>		Unsuccessful	<u>3</u>	Flash.
No. of Artillery observation flights	<u>9</u>	}	Successful	<u>2</u>	
Targets successfully ranged on	<u>1</u>		Unsuccessful	<u>7</u>	
					Hostile batteries successfully engd... <u>1</u> ..
No. of photographic Reconnaissances	<u>5</u>				Gun Pits hit..... <u>3</u> ..
Patrols	<u>-</u>				Explosions caused among ammunition... <u>1</u> ..
Special missions	<u>-</u>				Flashes located. <u>5</u> ..
No. of flights for test or practice, or to deliver aeroplanes	<u>61</u>				

Plates exposed

33

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

Weather misty. Visibility poor. One special reconnaissance by No. 42 Squadron to examine enemy's wire between I 31 d 7.5 and I 32 c 1.9 successfully carried out between 150 and 200 feet. Slight hostile activity behind the enemy's lines. One hostile battery was engaged by No. 1 Squadron by Zone Call successfully. The remainder of the flying was confined to practice and tests.

No. of pilots available	<u>83</u>	
No. of pilots flying	<u>59</u>	Aeroplanes { S <u>80</u>
		U <u>6</u>
Total time flown	<u>54</u> hrs. <u>3</u> mins. (of which <u>25</u> hrs. <u>49</u> mins. were test, etc.)	

KITE BALLOONS.

No. of ascents	_____	Targets successfully ranged on	_____
No. of observers taken up	_____		

Points of interest:—

Total time in air _____ hours _____ minutes.

M. M. M. M.

Major Commanding

SECOND Wing,
Royal Flying Corps

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

479

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 23 / 1 / 1916.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances 5
do (flash) 7

No. of Artillery observation flights 25
Targets successfully ranged on 1 5
reg'd by DIV. HVY.

Plates exposed
215

No. of photographic Reconnaissances 23 S. 20
U. 3
Patrols -
Escorts 2
Special missions -
Combats 4
No. of flights for test or practice, or to deliver aeroplanes 53

Bombs dropped

Successful 3 (flash)
Unsuccessful 5 (Flash)
Successful 4 5
Unsuccessful 20
Hostile batteries successfully eng'd...5...
Gun Pits Hit. ---
Explosions caused among ammunition...6...
Flashes located 17....

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

Hard frost and some mist. Oblique visibility poor, perpendicular visibility good. All squadrons had successful photographic flights, No. 42 Squadron exposed 102 plates. Mist interfered with artillery observation for the most part, and in more than one case invisibility of ground strips on white background hampered shoots. No. 6 Squadron had three successful shoots for effect, six small explosions being caused in hostile positions. A successful registration was carried out and 17 flashes located by the same squadron. Hostile aircraft active in the two northern squadron areas.

No. of pilots available 84

No. of pilots flying 60

Aeroplanes

S. 78
U. 9

Total time flown 115 hrs. 11 mins. (of which 23 hrs. 48 mins. were test, etc.).

KITE BALLOONS.

No. of ascents _____

Targets successfully ranged on _____

No. of observers taken up _____

Points of interest:—

Total time in air _____ hours _____ minutes.

Major

Major,
Commanding,
SECOND Wing,
Royal Flying Corps.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

480

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 26/1 1916.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances	5.			Successful	3.
(Flash)	8.			Unsuccessful	0. (flash)
No. of Artillery observation flights	24.			Successful	3.
Targets successfully ranged on	regd by	DIV. HVY.	4.	Unsuccessful	21.
				Hostile batteries	1.
Plates exposed	No. of photographic Reconnaissances	9.	S. 8.	successfully engd.
134.	Patrols	5.	U. 1.	Gun Pits Hit.
	Combats	1.		Explosions caused
	Special missions		among ammunition
				Flashes located
					8.
				
					81.

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

Frost and haze. Perpendicular visibility good. Oblique visibility poor. Artillery Observation unsuccessful for the most part, owing to difficulty of seeing bursts against snow, and of picking up ground strips, whether red or not. Successful registrations were carried out by Nos. 48, 46, and 6. Squadrons. Hostile Aircraft active on whole Army Front. Machine of No. 6. Squadron attacked by H.A. over our own lines. Successful photographic flights by all Squadrons. Some train activity reported on VIII Corps front. Zone calls sent down on Hostile Batteries and a train.

No. of pilots available	78.		
No. of pilots flying	48.	Aeroplanes	{ S 73.
			U 14. (1 Nieuport Scout)
Total time flown	93 hrs. 4. mins.	(of which	14 hrs. 34. mins. were test, etc.)

KITE BALLOONS.

No. of ascents _____ Targets successfully ranged on _____
 No. of observers taken up _____

Points of interest:—

Total time in air _____ hours _____ minutes.

Major
 Major,
 Commanding,
 SECOND Wing,
 Royal Flying Corps.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

487
85

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 27/1/1916.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances <u>14.</u> (flash)	Successful <u>6.</u>
	Unsuccessful <u>8.</u>
No. of Artillery observation flights <u>25.</u>	Successful <u>7.</u>
	Unsuccessful <u>18.</u>
Targets successfully ranged on <u>2.</u> DIV. <u>5.</u> HVY.	Hostile batteries successfully engd. <u>2:5</u>
Plates exposed. <u>78.</u>	Gun pits hit <u>7</u>
No. of photographic Reconnaissances <u>6.</u> S.5. U.1.	Explosions caused among ammunition <u>19</u>
Patrols <u>4.</u>	Flashes located <u>19</u>
Escorts <u>7</u>	
Special missions <u>—</u>	
No. of flights for test or practice, or to deliver aeroplanes <u>25.</u>	

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

Weather fine, but oblique visibility poor: especially in river valleys.

Photography carried out successfully- 74 plates in all were exposed.

Eight successful shoots were carried out in conjunction with Heavy Artillery.

Enemy aircraft active.

Some train movement.

No. of pilots available <u>81.</u>	Aeroplanes {	S <u>72.</u>
No. of pilots flying <u>58.</u>		U <u>15.</u> (3 Nieuports.)
Total time flown <u>109</u> hrs. <u>29</u> mins. (of which <u>15</u> hrs. <u>42</u> mins. were test, etc.)		

KITE BALLOONS.

No. of ascents <u>—</u>	Targets successfully ranged on <u>—</u>
No. of observers taken up <u>—</u>	

Points of interest:—

Total time in air — hours — minutes.

M. J. ...

Major,
Commanding,
SECOND. Wing,
Royal Flying Corps.

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