

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/1/9

Title: 2nd Brigade, Royal Flying Corps

December 1916



AWM4-8/1/9

WAR DIARY

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Forms regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in U. 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
			DECEMBER	
EXCLUSIVE			Position of Units	
			H.Q. 2nd Brigade	OXELAERE 270100Z
			H.Q. 2nd Wing	EECKE 270200Z
			H.Q. 11th Wing	NIEPPE 270400Z
			Squadron No 1	BALLEUL 28590
			" No 6	ABEELE 27K36Z
			" No 46	DROGLANDT 270400Z
			" No 42	BALLEUL 285200Z
			" No 20	CLAIRMARAIS 27K000Z
			" No 41	ABEELE 27K100Z
			" No 45	ST MARIE CAPPEL BRIDINGHEM 27P250Z
			Kite Balloon	
			H.Q. No 2 Squadron	MONT ROUGE 28M220Z
			No 2 K.B. Section	LOCRE 28M29000
			No 9 K.B. Section	NIEPPE 36B20620
			No 15 K.B. Section	OUDEBOM 28023072
			No 23 K.B. Section	N. of POPERINGHE 28A14000
			2nd A.A.P.	HAZEBROUCK 27V57000

2nd Brigade 270 14

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1st.		Thick fog all day	
	2nd.		Thick fog all day	
	3rd.		Thick mist all day	
	4th.		Misty early, afterwards low clouds. all artillery registration unsuccessful. No 1 Sq dropped 28. 20 lb bombs on dump at 280 20 c 1.3, No 6 Sq dropped 6, 112 lb bombs on bomb factory at MOLENDREK getting 1 hit. No 45 Sq moved from BOISDINGHEM to ST MARIE CAPPEL.	
	5th.		Low clouds & intermittent showers - only a few tests possible.	
	6th.		Low clouds & strong wind - a few test flights done. Captain Tillard (pilot) No 7 Sq was killed during joint co-operation with infantry, his observer René Muroch was severely injured. A Heinkel He 111 2-seater after dropping 4 bombs near ABELE landed 1 mile S.E. BANIGUL having lost his bearings in the fog. This was at 12.45 am, the fog prevented No 6 Sq sending out a raid in retaliation. The occupants, 2 naval officers were taken prisoners - the machine with the exception of a broken propeller & bent cam shaft was intact.	
	7th.		Low clouds & rain all day	
	8th.		Mist & rain all day - no flying possible	
	9th.		Rain all day.	
	10th.		Rain all day.	
	11th.		Fine during morning afterwards low clouds. No 20 Sq re-commissioned HOUTAVILLE FOREST for 500 ft big gun reported - 1 found. 200 HA batteries engaged. Two indecisive combats - 1 HA came down to 130' about 2 miles of NEPPE but regained its own. Several plates exposed. Four 20 lb bombs dropped.	<p>459</p> <p>1/2 1/2</p> <p>1/2 1/2</p>

WAR DIARY

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	12th		Snow & rain all day.	
	13th		Mist all morning & low clouds during afternoon. No 42 Sq did trench reconnaissance & No 46 Sq registered on our target.	
	14th		Low clouds all day - only test flights possible.	
	15th		Low clouds all day. No 41 Sq brought back some useful observations after a trench mortar bombardment by 1st Corps.	
	16th		Fine till 3pm but visibility bad all day. One hostile battery was engaged & several other shots attempted but failed owing to mist. Six successive flights - in one of these it is thought the hostile observer was killed. No 6 Sq dropped 4 112lb bombs on huts at HOLLEBUSCH (28J126) demolishing one hut & getting another OK right amongst the huts. No 20 Sq dropped one 336lb bomb from the P.E.7 on huts at BECELHEKE, results unobserved.	
	17th		Very misty all day. Scout Cody No 61 Sq flew over enemy trenches near BOESINGHE at 700' firing 1 drum into them. No troops were seen in front line but several seen in support trenches. A few photos taken by No 20 Sq of AODRICK.	
	18th		Mist all day.	
	19th		Low misty clouds all day. No 6 Sq carried out a trench reconnaissance & No 46 registered a	

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

9.2 How on an important trench junction.

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20th.		Ground haze all day. Several useful tactical reconnaissance carried out by Corps Squadron. Five successful artillery shoots. AA were fairly active - 4 indecisive fights. A number of photographs taken. No 20 Sq dropped one 336 lb bomb from the NE 7 on hutments at BECELAERE - results unobserved.	
	21st		Rain all day.	
	22nd		Low clouds & rain till 2.30 pm. afterwards fine. Five tactical reconnaissance were carried out by Corps Squadron, 15 flashes located. Four 20 lb bombs were dropped.	
	23rd.		Fine & clear till 12 noon then clouding over. Corps Squadron carried out 8 tactical reconnaissance - spotting 27 flashes & considerable train movement. A lot of Artillery Registration done - 8 hostile batteries were successfully engaged, 6 gun pits hit & an explosion caused amongst ammunition. There were 28 OK's obtained on targets during the day, mostly on hostile batteries. AA were quite active especially in Salient & round ARRENTIERE. There were some indecisive combats, several of these by No 6 Sq. All outstanding photographs for Army taken - 111 plates exposed. No 20 Sq took some very good ones. One 336 lb bomb dropped from the NE 7 on hutments at BECELAERE - the bomb fell in a field making a large crater. Two 20 lb bombs dropped by No 6 Sq. A live shell from our own AA fell among No 7 Squadron transport killing Corporal DINNAGE.	
	24th.		Bright & clear till noon afterwards low clouds. Corps Squadron did a lot of very useful tactical reconnaissance - they reported 27 flashes. Eight hostile batteries were successfully engaged, 6 gun pits were hit, one explosion caused amongst ammunition. 28 OK's on targets. AA were quite active - 9 indecisive combats. A lot of photography done - all outstanding photos for Army.	

1941

WAR DIARY

Army Form C 208

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>were finished - 116 plates exposed. One 336 lb bomb dropped in a field near BECELMENE making large craters. A live shell from our AA fell & exploded amongst 2000 $\frac{1}{2}$ de transport killing Cpl Dinnage.</p> <p>Wind & rain - no flying.</p> <p>Bright early - mist & low clouds later. Corps & Army Squadrons reported several traces. A number of successful targets ranged, 2 hostile batteries engaged, 1 gun hit, 2 explosions caused among ammunition. H.A. were active, attacking our photographic & artillery machines. One indecisive combat. Captain Nason, pilot 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ & Lieut Brown returning from photographic reconnaissance on a transport were attacked by an Avia and downed - the machine fell between our front & second line - the pilot & observer were killed. Capt Kerr's flight (20 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$) moved to CORMONT for weeks aerial marking course. Eight 20 lb bombs were dropped on various dumps.</p> <p>Hazy at first, becoming clear. Corps squadrons did a number of Tactical reconnaissance & located 16 flashes. A most successful day, at Artillery co-operation - 9 hostile batteries were successfully engaged, 4 gun hits hit & 2 explosions caused among ammunition - during a hostile bombardment 2000 $\frac{1}{2}$ observed 5 out of 6 hostile batteries were firing. H.A. were active. There were two combats - in one of them Lieut Blakewood and Lieut Brownhill 2000 $\frac{1}{2}$ destroyed a hostile Halberstadt biplane near ZONNEBEKE (28 S4a). A large amount of photography done - 154 plates exposed. One machine of 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ was very badly hit about by AA & forced to land at BERTHEN - when about 100' from the ground the machine caught fire - the pilot & observer were unhurt. A hostile machine attempted to attack 8th Coy balloon but failed owing to effective AA barrage; the observer made a successful parachute descent.</p>	
	25th			
	26th			
	27th			

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C.

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
	<u>28th</u>		Ground mist early - clear for a time then mist again. A lot of train activity was reported by Corp. Squad & patrol from Army line. A number of Artillery registrations - 4 hostile batteries were successfully engaged, 2 gun pits hit, 2 explosions caused among ammunition. It was fairly active - there was some indecisive fight. Several food landings all over the country owing to mist. Third Coy, No. 12 made an unsuccessful attack on a hostile balloon at RECELABRE.	
	<u>29th</u>		Rain all day.	
	<u>30th</u>		High wind, some rain & low clouds. No. 12 located a T.M. emplacement & hit by 5 shells. Several artillery shoots attempted but only 4 successful owing to weather - 3 hostile batteries were successfully engaged & 2 gun pits hit. One or two H.A. seen, no combat.	
	<u>31st</u>		Strong wind, low clouds & rain all day. Practically no flying.	

R. J. Barton Capt
Brigade Major
2nd Bde Bde

5463

Subject.	Syllabus	By whom examined.
<u>ARTILLERY</u> Contd	(12) A few very elementary gunnery terms, e.g. 50' zone: M.P.I.: angle of descent: time of flight: trajectory: (13) A perfect knowledge of the brown card.	R.A.Liaison Officer. do
<u>WIRELESS</u> (Army & Corps Squadrons).	(1) Send 12 words a minute. Receive 5 " " " (2) Care of instruments (3) The elementary principles of Wireless Telegraphy as applied to Aeroplanes. (4) The transmitter and accumulator (5) The value of the safety plug.	Wing Wireless E. O. do do do do
<u>PHOTOGRAPHY</u> (Army and Corps Squadrons).	(1) (a) Take four pin-prints out of six, from a height of not less than 3,500 feet within a radius of 1" from each side of the plate. (b) Take 18 plates off either trenches, road, river or railway, so that each photograph will join up without more than one third of an overlap. (c) Be able to successfully work all types of Camera, slides & changing boxes in use in Sigs, and extricate any "junks" that are likely to occur in the air. (2) Examination of plate changing effect of focal length, care of cameras, adjusting exposure.	Brigade Photographic Officer. do do do
<u>INTELLIGENCE</u> (Army and Corps Squadrons.)	(1) A verbal examination on the Corps or Army area with reference to oblique and vertical photographs combined with maps. (2) Ability to make a rough sketch sufficient to illustrate definite and accurate information, also to accurately fill in a tracing of a certain area, both in the air. (3) Ability to make a clear and serviceable report both verbal and written after a reconnaissance set in his own Corps or Army area.	Squadron Comdr. do do P. T. C.)

G. 536 466
5-18-16
Page 3.

Subject.	Syllabus	By whom examined.
INTELLIGENCE Con.	(4) A thorough knowledge of all conventional signs in use, this can be combined with (b)	Squadron Comdr.

All examiners will forward results to Squadron Commander, who should keep a book or board with names of Observers down one side and columns for different subjects; the date of the successful examination being put in the correct column opposite the candidates' names.

In the Field,
3rd. December, 1916.

18973 *W. J. B. ...* Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Brigade,
Royal Flying Corps.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 20 / 12 / 1916.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances	12 (6 flash)				Successful	7 (1 flash rec.)
					Unsuccessful	5 (flash reconns)
No. of Artillery observation flights	17				Successful	5
	regd. by <u>DIV. HVY.</u>				Unsuccessful	12
Targets successfully ranged on	4	3			Hostile batteries	2
					successfully engaged.....	
No. of photographic Reconnaissances	S. 10				Gun Pits Hit.	
	U. 5				Explosions caused	
Patrols	2				among ammunition.	
Special missions	--				Flashes located....	
No. of flights for test or practice, or to deliver aeroplanes	39.					

PLATES.

172

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

Ground haze all day, clear interval from late morning to early afternoon. Nos. 1. & 42 Squadrons has several successful photographic flights, exposing 59 and 64 plates respectively.

No. 6. Squadron carried out a successful shoot on hostile trench mortars. Nos. 2, 6.

Nos. 1, 46, & 42. Squadrons gained some useful information on trench reconnaissance and photographic flights. Trench mortar emplacements, battery positions, etc., were located.

In some cases the Artillery programme had to be curtailed owing to orders from Artillery Headquarters.

*A patrol and an Artillery Cooperation Machine of No 1 Sq. were had indecisive combats with Hostile Aeroplanes.
A broken machine was seen 28. O.G.C 6.8. by Lt Bucknidge & Munden of No 6. at 12.45 P.M.: type or nationality not observed.*

No. of pilots available	66.		
No. of pilots flying	50.	Aeroplanes	{ S. 61.
			U. 5.

Total time flown 75 hrs. 42. mins. (of which 13 hrs. 23 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. F. Murphy
 Lieut. Colonel,
 Commanding,
 Second Wing,
 Royal Flying Corps.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

468
SB

Summary of Work SECOND Wing, R.F.C. Date 21 / 12 / 1916.

AEROPLANES.

No. of Reconnaissances	<u>1</u>	}	Successful	<u>1</u>
			Unsuccessful	<u>-</u>
No. of Artillery observation flights	<u>-</u>	}	Successful	<u>-</u>
Targets successfully ranged on	<u>-</u>		Unsuccessful	<u>-</u>
No. of photographic Reconnaissances	<u>-</u>			
Patrols	<u>-</u>			
Special missions	<u>-</u>			
No. of flights for test or practice, or to deliver aeroplanes	<u>4</u>			

Points of interest (to include weather conditions):—

High wind and rain all day prevented much work being done.

No. of pilots available	<u>68</u>		
No. of pilots flying	<u>3</u>	Aeroplanes	} S <u>64</u> U <u>2</u>
Total time flown	<u>2</u> hrs. <u>59</u> mins. (of which <u>-</u> hrs. <u>54</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.

R. J. Pivell Captain
 for
 Lieut. Colonel,
 Commanding,
 SECOND Wing,
 Royal Flying Corps.

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