

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/2/5

Title: 1st Wing Headquarters, Australian
Flying Corps

April 1918



AWM4-8/2/5

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



437

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Wing Headquarters - A.I.F. Letbury Island.

FOR

April 1918.



Signature of Officer compiling

[Handwritten signature]

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Handwritten signature] Lt. Col.
COMMANDING 1st WING
AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tetbury	1918 Apr. 1	-	Royal Air Force came into existence today. Exact relationship of Australian Flying Corps not yet defined. For Training, Organisation, A.F.C. Under R.A.F. Command.	
-do-	" 2	-	No. 5 T.S. A.F.C. Marched into Minchinhampton from 29th Wing, Shawbury, and taken on strength of 1st. Wing. Wing getting into stride. Four Squadrons and Aeroplane Repair Section now in the Wing. 7 & 8 Squadrons and A.R.S. at Leighterton 5 & 6 at Minchinhampton. 5 & 8 T.S. Training Camel Pilots. 6 T.S. S.E.5's and 7 T.S. on Re 8.	
-do-	" 3	-	Lieut. R.L. Clark A.F.C. posted to Minchinhampton Station Transport Officer, temporary. 2/Lieut. Mackinolty A.F.C. posted to A.R.S. Leighterton as E.O. Class III. A Detachment of the Aeroplane Repair Section was stationed at Minchinhampton for the purpose of dealing with the repair of machines at that Station.	
-do-	" 4	-	Lieut. D. Nicol posted to No. 7 T.S. from Overseas as Wireless Equipment Officer and 2/Lieut. F.M.H. Proctor from No. 2 Squadron B.E.F. to Minchinhampton as Station Gunnery Officer.	
-do-	" 5	-	Capt. H.W. Wrigley posted to 7 T.S. Leighterton as Flight Commander and Capt. F.C. Tregilles to 7 T.S. Leighterton as Flight Commander. Lieut. E.J. Mc Loughry posted to 6 T.S. Minchinhampton as Asst. Instructor.	
-do-	" 6	-	2/Lieut. F.H. Ronaldson reported for temporary duty at Wing Headquarters with Wing Equipment Officer. Lieut. W.A. Coates M.C. reported from No. 1 Squadron Middle East Brigade, for duty with A.R.S. to Command.	
-do-	" 7	-	The first death recorded in Wing Orders today. 2/Lieut. E.D. Grant No. 6 T.S. Minchinhampton Instructor, having been killed in an Aeroplane accident on the 4th inst. Accident caused by stunting too near the ground.	

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Tetbury	Apl. 8	-	Remains of 2/Lieut. E.D. Grant conveyed to London for private burial. No. 1189 Sergt. E.L. Spencer posted to Wing Headquarters as photographic Sergeant.	
-do-	" 9	-	Lt. Col. W.O. Watt proceeded to Gosport for refresher course at R.A.F. School of Special Flying and in his absence Major G.A.C. Cowper assumed Temporary Command of the Wing.	
-do-	" 10	-	Owing to the effect of Dope, on the health of the Doper, special instructions were issued to all engaged on this work, to the effect that (1) Work must not be commenced on an empty stomach (2) Must not take in the Doping Room. (3) Should work between the indraft of air, and the article being doped.	
-do-	" 11	-	Lieut. E.F. Pflaum posted to 8 T.S. Assistant Instructor from No. 2 Squadron B.E.F. France.	
-do-	" 12	-	Lieut. G.H. Leslie M.C. 3rd. Btn. A.I.F. posted from Wing Headquarters to 5 T.S. A.F.C. as Ass/Adjutant. Lieut J.E. Keating ^{MC} 58th Btn. A.I.F. posted from A.F.C. Depot, Wendover, to Wing Headquarters as Ass/ Adjutant, vice Lieut. G.H. Leslie. M.C.	
-do-	" 13	-	Secretary Air Council sent circular letter to all Commands and Units expressing appreciation and satisfaction for the work performed throughout the Training Division during the month of March. This month, during which the great Battle on the Western Front commenced, was a very strenuous one for the Air Service and the demands were very heavy. These however, were all supplied.	
-do-	" 14	-	Four Officers from No. 6 T.S. Minchinhampton proceeded to Fighting School, at Ayr, preparatory to going overseas.	

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Tetbury	Apr 15	-	Nothing to relate.	
-do-	" 16	-	Arrangements being made to hold a Sports Meeting and Concert on ANZAC Day on the Minchinhampton Aerodrome.	
-do-	" 17	-	New Order issued applicable to Flying Corps only, to the effect that Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, will salute with the right hand irrespective of the side on which the Officer is passing.	
-do-	" 18	-	Nothing of interest to report.	
-do-	" 19	-	2/Lieut. G.S.E. Lees posted to 5 T.S. as E.O. 3 (Stores) Order published to the effect that Commonwealth Government of Australia increasing rates of separation allowance to 2/- per day in case of wife and 6d. per diem in regard to children with effect from 5.4.18.	
-do-	" 20	-	Lieut. Col. W.O. Watt. resumed Command of 1st. Wing. A.F.C. on returning from School of Special Flying, Gosport. The following telegraphic addresses registered. 1st. Wing Headquarters. Austwing, Tetbury. 6 T.S. A.F.C. Aerosixams, Leighterton. 7 T.S. A.F.C. Aerosevaus, Leighterton. 8 T.S. A.F.C. Aereightus, Leighterton. Aircraft Repair Section. Austrepair, Leighterton.	

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Tetbury	Apr. 21	-	<p>Lieut. F.F. Drake No. 5 T.S. Minchinhampton struck off strength of Wing on proceeding to A.I.F. Headquarters, London for disposal. Six Cadets posted to 6 T.S. Minchinhampton for instruction in Aviation.</p>	
-do-	" 22	-	<p>Lieut. W.A. Coates Commanding A.R.S. awarded the Military Cross for services in the Field during Palastine Campaign.</p>	
-do-	" 23	-	<p>Capt. R.S. Brown posted to 5 T.S. Minchinhampton to Command. vice Major H. Petre. R.A.F. resigned. The second Fatal accident in the Wing occurred today. Cadet G.F.J. Needham, being killed in a crash. Was Flying a B.E. 2 E and when coming out of a spin the Machine collapsed crashing to earth.</p>	
-do-	" 24	-	<p>Lieut. E.J. McCloughry 6 T.S. appointed Flight Commander and temporary ^{capt} Major dated 23.4.18.</p>	
-do-	" 25	-	<p>Anzac Day. A Sports Meeting and concert held on Minchinhampton Aerodrome. Fine day, and good attendance. A Tug-o'-War Challenge Cup presented by Lt. Colonel W.O. Watt and called the Tetbury Cup was competed for, and won by A.R.S. The Meeting was a success and was followed by a concert by the Cheerie's Concert Party, who travelled from London for the purpose. Major General Mark-Kerr. C.B. presented the prizes. Major H.C. Brinsmead Staff Officer for Aviation was also in attendance.</p>	
-do-	" 26	-	<p>Nothing to relate.</p>	
-do-	" 27	-	<p>Major H.A. Petre, D.S.O. M.C. departed from Wing today. Posted to 95 T.S. R.A.F. Shotwick.</p>	

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Tetbury.	Apr. 28	-	<p>Authority received from 1st. Anzac for formation and establishment of 1st. Wing and component Units. Establishment to be the same as laid down in R.A. Force. It is not quite clear how this will work out, as R.A.F. Establishment allows for so many women, and at present no Australian Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is in existence. Wing Headquarters at present employs four (4) female Stenographers as Civilian Employees. This policy could be extended, but one failure of this would be the lack of exercising discipline, which could and should be exercised in an organised Corps.</p>	
-do-	" 29	-	<p>The need of a separate Establishment for the Station's Personnel has become apparent. This would include Station Quartermasters Stores, Messing Officer and Staff. Motor Transport Section. A.A.M.C. Cooks, Batmen etc., In this connection Capt. L.P. Fay, Wing Adjutant proceeding to London today.</p>	
-do-	" 30	-	<p>Lt. Colonel Humphrey's R.A.F. visited this Headquarters today.</p>	

Beating

 CAPT. & ADJT.
 1ST WING HEADQUARTERS, A.F.C.

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