

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

Flying Corps

Item number: 8/7/25

Title: No 4 Squadron, Australian Flying
Corps

March 1919



AWM4-8/7/25

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

4TH SQUADRON,
AUSTRALIAN
FLYING CORPS.

Army Form C. 2118.

349

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place

Date

Hour

1919
Feb.
Mar.
1.

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 153.

At 8-30 a.m. the Squadron commenced the 3rd day's run, the route being via Namur, Nivelles, Braine Le Comte, Soignies, & Le Bruyres to Mons where billets were secured at XV Corps Rest Camp. (68 miles).

2.

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 153.

Squadron rested in accordance with orders that troops on demobilisation will not travel on Sundays.

3.

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 153.

Left Mons at 9 a.m. and travelled via Jurbise, Ath, & Tournai to Ronchin where billets were secured at Pool Pilots Depot. (40 miles)

4.

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 153.

Left Ronchin at 9 a.m. and travelled via Fournes, LaBasse, Bethune, & Lille to Estree Blanche securing billets at the aerodrome.

5

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.
CASUALTIES. 1111 2/AM Wilson G.E. taken on strength

Squadron came under the command of 91st Wing, R.A.F. Motor Transport was handed over to No.1 A.D. St. Omer.

6.

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.

Squadron awaiting orders to proceed to LeHavre. Transport being supplied by No.1 A.D. St. Omer.

7.

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.

Proceeded at 8-30 a.m. en route for LeHavre, and travelled via Fruges, Hesdin, Abbeville, & Blangy to Neufchatel billeting for the night in Prisoners of War Camp.

8.

STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.

Proceeded at 8-30 a.m. for LeHavre travelling via St. Sains, St. Victor, Yeiville, Yvetot, & Bolzee. Marched into Reception Camp, A.I.F.B., Base Depot, Havre.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919 Mar. 9		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.	The day was occupied by medical inspection, baths, and complete change of clothing for all ranks.	
	10		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154. CASUALTIES. 1044 1/AM Thomas W.P. admitted to hosp.	Unit marched out from Reception Camp to Drafting Depot.	
	11		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.	Squadron embarked for England by H.M.T. "Lorina".	
	12		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.	Squadron disembarked at Southampton at 8 a.m. and entrained for Fovant arriving at No.4 Command Depot, Hurdcott Camp at 3-15 p.m.	
	13		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.	Nil.	
	14		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 154.	Medical inspection and influenza inoculation for all ranks.	
	15		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 153. CASUALTIES. 1044 1/AM Thomas W.P. Struck off strength.	Squadron equipped with U.K. establishment of clothing.	
	16		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 153.	Nil.	
	17		STRENGTH. Officers 30. O/R 153.	With the exception of 2 Officers and 3 other ranks, the Squadron proceeded on 14 days leave from 17-3-19 to 31-3-19. Nothing to report.	

AB Ellis
Major,
Commanding 4th Squadron, A. F. C.

War Diary for March 1919.

The last part of our journey towards the coast was successfully carried out without breakdown and running to timetable. Squadron transport was handed over to No.1 A.D. St. Omer. This completed the handing over of all technical material on charge. The highest praise is due to the E.O. and his staff for the way in which they carried out this difficult work. Transport of the R.A.F. moved the Squadron from Estree Blanche to Havre where the unit marched into the Australian Base Depot and was re-equipped in readiness for the move to England. From Havre to Hurdcott completed the last stage of the move and on the 12th the unit marched into No.11 Camp, No.4 Command Depot, Hurdcott.

The successful completion of this long move entailing a journey of 500 miles by transport reflects greatly to the credit of all Officers and men particularly the motor transport section of the Squadron.

A highly successful Theatre Night and Reunion Dinner were held during the embarkation leave. The Theatre Night was "Hullo America" and was attended only by present Officers of the Squadron. The dinner was held at the Imperial Restaurant and practically all Officers of No.4 Squadron, past and present, were in attendance.

The health of the Squadron was excellent throughout the month.



C. H. Ems Major,
Commanding 4th Squadron, A. F. C.

APPENDIX

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF MARCH ~~1918~~ 1919.

By Lieut. J. A. Ellison E.O.

Squadron on the move.

March 1st. At 8.30am Squadron commences 3rd day's run via Namur, Nivelles, Braine-le-Comte, Coignies, Le Bruyères, then to Mons where were secured at XV Corps Rest Camp. Distance covered 68 miles, travelling fairly good.

2nd inst. Squadron rests (Mons)

3rd inst. At 9am Squadron moves travelling via Jurbise, Ath, Tournai, Ronchin, Billets being provided Pool Pilots Depot R.A.F. Distance covered 40 miles. Travelling fairly good, Roads very poor.

4th inst. Left Ronchin at 9am travelling via Fournes, La Basse Bethune, Lille, and Estree Blanche being billeted at the Aerodrome. Travelling fair, Roads very bad in the vicinities of La Basse Bethune, and Lille, this being the completion of the journey by our Transport. On the whole the move was very good and up to schedule time. Minor breakdowns occurred such as happen on these long journeys, but having Mechanics in the Convoy difficulties were soon got over.

One Leyland Heavy Tender was totally disabled outside Tournai, on the main Road to Lille. This Vehicle was towed to Advanced No. 1 M.T.R.P. R.A.F.

The C.O.'s Touring Car was also disabled at Aachen, and towed to Duren (No. 2 A.P.)

5th inst. This Squadron came under command of 91st Wing and all Transport was handed over to No. 1 A.D. at St Omer and satisfactorily.

Technically from this date nothing further to report, beyond the usual routine of the Squadron, which proceeded to England, and settled at Hurdcott, Salisbury, awaiting embarkation to Australia.

J. A. Ellison Lieut. & E.O.
4th Squadron A.F.C.

4TH SQUADRON, AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.	
No
Unit

ORDERS

by
Major A.W.L. ELLIS M.C.,
Commanding 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.
In the Field
5-3-1919

1. PERSONNEL.

1. ORDERLY DUTIES.

Orderly Officer for Thursday
Next for duty

Lieut. J.P. Trim
Lieut. G.A. Moxham

Orderly Sgt. for week ending 11th

Sgt. White W.R.

2. STRENGTH.

Aus/1111 2/AM Wilson G.E., M.T. Driver, having rejoined this unit from hospital is taken on the strength of this Squadron with effect from 4-3-1919 and is posted to H.Q.

Aus/2587 2/AM Bedingfield H., Rigger, was admitted to hospital, Cologne, 26-2-19, and is struck off the strength of this Squadron with effect from 1-3-1919.

2. LEAVE.

The undermentioned returned from leave to U.K. on dates stated.

216 2/AM Willett W.A.	M.T. Driver	27-2-19.
1095 Sgt. Goulding F.	Rigger	4-3-19.

II. EQUIPMENT.

N I L.

(Sgd) P.K. Schafer Lieut.,
Acting Recording Officer, 4th Squadron, A.F.C.

5
53
47
53
150

APPENDIX

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by
Major A.W.L.ELLIS M.C.,
Commanding 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.

Hurdcott Camp No.11
15th March 1919.

PART I.

N I L.

PART II.

1. STRENGTH.

1044 1/AM Thomas W.P., Instrument Repairer, having been admitted to Camp Hospital, A.I.B.D., France - sick - is struck off the strength of this Squadron with effect from 10-3-1919.

2. HOSPITAL.

The undermentioned were admitted to Camp Isolation Hospital on dates stated.

1029 2/AM Johnson E.S.	Coppersmith	12-3-19
216 2/AM Willett W.A.	M.T. Driver	13-3-19
3537 2/AM Dawes L.G.	Fitter	13-3-19
1748 2/AM Goldsworthy C.H.	Acet. Welder	13-3-19
961 1/AM Goode M.W.J.	Blacksmith	13-3-19

The undermentioned were admitted to Group Hospital on dates stated.

1805 Cpl. Wright A.M.	Rigger	12-3-19
1597 2/AM Harrison W.	Wireless Operator	13-3-19

3. LEAVE.

965 C.M.M. Fox E.A. returned from leave 14-3-19.

(Sgd) P.K.Schafer Lieut.,
Acting Recording Officer, 4th Squadron, A.F.C.

SQUADRON ROUTINE ORDERS.

No. 54

by
Major A.W.L.Ellis, MC.,
Commanding 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.

Hurdcott, Wilts.

16/3/19.

Part 1.

1. Promotions & Appointments.

Capt (t/Major) A.W.L.Ellis, MC, 8th T.Squadron, to be Major
and Squadron Commander. 27th April 1918.

Part 2.

1. Hospital.

The undermentioned A/M was admitted to Group Hospital on
16/3/19.

No. 3545 2/AM Letch W.

Fitter.

(Signed) P.K.Schafer, Lieut.
A/Recording Officer, 4th Sqdn, A.F.C.

R