

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

Flying Corps

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Title: No 3 Squadron, Australian Flying
Corps

March 1919



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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3rd Squadron A.F.C.

FOR

March 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

Max Shelley Lt
R.O. 3rd Sq. A.F.C.

Signature of Officer Commanding

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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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-3-19.		Intending to commence today's journey very early, Reveille was timed for 6 a.m. in order to be clear of the town by 7-30 a.m.; but owing to several unavoidable delays we did not leave till a little after 9 a.m. Our destination today is LE HAVRE and the road lay through ST. SAENS , ST. VICTOR , VERYVILLE , YVETOT and BOLBEC . The journey was very successful, and the Squadron arrived at the Australian General Base Depot about 2 p.m.	
	2-3-19.		Both rainy days and the Camp is in rather a muddy condition. On the latter of these two days we left the Base Depot at 8 p.m., moving to the ship in Motor Lorries. Rain continued throughout the night, but all kit etc. arrived at the boat in a dry condition. 11 p.m. saw all our Squadron aboard, and No. 2 came down from the Base Depot shortly after.	
	3-3-19.			
	4-3-19.		One of the most rainy days we have seen for some time. We saw the last of France at 2 a.m. Steaming out into a smooth sea and there was very little excuse for seasickness. At 9 a.m. we arrived at Weymouth, disembarked in pouring rain and proceeded by train to Wilton, one of the great camping centres on the Salisbury Plains. No. 2 Squadron have been with us on the whole journey and we are now side by side at HURDCOTT Demobilisation Camp situated about 4 miles from Wilton.	
	5-3-19.		Throughout the day rain fell in torrents and Squadron Parades have been carried on under difficulties. All N.C.O's and men underwent a strict Medical Examination during the morning in order to decide whether they are in a fit condition to return to Australia. The Squadron is in a good comfortable camp, and good roads and paths contribute to the general cleanliness.	
	6-3-19.		The weather has broken and the sun is shining from a cloudless sky. All the officers of the Squadron were examined by Medical Officers this morning and found fit. On Monday we expect to be granted our last fourteen days furlough in the United Kingdom and all ranks are looking forward to the prospect with enthusiasm.	
	7-3-19		All reasonably fine days but rather cold. A second medical examination was conducted for all ranks on the second of these days, and on the last all personnel were granted a complete new issue of clothing.	
	8-3-19			
	9-3-19			

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	10-3-19	} Inclusive	Today the whole Squadron proceeded on 14 days furlough. Rather indifferent weather was experienced throughout the fortnight, and the Railway Strike threatened to considerably hamper all efforts to return to the Squadron. However, the strike did not take place and by midnight on the 24th nearly all ranks had returned.	
	24-3-19			
	25-3-19		A fine but cold, windy day. Parades are still to be held daily, but there are very few duties of any other nature for the Squadron to perform. A considerable number of the Squadron personnel have been struck off strength on proceeding to Non Military Employment, during the last two days, but others are returning from Hospitals as their sick furlough terminates.	
	26-3-19		Yesterdays cold wind has considerably abated and today is warm and sunny. Non Military Employment and Education Applications continue to be approved and men are still marching out on various missions.	
	27-3-19		Until 4 p.m. fine weather continued but a heavy rain storm accompanied by a strong wind sprang up at that time, making conditions anything but pleasant.	
	28-3-19		On the night of these two dates a heavy fall of snow covered the ground to a depth of 3 or 4 inches but the sky cleared by 10 a.m. on the 29th and a perfect day resulted. Conditions in the camp are very lax and practically no work is being done. Our old Orderly Room Sergeant, namely, J. L. Timewell has returned to the Squadron after spending several months on the Demobilisation Staff in London.	
	29-3-19			
	30-3-19		The weather remains fine and warm with the exception of a light fall of snow during the morning.	
	31-3-19		A fine warm day with a cloudless sky, but a rather strong westerly wind has been blowing since early morning. We are still rather in doubt as to the date we shall ultimately sail for Australia, the 15th, 20th, and 25th are probable dates, but no-one is certain.	