The Australian Flying Corps in the western and eastern theatres of war, 1914-1918

Cutlack Frederic Morley
Title: The Australian Flying Corps in the western and eastern theatres of war, 1914-1918

Author: Cutlack Frederic Morley

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.

Book Renaissance
www.ren-books.com
THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918

VOLUME VIII

THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS
THE
AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS
IN THE
WESTERN AND EASTERN THEATRES OF WAR
1914-1918

BY
F. M. CUTLACK

With 32 maps and 54 illustrations

AUSTRALIA:
ANGUS & ROBERTSON LTD.
89 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY
1933
Wholly set up and printed in Australia by
H. J. Green, Government Printer, Melbourne.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for
transmission through the post as a book.

Obtainable in Great Britain at Australia House and from all
booksellers (sole agent for wholesale distribution—The Official
Secretary for the Commonwealth of Australia, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C. 2); in Canada from the Australian
Trade Commissioner, 36 Yonge Street, Toronto; and in the
United States from the Official Secretary for the Commonwealth

First Edition . . 1928
Second Edition . . 1933
“The heavens are their battlefields. They are the cavalry of the clouds. High above the squalor and the mud . . . . . their struggles there by day and night are like a Miltonic conflict between the winged hosts.”—Mr. LLOYD GEORGE on the Vote of Thanks to the Flying Service in House of Commons, November, 1919.
PREFACE

The main source of information for this war history of the Australian Flying Corps has been the official diaries of the four Australian flying squadrons in the archives of the Australian War Museum. Yet those diaries do not supply an adequate story. The records of the Half-Flight in Mesopotamia, for instance, can hardly be said to exist at all. The author is greatly indebted, as regards that part of his narrative, to the excellent notes written for his guidance by Captain T. W. White, second-in-command of that unit.

For the war-theatre of Egypt and Palestine (No. 1 Squadron), particularly during the early twelve months of the squadron in the desert east of the Suez Canal, the author has had access to the private diaries of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Williams, who served in that unit as flight-commander and squadron-commander. This personal record has proved very helpful. He also owes great thanks to Colonel Williams, the late Lieutenant-Colonel W. O. Watt, and Major A. Murray Jones, sometime flight-commanders in the squadron, and to Major T. F. Rutledge, sometime squadron-commander, who read his manuscript and helped him with their comments.

In the European section, containing the story of Nos. 2, 3, and 4 Squadrons, he is indebted to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Watt, Major Murray Jones, and Lieutenant E. R. Dibbs, of No. 2 Squadron, to Major D. V. J. Blake, of No. 3 Squadron, and to Captain G. F. Malley and Captain A. H. Cobby, of No. 4 Squadron, for reading the manuscript and for their notes, which were of great value, on obscure points.

The author had the advantage of personal acquaintance with some of the work of the three squadrons in France during 1918.

Captain Andrew Lang's invaluable notes on types and development of aircraft in the British, French, and German services are published in a special appendix. To Lieutenants H. Johnston and J. J. Malone are due the notes on the development of the use of wireless telegraphy in aircraft.
The books published on the war in the air from the earliest days in 1914 till the beginning of the defeat of the German armies on the western front are already numerous. They are in no sense histories, but, being personal narratives by prominent airmen, British, French, American, and German, they contain some amount of historical material. Among those which the author has consulted he would mention:—The Royal Flying Corps in the War, by “Wing Adjutant”; Aviation in Peace and War, by Major-General Sir Frederick Sykes, late Chief of the Air Staff; The Romance of Aircraft, by Laurence Yard Smith; Winged Warfare, by Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Bishop, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.; Five Years in the Royal Flying Corps, by the late Major J. T. McCudden, V.C.; Guynemer, Knight of the Air, by Henri Bordeaux; The Red Air Fighter, by Baron von Richthofen (edited by C. G. Grey); With the French Flying Corps, by Carroll Dana Winslow; In the Air: Three Years on and above Three Fronts, by Lieutenant Bert Hall; Captain Ball, V.C., by W. A. Briscoe and H. Stannard; Tails Up; Everyday Life of Our Airmen, by Edgar Middleton; and The German Air Force in the Great War, compiled by Major Georg Paul Neumann.

F. M. C.

Sydney,
1st January, 1923.
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: THE FLYING ARM IN WAR . . . xv

I. MesoPOTAMIA—THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN ON SERVICE . . . . . . . . . 1

II. MesoPOTAMIA—THE END OF THE FIRST CAMPAIGN . 14

III. THE MIDDLE EAST—ADVENT OF NO. 1 SQUADRON . 29

IV. AIR FIGHTING IN THE DESERT . . . . 43

V. INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF AIR WARFARE . . . 56

VI. THE VICTORY OF GAZA . . . . . . 69

VII. THE TURKISH RETREAT TO NABLUS . . . 82

VIII. BEGINNING OF THE AIR OFFENSIVE . . . . 92

IX. THE RAIDS ACROSS THE JORDAN . . . . 105

X. GROWING BRITISH SUPREMACY IN THE AIR . . . 121

XI. THE ENEMY DRIVEN FROM THE SKY . . . 133

XII. THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON . . . . 151

XIII. AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN IN FRANCE . . . . 172

XIV. CAMBRAI AND GOUZEAUCOURT . . . . 183

XV. WINTER WORK OVER MESSINES RIDGE . . . 198

XVI. SPRING FIGHTS NORTH OF THE SCARPE . . . 213

XVII. MEETING THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE . . . 228

XVIII. EARLY CIRCUS FIGHTS WITH NO. 2 SQUADRON . . . 247

XIX. NO. 3 SQUADRON’S OPERATIONS OVER THE SOMME . 260

XX. EXPLOITS OF NO. 4 SQUADRON OVER THE LYS . . . 276

XXI. HARASsING THE ENEMY ON THE LYS . . . . 291

XXII. THE BRITISH OFFENSIVE ON THE SOMME . . . . 305