



TASMANIAN AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY Incorporated

TASMANIAN AVIATORS OF No 1 SQUADRON, AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

Tasmanian Aviators of No 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps

Author: W. Dearing, June 2021

This informal group portrait of seven Tasmanians of No 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps (AFC), standing in front of one of the Squadron's Bristol F2B biplane fighter aircraft.



Left to right: Lieutenant (Lt) W.H. Fysh, (Observer, later DFC); Lt O.M. Lee (MC, Observer); Captain S.W. Addison, (Flight Commander and Pilot, later commanded No 1 Squadron, later OBE); Lt J H Butler, (Pilot); Lt G C Peters, (Pilot, later DFC); Lt A R Brown, (Pilot, later DFC) and Lt Eustace S Headlam, (Observer).

Two of the group Lt Hudson Fysh, and Lt A R (Brownie) Brown, we have met in previous newsletters as Tasmanian Air Aces.

Lieutenant Oliver Matthew Lee was born in Mole Creek on 22 Jun 1888 and enlisted in the Light Horse Regiment in August 1914. He joined AFC and became an observer in December 1917. After joining No 1 Squadron he was posted missing in action in March 1918. He subsequently was acknowledged as a Prisoner of War in Constantinople, (now Istanbul), during April 1918. Lee was awarded a Military Cross in November 1918 for *"distinguished services in the field in connection with military operations in the capture of Jerusalem"* and eventually returned to Australia in December 1918.

Lieutenant John Herbert Butler was born on 19 Jan 1894 in Hobart and enlisted in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment in August 1914. He joined the A.F.C. in January 1917 and undertook pilot training in Egypt.



TASMANIAN AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY Incorporated

TASMANIAN AVIATORS OF No 1 SQUADRON, AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

Lieutenant George Clifton Peters was born on 06 May 1894 and was a Hobart school teacher when he enlisted in the AIF in December 1915. In May 1917 he had graduated as a pilot in the A.F.C. In November 1917, he was posted to Egypt.

Captain Sydney Wentworth Addison was born in 1887 in Hobart and joined the A.F.C. in October 1916 where he completed his training and was promoted to Captain and Flight Commander. Addison suffered an unfortunate accident whilst resting in his tent during April 1918. A British pilot, whilst attempting a take-off, lost control of his aircraft and flew into Addison's tent causing a somewhat serious injury to Addison's knee when he was struck by the aircraft's landing wheel. On returning home after the war Addison was awarded an O.B.E *"in recognition of distinguished services during the war."*

Lieutenant Eustace Slade Headlam was born on 26 May 1892 in Bothwell. He was a law student when he enlisted in 1915 and was posted to the 14th Company Camel Corp. He transferred to the A.F.C. in April 1917. He qualified as an observer in January 1918, then transferred to No 1 Squadron AFC in February 1918.