




TASMANIAN BORN AIR ACES OF WORLD WAR 1
ARTHUR PALLISER

Tasmanian Born Air Aces of World War 1 - Arthur Palliser

Author: W. Dearing, December 2021

Historical Archives of Early Tasmanian Aviators

Tasmanian Born Air Aces of World War 1

	Arthur John Palliser	
	Born:	02 March 1890, Launceston
	Joined:	18 September 1914
	Died:	05 November 1918 (Aged 28 years) Belgium
	Serial Number:	1939

In this, the final article of the six Tasmanian aviators awarded the title of “aces” during World War 1, we present the story of Arthur John Palliser.

The son of Benjamin and Mary Palliser of Ulverstone, Arthur John Palliser was born in Launceston on the 2nd of March 1890 and became a motor mechanic prior to his enlistment on the 18th of September 1914 with a serial number of 1939. On 22 December 1914 Driver Mechanic Palliser embarked aboard *HMAT Ceramic* and served with the 300th Mechanical Transport, Army Service Corps (17th Divisional Ammunition Column) 9th Army Service Corps.

He transferred to the Australian Flying Corps as a cadet in January 1918 and commenced pilot training. Upon graduating from the Flying school in July 1918, he joined No 4 Squadron of the Australian Flying Corp in August 1918.



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ARTHUR PALLISER

CONFIDENTIAL.

1st A.F.C.
.....WING.

REPORT ON AN OFFICER WHO HAS UNDERGONE A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

No. 8 T'ing Squadron, A.F.C. Royal Air Force.

YEAR: 1918.

PERIOD OF COURSE. 22nd May 1918 - 30.6.1918.

DATE OF GRADUATION :- 30.6.1918.

RANK AND NAME:- Capt. Palliser. A. J.

REGIMENT :- No. 1. A.M.S.C. A.I.F.

QUALIFICATIONS.

TYPES OF MACHINES FLOWN, AND ABILITY IN THEM	Avro)	
	Sop Scout)	Very Good.

GROSS COUNTRY FLYING :- Not for new Graduation.

MECHANICAL KNOWLEDGE :- Fair.

DATE OF PASSING EXAMINATION "A" :- Oxford, 30.3.1918.
Reading.....

Date joined Squadron
for Higher Instruction :- 22nd May 1918.

TIME IN AIR.	Hrs.	Mins.
(i) During higher instruction.		
(ii) Total solo since commencing tuition.	15	- 10
(iii) Total dual since commencement of tuition.	13	- 45
	<hr/>	
	28	- 55

Qualifies as an Officer. Total.

ANY FURTHER REMARKS.

An exceptionally good Pilot: Will make a good and reliable officer.

Place...
Date...
Headquarters,
No. 4 Group,
Royal Air Force.

W. H. F. M. J.
Commanding Officer,
Squadron,
Australian Flying Corps.

- Forwarded -

Place...
Date...
Commanding 1st Wing,
Australian Flying Corps.

Flight Training Record (National Archives of Australia)

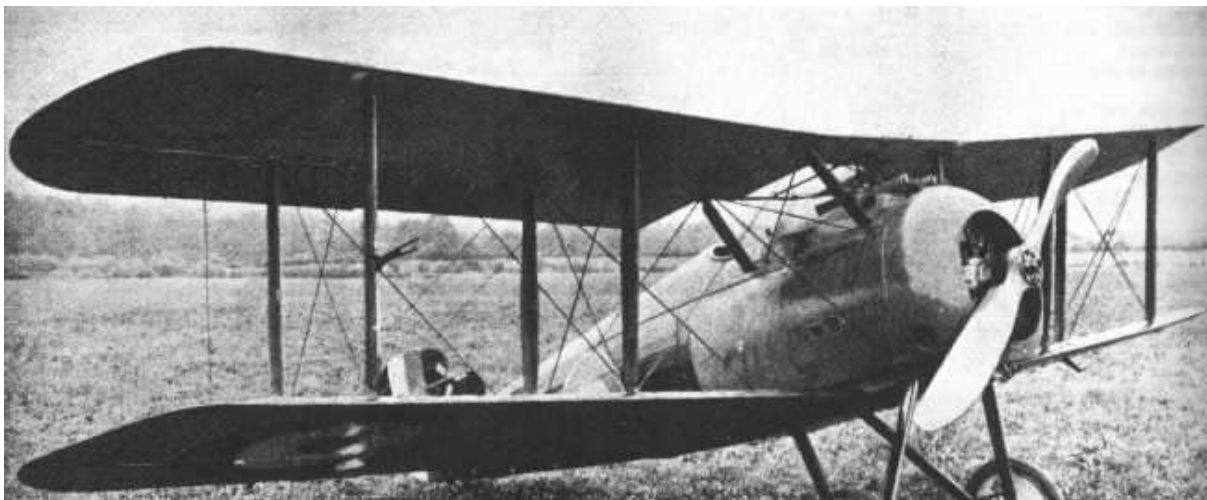


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His first victory took place on the 16th of September 1918 in the vicinity of Frelinghien in northern France whilst flying a Sopwith Camel Serial Number F1403.

In early October 1918, No 4 Squadron was re-equipped with the new and much more manoeuvrable Sopwith Snipe and it was in this aircraft (Serial number E8604) that Palliser achieved the title of an “ace”. In two days, the 28th and 29th October, Palliser shot down two Fokker DVII aircraft on the 28th and followed it up on the next day (the 29th) with three more kills for a total of six aircraft and one balloon.



File photo of a Sopwith Snipe, the type Palliser flew when he had five confirmed kills in two days (28th and 29th October 1918)

The weather in the first few days of November 1918 was poor limiting the amount of flying the squadron could accomplish. Then on the 4th of November, the weather cleared, and visibility was good and that day was to see one of the last great air battles in the First World War involving Australian pilots. In the afternoon, 16 Sopwith Snipes of No 4 Squadron were escorting a group of bombers when a dozen Fokker aircraft, belonging to the feared Jagdstaffel 2 (Jasta 2) Squadron were spotted and a fierce dogfight soon erupted. Four enemy aircraft were shot down, however No 4 Squadron lost three of their own aircraft, tragically Palliser was one of those pilots who lost their lives that day possibly the victim of German ace Karl Bolle.

Lt Palliser is buried in the Anvaing Churchyard at Fransnes – lez – Anvaing, Hainaot, Belgium, where his headstone and cemetery records indicate he died on the 5th of November 1918 just six days prior to the Armistice that ended the war. He was aged 28 years.



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Victories				
Date	Time	Aircraft	Opponent	Location
16 Sep 1918	0820	Sopwith Camel (F1403)	Fokker D.VII (DES)	Frelinghien
05 Oct 1918	0645	Sopwith Camel (E7180)	Balloon (DES)	NE of Quesnoy
28 Oct 1918	1455	Sopwith Snipe (E8064)	Fokker D.VII (DES)	Ath (Belgium)
28 Oct 1918	1455	Sopwith Snipe (E8064)	Fokker D.VII (DES)	Ath
29 Oct 1918	1610	Sopwith Snipe (E8064)	Fokker D.VII (DESF)	NW of Tournai
29 Oct 1918	1610	Sopwith Snipe (E8064)	Fokker D.VII (DES)	NW of Tournai
29 Oct 1918	1610	Sopwith Snipe (E8064)	Fokker D.VII (OOC)	NW of Tournai

The Six Tasmanian World War 1 Aces

Aviator	No Victories	Died
Frank Alberry	7	23 Jan 1969
Allan Runciman Brown	5	Dec 1965
Raymond James Brownell	12	12 Apr 1974
Eric Douglas Cummings	9	27 Oct 1979
Wilmot Hudson Fysh	5	06 Apr 1974
Arthur John Palliser	7	05 Nov 1918

Of the six, only Arthur Palliser was killed in action.

For further information on the World War 1 Airmen, go to:

<https://ww1aero.org.au/database.html>

The list of World War 1 Aces from Australia, go to:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_War_I_aces_from_Australia