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BRIGADE MACHINE GUN OFFICERS.

Minutes of 14th Monthly Meeting.

Held at Headquarters, Royal Air Force, on Thursday, 5th September, 1918.

Presiding : Lieut.-Colonel H. Blackburn, M.C., of H.Q., R.A.F.

Present : Major Pearce (H.Q., R.A.F.), Captain Wain (H.Q., R.A.F.), Major Worswick (H.Q., R.A.F.), Lieut.-Col. Forbes (Air Ministry), Major Hartley (Air Ministry), Lieut. Douglas (M.G.O., 1st Brigade), Captain Sutton (M.G.O., 2nd Brigade), Lieut. Wood (M.G.O., 2nd Wing), Capt. Middlemass (M.G.O., 3rd Brigade), Capt. Swoffer (M.G.O., 5th Brigade), Capt. Groom (M.G.O., 9th Brigade), Captain Miller (M.G.O., 10th Brigade), Lieut. Horan (Repair Park, 1/ASD), Lieut. Reynolds (Reception Park, 1/ASD), Lieut. Cadman (Repair Park, 2/ASD), Lieut. Lonsdale (Stores, No. 1 A.D.), Captain Vernon (Stores, 2/AD), Major Thomas, 3rd Aircraft Park.

The meeting proceeded by going through the Minutes of the last meeting, and taking each item in turn for further comment.

Camera Guns.—Major Pearce stated that mountings had been made and supplied to all S.E.5 and Camel Squadrons, also that mountings were now being made for Bristol Fighter Squadrons, the fitting and position of which was explained to the meeting. 10th Brigade stated that the O.C. 88 Squadron would not hear of the camera gun being fitted to the centre section struts, as these were not strong enough to stand the strain. 3rd Brigade stated that 11 Squadron had used the camera gun in this position ever since Bristol Fighters came out, and had never had any trouble.

3rd Brigade stated that the mounting for S.E. 5's was not considered a very great improvement as it took such a long time to fix and sight correctly, and suggested that some adjustment should be made in the stem holding the brass attachment which acts as the gun barrel, to give vertical and lateral adjustment. The only other method was by adjusting the Nieuport Clip and so spoil the alignment for the Lewis gun.

There were no complaints from other Brigades.

10th Brigade asked if time expired machines could not be allotted to Squadrons for Gunnery Training, and so save all the trouble of changing guns, sights, etc. The President stated that this was not to be recommended in view of the danger of crashes, etc., but promised to bring the point forward.

Modified Control Attachment for " B " Type Reservoir " C.C." Gear.—The necessity for the auxiliary spring was discussed. It was stated that in some cases the original " mouse-trap " spring was considered good enough, and it was decided that the use of the extra spring should be left to the discretion of Squadrons. Major Hartley stated that there was a large number of these extra springs in stock at home, and it was agreed that these should be sent out to France, and Squadrons could have them on demand if desired.

Luminous Sights for Night Flying Squadrons.—Major Pearce stated that sights that are required to be illuminated should be sent in to the Repair Park, where they would be done properly.

Major Pearce stated, for the information of Colonel Forbes, that illuminated sights of the electric type were not required by the E.F. This had already been stated in letters.

Lewis Gun Extractors.—3rd Brigade produced two samples of two-piece extractors that had consistently given trouble in faulty extraction and no extraction at all. These had been thoroughly tested by the B.M.G.O. himself, who found the complaint quite genuine. Other extractors issued to him had worked perfectly and given no trouble whatever.

5th Brigade quoted one case of one piece of an extractor pulling out. Otherwise everything O.K., and very satisfactory. England had been asked to make the lip on this extractor at right angles.

On the whole everyone is satisfied with the two-piece extractor.

Adjustable Loading Handles.—5th Brigade stated that those sent them for trial were in every way satisfactory, and very adaptable. 9th Brigade stated that some had been tried in No. 43 Squadron (Snipes), being used fully extended, and were quite satisfactory.

Major Hartley asked for a decision as to whether the handles should be of 8 or 10 gauge material.

Major Pearce asked that a further 50 of these adjustable handles, of 8 gauge material, should be sent out in order that they may be thoroughly tested before being finally passed. These to be sent out as soon as possible with a view to getting a final report on their suitability, etc., by the next meeting.

5th Brigade asked if " B " type handles could be fitted on D.H.9 machines instead of the Cox type. This will be done.

Sighting on D.H.9's.—This question was again raised.

Major Hartley stated that in England they had overcome the difficulty of the sighting being fouled by the cowling, by elevating the guns about 4 degrees, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " at the rear and $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the front. Machines should be received shortly with guns so fitted.