

JAGDGESCHWADER #1 FIELD BOOK

The following is a translation of the first few pages of the Field Book by Bill Richardson, 423 Annarose Drive, Dallas, Texas. He has the rest of the book, and welcomes correspondence with anyone on World War I aviation. J.J. Sloan

24 June 1917 - Crown Prince Rupprecht of the 4th German Army formed the Jagdgeschwader #1 of Jagdstaffels 4, 6, 10 and 11. The Jastas to operate from one field.

25 June 1917 - Rittmeister Fr. von Richthofen of Jasta 11 appointed commander.

27 June 1917 - The Jastas under the direction of the commander from this date. The four Jastas were to operate from airdromes southwest of Courtrai, Marcke, Marckebieke, Bissighem Meadow. The Staffels to be in position by 2 July 1917.

2 July 1917 - The staff of the Jagdgeschwader #1 complete, Rittmeister Frhr. von Richthofen, Commander; Lt. Krefft (Jasta 11) as Technical Officer; Oblt. Bodenschatz (from Jasta 2 Boelcke) as Adjutant. Rittm. Frhr. von Richthofen shot down his 57th victory. Jagdgeschwader Staff at Marckebieke.

It July 1917 - After a strong argument with the Commanding General of Air, there was added to the staff a doctor, an accountant (or bookkeeper) and 62 underofficers and men from July 4. The staff was set up using the same facilities for communications and news with the Jasta 11,

5 July 1917 - The Army High Command ordered the Jastas 4, 6, 10 and 11 to take off at 1200 under the direction of Jagdgeschwader #1, Jag. #1 issued orders 6 July 1917 to stand by and take off at dawn in order, Jasta 11, 10, 6 and 4. From 1330 to 1500 they would take off in order Jasta 10, 6, 4 and 11. The Jag. #1 received new pilots as follows: 6-30 Lt. Stapenhorst from Park 4 to Jasta 11; 7-1 Lt. Joachim Wolff of Fleiger-Abteilung A216 to Jasta 11 (joined 7-6); 7-1 Lt. Meyer of Fl-Abt. A201 to Jasta 11 (joined 7-14); 7-2 Lt. von Schoenbeck of Fl-Abt. A203 to Jasta 11 (joined 7-7); 7-2 Oberleutnant Reinhard of Fl-Abt. 28 to Jasta School G.B. and from 7-14 to Jasta 11 (joined 7-7); 7-6 Oblt. Frhr. von Althaus from Jasta 14 to Jasta 10 as Commander; 7-6 Oblt. Scheffer of Fl-Obs-School Koln to Jasta 11 (joined 7-12) as technical officer; 7-8 Lt. Stock of Jasta 22 to Jasta 6 (joined 7-13); 7-9 Oblt. Lischke of Fl-Abt. 39 to Jasta 6 as technical officer; 7-11 Oblt. Weigand of Park 4 to Jasta 10; 7-15 Oblt. Muller of Fl-Abt. 18 to Park 4 from 7-16 to Jasta 11 (joined 7-19). Victory: Oblt. Dostler, Jasta 6, 1820, no. Ypres in Square K 43, Balloon, his 13th victory. Weather partly cloudy.

6 July 1917 - The staff is now situated in Marckebieke Kortvijker Str. 74. Victories: Lt. Klein, Jasta 4, 1525, Frezenberg, Square A 45, small square 7, Sopwith 13th victory. Lt. Kurt Wolff, Jasta 11, 2120, southwest Ypres, R.E., 32nd victory. Loss: Rittm. Frhr. von Richthofen, JG 1, 1130, Wervicq, while attacking a squadron of Vickers he was hit in the back of the head by machine gun bullet. In the field hospital 76 in Courtrai. Oblt. von Doering commander of Jasta 4 to be commander Jg 1 while the commander in hospital.

7 July 1917 - Victories: Lt. Kurt Wolff, Jasta 11, 1100, by Comines on this side, Triplane, his 33rd victory, Lt. Kruger, Jasta 4, 1105, by Wervicq this side, Triplane 1st, Lt. Hiederioff; Jasta 11, 1110, by Boubesque this side, Triplane, 4th. Vfw.Kreba Jasta 6, 1135, by Zillebeck beyond, R.E., 6th.....etc.