

10/27/61

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

DECEMBER 1942
TO
AUGUST 1945

ORIGINAL

3 FIELD BAKING
COMPANY - (SUMMARY)

PREPARATION OF OUTSTANDING RECORDS

3 Aust Field Bakery - 20 December 1942 - 2 Sgts 4 Cpls 28 Ptes * 34.
In charge of Sgt Summergreene.
Section from 2 Aust Fd Bakery NSW, 8 American
ovens at eastern end of showgrounds Atherton.
First bread produced on 2 Jan 43.
Production gradually increased to about 9600 lbs at end of first month.
Lt. Gordon i/c D.I.D. administered command of bakery.
Lt. Oakes was posted as O.C. during March 43 and Lt. Power was also
posted as an officer about that time.
A section arrived as reinforcements comprising 34 O/Rs in charge
of Sgt Wills on 9 May 43.
Lt. Oakes was reposted and Capt. Rattray was posted as O.C. on 16 May 43.
New bakery was built on western side of showgrounds and was opened
for full production during May 43. This comprised 3 bakehouses each
holding 4 steam pipe ovens, 3 bread and store rooms and orderly room.
By end of May 43 the production increased considerably and was about
40,000 lbs daily.
In June 43 Capt Rattray was reposted and Lt. J.L. JOHNSTON became O.C.
In July 43 4 platoons were operating at full capacity.
Due to movement of troops from this area production decreased to
a daily amount of approx 22,000 lbs at end of Dec 43.
On 13 Sep a bakery was opened at Paramatta Park Cairns under command
of Lt. Power. During 1943 Lieuts Thiele, Lack and Chilton were
commissioned the first two being reposted. Lt. Windsor was posted
to the unit during August 43.
During June 43 arrangements were made for messing and quartering of
personnel at Atherton Details Camp and this arrangement has at no
time proved satisfactory.
In Sep 43 a platoon under command of Lt. Lack was warned for overseas
service and proceeded to New Guinea as part of 4 Fd Bakery.
The following is a summary of the working of the unit during the
period 1 Jan to 31 Dec 44:--

Visits to the area were paid by -

Col McLean DDST Q'land L of C Area
Lt Col Richardson former DDST
Capt Eades Bakery administration officer LHQ
Major Jones DADST 17 AUST L OF U Sub Area
Col Easterbrook DDST LHQ
Lt Col Bulcher ADST Q'land L of C Area
Major Ritchard DADST 17 Sub Area
Major Callaghan SSBA LHQ
Brig McGrath DDST LHQ
Col. Price RASC
Col Neucham DDST First Aust Army
Col Cardale Comd 17 Sub Area
Major Lovett DSC LHQ
Major Gen Murray Rear Ech First Aust Army
Major Edmunds DADS Q'land L of C Area.
Major Lawrence Major Supp 1 Corps
Inspector of Supplies weights and measures and EME Rubber inspected
installations also.

During the year due to considerable overuse damage was caused to
steampipe ovens by reason of pipes exploding. Repairs necessitate
pulling ~~xxxx~~ down whole of firebox of oven thus leaving oven idle
for a considerable time. The unit has at all times been handicapped
through lack of a competent oven repairer and parts required.
During February 4 new ovens arrived.
On 7 March the W.E. of Field Bakeries was re-organised and the
3 Aust Fd Bakery became -

3 Aust Fd Baking Coy	OC	Capt. J.L. JOHNSTON
19 Aust Fd Baking Pl	OC	Lt. V.T. POWER
20 Aust Fd Baking Pl	OC	Lt. E.I. CHILTON
21 Aust Fd Baking Pl	OC	Lt. E.D. PAULSEN

On 15 March two reinforcement platoons arrived 29 Platoon with OC
Lt. M.R. MACKAY and 30 Platoon OC Lt. J.A. MERRITT.

On 20 March quantities of damaged flour were received. A large amount was condemned the remainder being used after sieving in production.

On 9 Apr 20 Pl took over Cairns area in lieu of 19 Pl which returned to Atherton.

On 20 Apr bakery detachment at Iron Range previously operated by 8 Fd Baking Coy was taken over by this Coy and three personnel despatched to operate same.

On 25 June 21 Platoon took over Cairns from 20 Platoon. When returning to Atherton along Gillies Highway one vehicle containing 13 members of platoon crashed over the cliff two being killed and remainder severely injured.

On 8 July 31 Platoon under command of Lt. A.B.Hill arrived as reinforcement platoon and took over bakery installation at Ravenshoe previously conducted by 15 Pl.

Mr. J. Edwards of Cyco Yeast Sydney visited bakery and demonstrated the use of Dribarm.

Lt. A.B.Hill was transferred to 42 Pl 19 July his place here taken by Lt. Hartley.

During Aug Sep Oct bakeries in all area reached maximum production working 24 hrs per day shift work, Towards end of year a slight falling off was experienced.

About 21 Nov a change over to Dribarm in lieu of compressed yeast was made in order to dispose of warranty expired stocks. Ice was used to endeavour to regulate temp of doughs.

On 7 Dec considerable damage was caused when steam pipes in two ovens blew out. This fact coupled with shortage of firebars placed a strain on remaining ovens which had to maintain maximum production as repairs were held up owing to lack of equipment. Total production for the year was 13,134,566 lbs of bread made up as follows :-

Atherton	8,777,716
Cairns	2,777,140
Ravenshoe	1,560,666
Iron Range	19,044

During the period 1 Jan 44 to 30 Aug 44 production gradually dropped due to movement of troops from Atherton tablelands area. The quality of bread produced has also deteriorated to a marked degree because of the necessity of all old and warranty expired yeast and flour being used. Inspections of bakery were carried out periodically by students of AASC School when the principles of bakery supply and working of a Field Bakery was explained.

Lt. Power and Lt. Chilton marched out on 11 Jan on reposting.

On 24 Jan 45 Lt. P.K.W. White marched in as OC 20 Pl. On 17 Feb Lt. Dixon was commissioned and posted as OC 19 Pl.

Lt. Colliery marched in from 13 Aust Fd Baking Coy as Adm officer on 18 Feb and the following day Lt. Windsor marched out on movement to 13 Aust Fd Baking Coy. Lt. Merritt was transferred to 14 Aust Fd Baking Pl on 23 Apr and Lt. Dwyer marched in on 25 Apr as OC 30 Pl.

Due to posting of a S/Sgt AEME Armt Art Fitter for maintenance of ovens urgent repairs were able to be carried out and also it was possible to maintain the ovens in an excellent workmanlike condition. These repairs necessitated making complete new fire boxes rebricking same and fitting with full sets of new steam pipes.

On 25 Feb 20 Pl replaced 31 Pl at Ravenshoe. 29 Pl relieved 30 Pl at Cairns on 4 March. On 22 Apr 20 Pl received a warning for movement overseas and was withdrawn from Ravenshoe being replaced by a detachment from 30-31 Pls.

29 Pl received warning order for overseas movement on 6 May so was withdrawn from Cairns being replaced by 19 Pl. Due to movement of all troops (9 Div) from area Ravenshoe bakery closed down on 8 May and detachment withdrawn to Atherton. On 4 June 20 Pl despatched to take operational role overseas. 31 Pl entrained on 5 June to rejoin parent unit - 16 Fd Baking Coy in Brisbane.

Capt. J.L. Johnston OC was reposted to 6 Coy on 21 June the new OC posted to this Coy being Capt. D.L. Morris of 4 Coy who arrived on 12 Aug 45. On 12 July 19 Pl was warned for overseas movement but due to alteration in war situation the movement was later amended and the Pl moved to Brisbane for concentration after leave. On 19 Pl being withdrawn from Cairns that area was operated by composite section from 21 and 30 Pls. On 17 Aug a ~~celebration~~ celebration to mark the signing of peace was held. The total production to end of Aug 45 was as follows :-

Atherton	3,650,718	Cairns	1,110,412	Ravenshoe	964,816	Iron Range	7,314	Total	5,737,260 lbs.
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LOUISE STREET

LAUNDRY

BAKERY AREA

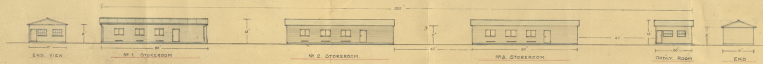
3RD AUSTRALIAN BAKERY A.F.F.

ATHERTON

SCALE 20' to 1"

SCALE 20' to 1"

SIDE ELEVATION OF STOREROOMS AND ORDERLY ROOM

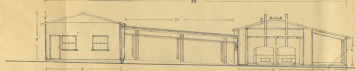


BAKEHOUSE AND OVENS



SCALE 10' to 1"

END VIEW OF BAKEHOUSE AND STOREROOM



BY ARCHT.
H. J. TAYLOR