

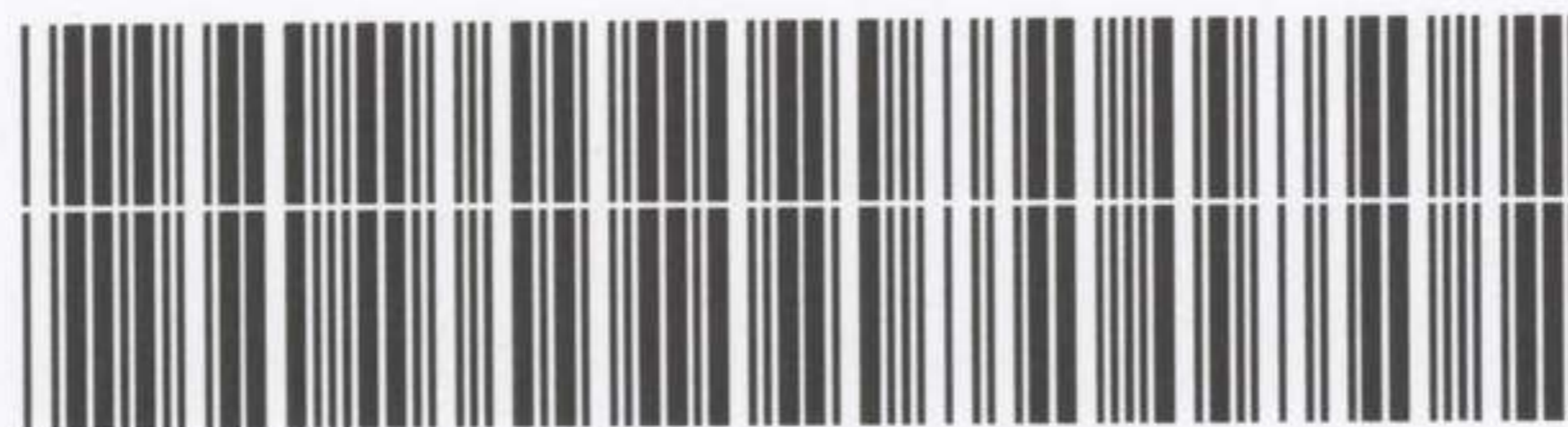
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/39/3

**Title:** 2nd Australian Field Bakery

February 1918



AWM4-25/39/3

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Field Bakery*

FOR

*February* 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

*J. Miles. Major.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. Miles. Major.*

February 1st.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Leave 26, Sick 1, Hospital 2,  
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 57 o.r.

O.C., 2nd. Aust. Field Bakery took over command of all A.S.C. Details in  
camp, in addition to his duties as O.C., Bakeries.

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February 2nd.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Leave 11, Hospital 3, Available for  
Duty, 1 Officer. 72 o.r.

Second party of Officers from Staff School, Cambridge visited the Bakery.

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February 3rd.

Strength 1 Officer. 91 o.r. Deficiency 1, (Pte. admitted to Hospital, Eng.  
V.D., whilst on leave) Details 6, Leave 9, Hospital 3, Available for  
Duty, 1 Officer. 73 o.r.

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February 4th.

Strength 1 Officer. 91 o.r. Def. 1, Details 6, Leave 8, Sick 2, Hospital 3,  
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 72 o.r.

Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Sheffield visited the Bakery.

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February 5th.

Strength 1 Officer. 91 o.r. Def. 1, Details 6, Leave 4, Hospital 3, Avail.  
for Duty, 1 Officer. 78 O.R.

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February 6th.

Strength 1 Officer. 90 o.r. Def. 2, (Pte. admitted to Hospital, England,  
whilst on Leave) Details 6, Leave 3, Hospital 3, Available for Duty,  
1 Officer. 78 o.r.

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February 7th.

Strength 1 Officer. 90 o.r. Def. 2, Details 6, Leave 3, Hospital 3, Available  
for Duty, 1 Officer. 78 o.r.

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February 8th.

Strength 1 Officer. 90 o.r. Def. 2, Details 6, Leave 3, Sick 1, Hospital 3,  
Available for Duty, 1 Officer. 77 o.r.  
M. Briantchininov, Russian representative of the Novoie Vremea, and M. Seger,  
French representative of Le Brest, visited the Bakery.

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February 9th.

Strength 1 Officer. 90 o.r. Def. 2. Details 6, Leave 1, Hospital 3, Avail.  
for Duty, 1 Officer. 80 o.r.

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February 10th.

Strength 1 Officer. 91 o.r. Def. 1, (Pte. taken on strength from 1st. Fld. Bky)  
Details 6, Hospital 3, Avail. for Duty 1 Officer. 82 o.r.

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February 11th.

Strength 1 Officer. 91 o.r. Def. 1, Details 6, Hosp. 3, Avail for Duty,  
1 Officer. 82 o.r.

Prisoners of War employed in place of Chinese labour.

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February 12th.

Strength 1 Officer. 91 o.r. Def. 1, Details 6, Sick 2, Hospital 3, Avail  
for Duty 1 Officer. 80 o.r.

Received orders for Master Baker to leave by 7 p.m. train to Boulogne for  
the purpose of proceeding to England in connection with the new Calais  
Bakery to be built at Les Attaques.

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*J.M.*

February 13th.

Strength 1 Offer. 91 o.r. Def. 1, Details 6, Isolation 1, F.P. No. 2, 1, Sick 2, Hospital 3, Available for Duty, 1 Offer. 78 o.r.  
Party of Canadian Staff Officers visited the Bakery.

February 14th.

Strength 1 Offer. 91 o.r. Def, 1. Details 6, Iso. 1, F.P.No.2, 1, Sick 2, Hospital 3, Available for Duty 1 Offer. 78 o.r.  
Captain Amundsen, the Artic Explorer, and a Naval Attache visited the Bky.

February 15th.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. (Pte taken on strength ex A.S.C. Base Depot, Havre) Details 6, Iso. 1, F.P. NO.2 1, Hospital 3, Available for Duty 1 Offer. 81 o.r.  
Stock of flour lowest on record. Flour store emptied, and not sufficient for following days baking. Flour in ships in dock, but not unloaded. The "River Araxis" arrived in leaky condition, having collided with break-water to avoid collision with another vessel. All available labour and cranes put on to unload cargo.

February 16th.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. Iso. 1, F.P.NO2 1, Hospital 3, Available for Duty 1 Offer. 81 o.r. Details 6.  
Attack by aircraft, but no damage to bakery or camp.

February 17th.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Iso. 1, F.P.No.2. 1, Sick 1, Hos. 3, Available for Duty, 1 Offer. 80 o.r. Air-craft alarm.  
Chairman and Vice Chairman of London Stock Exchange and Lloyds visited the Bakery, also a party of French Administrative Staff Officers. (18/2/19)

February 18th.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Iso 1, F.P.No.2 1, DeT. in Med. Hut 1, Hospital 3, Available for Duty 1 Offer. 80 o.r.  
Air-craft alarm at about 7.30 p.m. but nothing eventuated until about 9.30 p.m. when an attack was made and a number of bombs were dropped, but no military damage or casualties occurred in the camp except slight damage to a few buildings from dud shells and shrapnel.

February 19th.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Iso. 1, F.P.No2.1, Leave 1, Sick 2, Hospital 3, Available for Duty 1 Offer. 78 o.r.

February 20th.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. (1 Pte struck off strength from Hos. 1 Rein. received) Details 6, Iso. 1, F.P.No.1.1, Leave 2, 2 Sick, Hospital 2, Available for Duty 1 Offer, 78 o.r.

February 21st.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Iso. 1, F.P.No.1. 1, Leave 3, Sick 3, Hospital 2. Available for Duty, 1 Offer. 76 o.r.

February 22nd.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. Details 6, F.P.No.1. 1, Leave 4, Sick 3, Hospital 2, Available for Duty 1 Offer. 76 o.r.

February 23rd.

Strength 1 Offer. 92 o.r. Details 6, F.P. No.1. 1, Leave 4, Sick 5, Hospital 2, Available for Duty 1 Offer. 74 o.r.

February 24th.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, F.P.No.1.1, Leave 4, Sick 2, Hospital 2, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 77 o.r.

February 25th.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, F.P.No.1.1, Leave 4, Sick 1, Hospital 1, Available for Duty 1 Officer, 79 o.r.

February 26th.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, F.P.No.1.1, Leave 4, Sick 1, Hospital 1, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 79 o.r.

February 27th.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Leave 5, Hospital 1, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 80 o.r.

February 28th.

Strength 1 Officer 92 o.r. Details 6, Leave 5, Hospital 1, 3 men proceed to England to give evidence in D.C.M. of Pte Steevson, Available for Duty 1 Officer 77 O.R.

G E N E R A L .

NEW BAKERY.

It has been decided recently to erect a new bakery on a site a few miles out from Calais, with up-to-date machinery and drawplate ovens. This bakery will be capable of turning out 800,000 lbs. of bread daily if worked at full pressure but it is proposed to only produce up to 500,000 lbs. daily at present, keeping two sets of ovens in reserve in case of emergency. It is estimated that this amount can be produced by working two nine hour shifts, and will result in a great saving of man power, the personnel required being 209 men and 270 women, instead of a personnel of 1041 o.r. as at present. The bakery will be built in two sections, with a space of 150 feet between each section, so that in case of attack by air-craft, if one section should be put out of action, the other would be able to carry on. The site has been decided on, and it is hoped to have the building erected and machinery installed, and the bakery in working order in three or four months from the present time. The present bakery will be held in reserve in case of emergency.

SHORTAGE OF FLOUR.

The stock of flour this month has been the lowest on record, and on the 15th., the flour store was completely empty, and not sufficient in bakery for the following days supply. Two steamers were at the wharf with flour, but had not been offloaded. On that day the steamer "River Araxis" arrived with a cargo of flour from Canada in a leaky condition, having collided with the break-water to avoid collision with another steamer. With a plentiful supply of labour and appliances, and by working all night, a very large quantity of the flour was off-loaded, including that damaged by water. This latter was immediately used, and although something like a thousand bags had been damaged, it resulted in very slight loss. The situation was saved and the flour store is rapidly being filled again.

CHECKING OF BREAD.

A good deal of trouble has been experienced recently with checkers. These men have been provided from Labour Companies, and when the particular company supplying these men is removed (which has frequently been the case for some time past) new men have to be put on, and very often the result is incorrect checking and its consequences. This is an important matter, as it is impossible to keep a correct account of bread issued when unreliable checkers are employed. Reliable checkers should be selected and attached to the bakery permanently to avoid the constant changes that have been taking place here. In some cases it has been found that as many

*J.M.*

(4)

as 62 loaves were put in a bag instead of 50 , and in small bags, 22 in place of 20. This has of course resulted in a large deficiency in the bread store when taking stock. Representations have been made to have a number of checkers attached to the bakery permanently, but so far without result.

*J.M.*



# APPENDIX

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Field Bakery

Comparative Statement shewing number of articles authorised and number drawn for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 1917.

ARTICLES :—	BREECHES.	JACKETS...	SHIRTS.....	SOCKS.....	DRAWERS	BRACES..	HATS...	TOWELS..	CARDIGANS	GREATCOATS	BAKERS... ...TROUSERS	Do.	...JACKETS	Do.	...VESTS
No. DRAWN.	91	119	116	115	86	25	58	62	16	NIL.	50	NIL.			4
No. AUTHORISED.	135	135	270*	540	180	120	135	120	69	45	180	90	90		
No. UNDERDRAWN.	44	16	154	425	94	95	77	58	53	45	130	90	86		

\* This quantity includes the additional shirt allowed to Bakers on account of the nature of their work.

J.M.



# APPENDIX

## ESTIMATED PERSONNEL, FOR NEW CALAIS BAKERY.

DETAILED.

Offs. WOs. SQMS. SSgts. Sgts. Cpls. Pts. Girls TOTAL  
i/c.

STAFF

	Offs.	WOs.	SQMS.	SSgts.	Sgts.	Cpls.	Pts.	Girls	TOTAL
Captain	1								1
<del>XXXXXXXXXXXX</del> Subalterns.	2								2
Office Clerks		1		1				5	7
RSM. i/c Company Duties		1							1
Master Baker		1							1
Assistant to Master Baker		1							1
i/c Flour Store & Girl Checkers			1	1				4	6
i/c Sack Store					1				1
i/c Yeast & Salt & Girl Chkr.				1				1	2
i/c Bread Ldg. into trains & girl checkers			1		2			6	9
i/c Sick Parade					1				1
Carpenters					1		1		2
i/c Drying Room						1			1
Barber							1		1
i/c Cooks Issuing Stores etc.				1					1
Women cooks and orderlies								40	40
Mens Hut Orderlies							6		6
TOTAL	3	4	2	4	5	1	8	56	83
Add 10 p.c. for Sick, Leave &c					1		1	6	8
TOTAL	3	4	2	4	6	1	9	62	91

1 SHIFT FOR 1 UNIT.

Shooting Flour							3		3
Cleaning Sack (2 per machine)								4	4
Work Kneaders (5 mchns empd at Pushg troughs to Dvdrs. (once)						5		5	10
Feeding Dividers							3		3
Taking off Moulders								6	6
Pushing setters to Ovens								6	6
Oven men setting brd. (2 per grp)							6		6
Oven girls (drawing & racking)								9	9
Stokers (2 per Grp)							6		6
Hot Water Blr. stkr. (Ltg. fires)							2		2
Pshg. away Racks & pkg. approx. 9 1/2 mins. per journey.								6	6
Mechanic and Helper (grease mcs.)					1		1		2
Spare men & Wmn. (swpg. up &c.)							4	5	9
i/c Unit.			1						1
i/c Dvdg. & Mldg. Plant.						3			3
i/c Kndrs. & Flour Plant.				2					2
i/c Ovens (1 looks after 2 adjacent grps & the other after the separate group.)				2					2
i/c Stoking.							1		1
i/c Bread Rackers							1		1

TOTAL

2 SHIFTS FOR 2 UNITS -

Add 10 p.c. for sick, leave &c								2	36
TOTAL. (exclusive of staff)	4	18	13	35	110		208		388
TOTAL STAFF	3	4	2	4	6	1	9	62	91
TOTAL BAKERY SHIFTS		4	18	13	35	110	208		388

GRAND TOTAL.

3	4	6	22	19	36	119	270		479
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*J.M.*



# APPENDIX

## EXTRACTS FROM MASTER BAKER'S ACCOUNTS. FEBRUARY 1918.

Shewing receipts, expenditure and production etc. in  
Flour, Cones, Bread, Salt and Yeast.

### FLOUR.

Remains 31/1/18	230,000 lbs.	
Receipts Feby.	<u>6,832,060</u>	"
Total.	7,062,060	"
Expended	<u>6,852,009</u>	"
Remains 28/2/18	210,051	"

### CONES.

Remains 31/1/18	1,540	"
Receipts Feby.	<u>44,520</u>	"
Total.	46,060	"
Expended,	<u>44,660</u>	"
Remains 28/2/18	1,400	"

### BREAD.

Remains 31/1/18	637,050	"
Produced Feby.	<u>9,054,614</u>	"
Total.	9,691,664	"
Issued Jany.	<u>9,001,371</u>	"
Remains 28/2/18	690,293	"

### SALT.

Remains 31/1/18	18,080	"
Receipts Feby.	<u>101,680</u>	"
Total.	119,760	"
Expended	<u>91,040</u>	"
Remains 28/2/18	28,720	"

### YEAST.

Remains 31/1/18	7,595	"
Receipts Feby.	<u>29,792</u>	"
Total.	37,387	"
Expended,	<u>29,498</u>	"
Remains 28/2/18	7,889	"

*J.M.*

