

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/39/6

Title: 2nd Australian Field Bakery

May 1918



AWM4-25/39/6

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd Aust. Field Bakery

FOR

May 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

J. Miles. Maj. AIF

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. Miles. Maj. AIF

May 1st.

Establishment 1 Officer. 93 o.r. Strength 1 Officer r. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1)
Details 6, Hospital 1, Available for Duty 1 Officer, 86 o.r.

May 2nd.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 1,
Avail. for Duty 1 Officer. 85 o.r.

May 3rd.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 1,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 85 o.r.

May 4th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1, Hospital 1,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 85 o.r.
Air-raid warning 5.30 p.m.

May 5th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1, Hospital 1,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 85 o.r.

May 6th.

Strength 1 Officer. 95 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1², Sick 1,
Hospital 3, Available for Duty 1 Officer 82 o.r.
Air-raid warnings 5.30 and 6.30 p.m.

May 7th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1, Sick 1,
Hospital 3, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 82 o.r.

May 8th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1, Sick 1,
Hospital 5, Available for Duty 1 Officer 80 o.r.

May 9th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1 Sick 3,
Hospital 7, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 76 o.r.
Air-raid 1 a.m. to 3.20 a.m. Warning 4 p.m. Raid 11.30 p.m. to
12.47 a.m. 10/5/18.

May 10th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1, Detained in
Med. Hut 1, Hospital 9, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 76 o.r.
Air raid warning 1.30 to 2.15 a.m.

May 11th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Leave 1, Sick 1,
Hospital 9, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 76 o.r.

May 12th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 9,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 77 o.r.

May 13th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 9,
Available for Duty 1 Officer 77 o.r.

J.M.

May 14th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 8,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 78 o.r.
Air raid 10.50 to midnight.

May 15th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 2, Hospital 4,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 81 o.r.
Air raid warnings 12.50 p.m. 1.40 p.m. and 4.45 p.m. Air raid 10 p.m.
to midnight. Many bombs dropped but no damage to bakery or personnel.

May 16th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 84 o.r.

May 17th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Hospital 2, Available for
Duty 1 Officer. 85 o.r.

May 18th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 3, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 82 o.r.
Air raid warning 10.15 p.m. All clear 11.30 p.m.

May 19th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 84 o.r.
Air raid warning 12.15 a.m. All clear 12.45 a.m. Warning 12.30 p.m.
All clear 1.15 a.m. 20/5/18.

May 20th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Isolated 1, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 84 o.r.
Air raid 10.30 to 11.45 p.m.

May 21st.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 2, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 83 o.r.
Air raid 12.30 to 1.15 a.m. Alarm 5.30 p.m. Air raid 11.30 p.m.
to 12.50 a.m. 22/5/18.

May 22nd.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 85 o.r.
Air raid 1.30 to 2.15 a.m. Air raid 1.30 p.m. to 11.15 p.m.

May 23rd.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 2, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 83 o.r.

May 24th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 84 o.r.

May 25th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Hospital 3, Available
for Duty 1 Officer. 84 o.r.

J.M.

May 26th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Hospital 2, Available
for Duty 1 Officer. 85 o.r.

May 27th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (Surplus 1) Details 6, Sick 1, Hospital 2,
Available for Duty 1 Officer. 84 o.r.

May 28th.

Strength 1 Officer. 93 o.r. (1 Man transferred to 26th Batt.) Details 6,
Det. in Med. Hut 1, Sick 2, Hospital 2, Available for Duty 1 officer
81 o.r.

May 29th.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Hospital 2, Available for Duty
1 Officer. 84 o.r.

May 30th.

Strength 1 Officer 92 o.r. Details 6, Hospital 2, Available for Duty
1 Officer. 84 o.r.

May 31st.

Strength 1 Officer. 92 o.r. Details 6, Leave 1, Det. in Med. Hut 1,
Hospital 2, Available for Duty 1 Officer. 81 o.r.
Air raid warning 10.50 p.m. All clear midnight.

J.M.

2nd. AUSTRALIAN FIELD BAKERY.

Owing to the constant severe attacks from enemy air-craft, it has been decided not to proceed with the new machine bakery in this area, but to continue using the present building, and erect the new one in some other part of France, probably Rouen.

Changes in personnel have taken place, an American Field Bakery having arrived here, and a Canadian Bakery has departed for Boulogne. It would be much better, however, if it could be arranged for Units belonging to other countries than the British Empire to work entirely on their own, as their system of working is different, and a good deal of difficulty is experienced in the matter of discipline, the idea prevailing with all ranks being that no orders should be given them except by their own officers or N.C.Os. A good deal of trouble was caused in this respect at first, until it was very strongly impressed upon all concerned that when working in the bakery there could only be one head, as it would only lead to endless trouble and confusion were it not so. They have now settled down to their new conditions, and matters are working more satisfactorily.

YEAST.

A good deal of trouble has been experienced this month with yeast. With the advance of warm weather the yeast has been arriving in very unsatisfactory condition, due to various causes. One of the causes is that the yeast has been "doctored" before packing, that is, pricked with skewers and dipped in water to keep it moist, with the consequence that by the time the yeast arrived it was in many cases de-composed and quite unfit for use. Bad handling in transit is another cause of the bad condition on arrival. The yeast is sent in 7 lb. bags packed in green hampers. These are often placed in the bottom of the hold with nails and other cargo on top, with the consequence that the hampers are broken in pieces and the yeast badly crushed. Although strong reports have been sent in in connection with this matter, no improvement has taken place up to date. As recently as the 30th. of this month a Board was held, and 1866 lbs. of yeast condemned as unfit for human consumption, and the consignors ordered to pay the cost. Too much care cannot be taken in the handling of yeast, it being of a soft and perishable nature. Instead of being swung to and from the ships in nets with other cargo, it should be placed on trays, to prevent crushing, and stowed in a separate part of the hold. This has been recommended in a report previously submitted.

When it is considered that 1344 lbs. of yeast are used daily it is a serious matter when consignments are frequently arriving in such bad condition.

J.M.

EXTRACTS FROM MASTER BAKER'S ACCOUNTS.
MAY 1918.

APPENDIX

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

FLOUR.

Remains 30/4/18.	269,280 lbs.	
Receipts May	<u>8,792,000</u>	"
Total	9,061,280	"
Expended	<u>8,859,680</u>	"
Remains 31/5/18	201,600	"

extract.

CONES.

Remains 30/4/18	2,100	"
Receipts May	<u>60,760</u>	"
Total	62,860	"
Expended	<u>62,160</u>	"
Remains 31/5/18	700	"

BREAD.

Remains 30/4/18	601,985	"
Produced May	<u>12,020,412</u>	"
Total	12,622,397	"
Expended	<u>12,015,819</u>	"
Remains 31/5/18	606,578	"

SALT.

Remains 30/4/18	24,240	"
Receipts May	<u>98,080</u>	"
Total	122,320	"
Expended	<u>111,680</u>	"
Remains 31/5/18	10,640	"

YEAST.

Remains 30/4/18	11,368	"
Receipts May	<u>65,800</u>	"
Total	77,168	"
Expended	<u>66,352</u>	"
Remains 31/5/18	10,816	"

J.M.