

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/44/12

Title: 2nd Australian Field Butchery

May 1918



AWM4-25/44/12

Confidential "Original"

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Austn
Field Butchery May 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Calais May 1918			<p>The Strength of the Unit up to Establishment is One Officer & twenty other Ranks and the members are still posted in the same positions and at the same stations as described in April diary, with the following exception, i.e. Pte Moon transferred from Vendroux to Audruicq for temporary duty on 9th. From reports received all ranks are giving entire satisfaction at the different places where they are employed. The O. Co. Major Ford still remains at Rintent as O/C Supplies where everything is going along smoothly & perfectly.</p> <p><u>Hospital</u> Pte Moon was discharged from No 30 Genl Hospital Calais on 5th rejoining his Depot at Vendroux same date. Pte McDonald was admitted to the same Hospital on 6th and sent to the Australian Convalescent Hospital Le Havre on 11th and returned to his Base Calais on 25th.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> The month comparatively speaking has been a fine one and a fall of rain would do a deal of good so far as the crops are concerned and also diminish the heavy dust. The days were fine on 1st, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 & 26 to 31; light rain on 4, 7, 13 & 24 and cloudy & misty on 10, 11, 12, 17 & 23;</p> <p><u>Discipline</u> The discipline of the Unit has been excellent, and nothing calling for investigation at Orderly Room.</p> <p><u>General</u> The new Influenza made itself known in the camp and also the surrounding ones, and most of the Austns suffered.</p>	

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD BUTCHERY.
No. *Moey*
Date *31. 5. 18*

Confidential
Original

War Diary (Continued May 1918)
2nd Austr Field Butchery

Calais
May
1918.

from it more or less severely, also a good number of the other Troops. The symptoms comprised, headache, pains all over the body, temporary use of the limbs, with an extremely weakening effect for some few days, there were no deaths and every one is now quite well again. To the Australians it was the usual "Influenza epidemic" which makes its appearance out there from time to time and caused no casualties amongst any of the Troops; A large number of reinforcements are passing through on their way to the front and one often notices Austus amongst the drafts.

Hostile Aircraft

On the evening of the 6th at 7.30 PM we had our first visit for the month by Hostile Aircraft, nothing was however dropped in the Camp, the weather becoming cloudy the Machines made off dropping their missiles outside, on the Western side of the Camp. On the night of the 8th they again came over at 11.30 o'clock and were subjected to a very heavy barrage (Some guns of large Calibre having been recently erected, together with machine guns on the heights around the Camp) causing them to make off and leave us alone they dropped bombs in the surrounding district causing casualties to the civilian population but nothing of any Military importance, the raid finished at 1.15 on the morning of the 9th. A Dumbo came over at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the latter date & dropped some bombs in the vicinity of Gurbroux causing however no damage. The same night we were visited by Gothas, at midnight it being beautifully fine and starry although they hovered over and around the Camp & Docks, the excellent barrage from the Anti-aircraft guns made things very uncomfortable for them and doubtless was the cause of their dropping no bombs they gave the surrounding centres a plentiful quantity also causing several casualties to the civilian population and property but done nothing of any Military importance.

W. J. Major
O.C. 2nd Austr Field Butchery.

2ND
AUSTRALIAN
FIELD BUTCHERY.
May
31. 5. 18.