

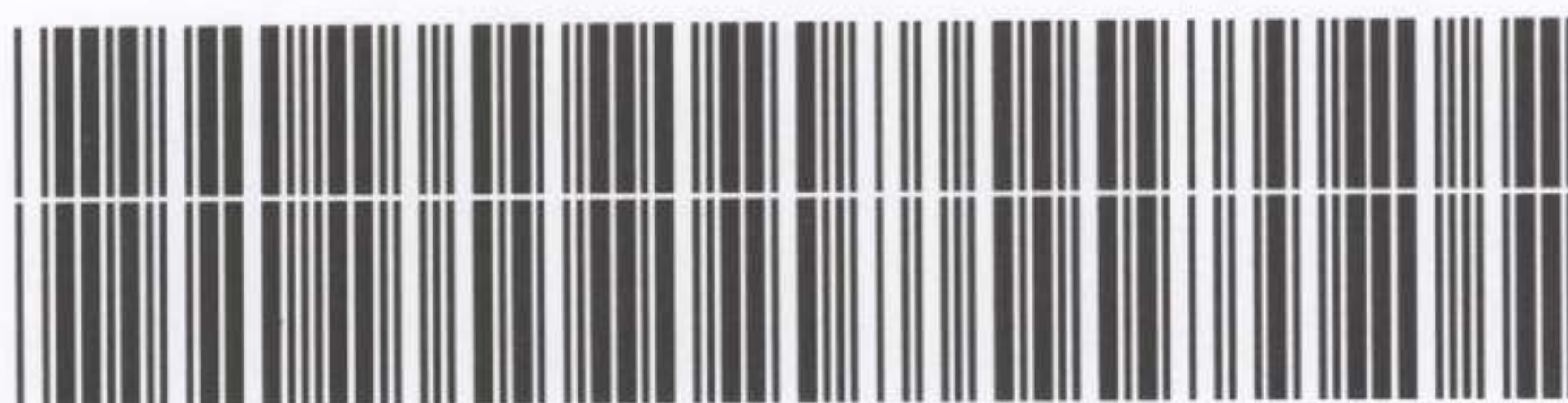
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/44/13

**Title:** 2nd Australian Field Butchery

June 1918



AWM4-25/44/13



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2ND  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD BUTCHERY.  
No. A.....  
Date 18 7. 18.

391

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

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Field Butchery*

FOR

*June 1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*O. J. Ford Major*  
*OC. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Field Butchery*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*O. J. Ford Major*  
*O.C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Field Butchery*



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2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Field Butchery —  
War Diary for the month of June 1918.

Calais June 1918.

The Unit still remains at full strength, viz One Officer + 20 other ranks, all members are still posted at the same stations, and are performing similar duties to those enumerated in May diary. The O.C. Major Ford still remains at Riixent as O/C Supplies, where the output from this Depot has greatly increased large numbers of men being now located around that district, everything there is going on entirely satisfactory.

Hospital Pte Short admitted to No 35 Genl Hospital on 5<sup>th</sup> and Pte Baumgarten to No 30 Genl Hospital on 26<sup>th</sup>;

Leave. Leave has again commenced on a limited basis. Staff Sq' Masson granted furloughs to Lt. K. 7<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> + Corporal Masson 10<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

Discipline The discipline of the Unit has been exemplary nothing whatever causing the least inquiry.

Weather. The weather again has been particularly fine for the whole month, the only days, to the contrary being 9<sup>th</sup> + 10<sup>th</sup> when we had a high wind with a little rain, a good fall of the last named would do an immense amount of good, both as regards laying the heavy dust, and benefitting the crops, which are commencing to get very parched.

Establishment. The Establishment of an Austr Field Butchery Unit comprises 1 Officer, 1 Warrant Officer, 2 S. Q. M. Sergeants, 2 Staff Sergeants, 2 Sergeants, 6 Corporals, 6 Privates + 1 Batman. The Unit is 'devisable' into three Butchery Squads and is capable of killing and dressing for 22,500 men, the Imperial Establishment was similar during the War, however, the Imperial authorities have altered the composition of their Units, to what is known





2ND  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD BUTCHERY  
June War Diary  
No. 306  
Date 30.6.1918

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2nd Austr Field Butchery  
War Diary for the Month of June 1918

Balance June 1918

397

as Field Butchery Companies, the Personnel of which includes 1 Officer, 1 Warrant Officer, 6 S. Q. M. Sgts, 6 Staff Sgts, 6 Sgts, 18 Corporals, 18 Privates and 1 Bateman, making a total of a company 57. A Butchery Squad consisting of 1 Staff Sgt, 1 Sgt, 2 Corpls and 2 ptes, and each Squad is capable of killing and dressing for 7,500 men. The allotment of a company is one to three divisions, whereas our Unit could provide for 22,500 men. There is no opportunity of ascertaining any benefit or otherwise under the new scale for Imperial Butcheries as no stock are being dealt with in this country. The work of unshipping frozen meat from steamers storing, issuing and forwarding to the different rail heads and Depots, however, is carried out satisfactorily, whilst the new table shows a saving in Command good work in the several departments is more easily attainable on account of coming under the instructions of one Officer. The members of my Unit all have responsible tasks and are carrying out duties of a Senior character to their ranks and Imperial Officers likewise Australians speak very highly of Australians' work and show a marked preference in selecting "our men" everywhere (Australians).

General On the 4<sup>th</sup> a large fire occurred at the Forage Depot Tindroux when Hay valued at about £500,000 was destroyed (the cause of the ignition was put down to a spark from an engine) and lasted a couple of days, the fact of the huge stacks being in such close proximity to each other made the work of extinguishing impossible although every one worked splendidly, and effected a considerable saving. Australians gaining high praise for the manner in which they assisted. Another large fire occurred in the Timber Yards of the R.E. in the same Camp, when a great quantity of timber was destroyed, the damage running into thousands of pounds, the cause of the



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— 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Field Butchery — Calais, June 1918  
War Diary for Month of June 1918

391

Fire was attributed to German prisoners of War, a great number working in the various Depôts

Hostile Aircraft

The Month, in comparison with others has been a quiet one so far as Raids are concerned. The night of the 5<sup>th</sup> was beautifully fine with no moon the first visit from Hostile Aircraft occurred (for the month) at 11.30 PM. One Machine came very low down and was plainly visible in the searchlights but dropping no bombs, they passed over. On the following night the 6<sup>th</sup> they again passed over at 11.15 PM, and dropped several bombs in the vicinity of Cologne Fontmettes causing damage to civilian property but doing no damage of any military importance. On the 8<sup>th</sup> at 1.30 AM we again were visited no bombs being dropped here. One casualty occurred in the Camp however from shrapnel of Anti Aircraft gun no Austs were injured. Gothas came over at midnight on the 12<sup>th</sup> there still being no moon nothing dropped here but dropped bombs in the fields at Vendroux, and caused no damage. They passed over at 11.30 PM on the 29<sup>th</sup> and proceeded to Zeneqham, and gave them a lively time, killing several and injuring others yet accomplished nothing of military importance. They finished the month by coming over at 11.45 on the night of the 30<sup>th</sup> and dropped bombs at Vendroux, there being no damage or casualties.

V. L. Ford Major  
C/O 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Field Butchery

2ND  
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