

Our Daily Bread:

The Field Bakery & the Anzac Legend



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Pamela M. Etccl
BA (Hons) Murdoch University

DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my own account of my research and as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any tertiary education institution.

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Pamela M. Etccl

ABSTRACT

The First World War and the Australian Imperial Force have generated thousands of books and articles. Many studies adhere to the emphasis of C.E.W. Bean, and recount the history of the infantry or a particular infantry battalion. Others examine both the short term and long-lasting effects of the war on the Australian psyche. Some historians have acknowledged that a particular group of non-fighting combatants has been neglected, but generally, this group has been employed in dangerous and difficult pursuits. Very few historians have studied the roles of non-fighting combatants whose contribution is considered as lacklustre, such as the Australian Field Bakeries.

When I began my research, I could not understand why the Australian Field Bakeries did not play any part in the historiography of World War One. An examination of the Anzac legend revealed an emphasis on the characteristics of the Anzac, especially masculinity and heroism. I argue that the bakers' employment might be considered as being situated within the woman's sphere and therefore unmasculine, whilst that same employment did not offer the chance for acts of heroism. Because of an emphasis on the exciting exploits of the infantry within Anzac historiography, the Australian Field Bakeries and their role as support troops have been ignored and omitted.

Comparing demographic statistics and the war experiences, values and attitudes of the Australian Imperial Force and the bakers, I conclude that the bakers of the Australian Field Bakeries were extraordinarily similar to the men of the Australian Imperial Force. Only those experiences and statistics directly related to the two groups' specific fields of employment are significantly different. I argue that specialised skills and a perceived lack of masculinity and heroism have seen the men of the Australian Field Bakeries excluded from all existing Anzac historiography.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAG	Assistant Adjutant-General
AASC	Australian Army Service Corps
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADC	Aide-de-Camp
ADFA	Australian Defence Force Academy
ADMS	Assistant Director of Medical Services
AFB	Australian Field Bakery
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
Amb.	Ambulance
ANZAC	Australia and New Zealand Army Corps
ARS	Australian Reinforcements Section
ASC	Army Service Corps
AWM	Australian War Memorial
AWOL	Absent Without Leave
B2455	WWI Service Dossier
BEF	British Expeditionary Force
BSD	Bulk Supply Depot
Btn	Battalion
C of E	Church of England
CCS	Casualty Clearing Station
CO	Commanding Officer
DA&QMG	Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster General
DAAG	Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General
DAG	Deputy Adjutant-General
DAQMG	Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General
DDMS	Deputy Director of Medical Services
DRL	Donated Records
DST	Director of Supplies and Transport
FB	Field Bakery
FCGM	Field General Court Martial
GHQ	General Headquarters
GOC	General Officer Commanding
GRO	General Routine Officer
HMAS	His/Her Majesty's Australian Ship
HQ	Headquarters
I/C	In Charge
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OBE	Order of the British Empire

OC	Officer Commanding	
OIC	Officer In Charge	
PR	Private Record	
Pun. Comp.	Punishment Compound	
PUO	Pyrexia of Unknown Origin	
Q'Id	Queensland	
QM	Quartermaster	
QMG	Quartermaster-General	
RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps	
RASC	Royal Army Service Corps	
RQM	Regimental Quartermaster	
RSL	Returned and Services League	
S.Sgt.	Staff Sergeant	
SA	South Australia	
SMS	<i>Seine Majestäts Schiffe</i>	(His Majesty's Ship)
SQMS	Staff Quartermaster Sergeant	
Tas	Tasmania	
UK	United Kingdom	
UNSW	University of New South Wales	
VAD	Voluntary Aid Detachment	
VC	Victoria Cross	
Vic	Victoria	
WA	Western Australia	
WAB	Western Australian Battalions	

TABLE OF IMPERIAL AND METRIC MEASUREMENTS

1 inch (in)	2.54 centimetres (cm)	1 ounce (oz)	28.35 gram (g)
1 foot (ft)	.3048 metres (m)	1 pound (lb)	453.6 g or .4536 kilogram (kg)
1 yard (yd)	.9144 metres	1 ton (t)	1.016 tonne (t) = 1000 kg
1 mile	1.6093 kilometres (km)	115 tons	116.84 tonne
100 yards	91.5 metres		
800 yards	731.5 metres		
5 ft	152.4 cm or 1.524 m	4 oz	113.4 g or .1134 kg
5 ft 3 ins	160.02 or 1.6002 m	12 oz	340.2 g or .3402 kg
5 ft 6 ins	167.64 cm or 1.6764 m	14 oz	396.9 g or .3969 kg
5 ft 9 ins	175.26 cm or 1.7526 m	16 oz	453.6 g or .4536 kg
6 ft	182.88 cm or 1.8288 m	20 oz	567 g or .567 kg
34 ins	86.36 cm or .8636 m	118 deg F	47.8 deg C
1 kilometre (km)	.6214 mile		
24 km	14.9136 mile		
40 km	24.856 mile		
45 km	27.963 mile		
46 km	28.5844 mile		
60 km	37.284 mile		
70 km	43.498 mile		

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¹ Internet French Property, *Measuring Units Conversion Tables*, [http://convert.french-property.co.uk/], date accessed 15 May 2004.

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