Entry type: Event
Entry ID: AWE0646

Waitresses’ strike – Refreshment Services Branch

(1925 - 1925)

Born	19250911, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	19250913
Occupation	Industrial action

Summary

On Friday, 11 September 1925 in response to the statement made about them by retired naval officer Captain Oswald Carter, the waitresses of the Refreshment Services Branch of the Victorian Railways went on strike. Carter held a senior post in the railways and reported to the chief of the Refreshment Services Branch that he found [the staff] ‘lazy, dirty and unmanageable’. He further added: ‘I propose to get in touch with the Immigration Authorities with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of getting suitable servants. I do not think that girls from Melbourne are likely to give satisfaction.’

The waitresses demanded an apology and went on strike until they received one. The male leaders of the Australian Railways Union – Victorian Branch commenced negotiations on behalf of their members and after two days a satisfactory settlement with management was arranged when an apology was obtained.

Events

1925 - 1925
The Refreshment Services Branch waitresses of the Victorian Railways went on strike.

Published resources

Book
In the service? : a history of Victorian Railways workers and their union, Butler-Bowdon, Eddie, 1991

Archival resources

The University of Melbourne Archives
Australian Railways Union, Victorian Branch

Author Details
Anne Heywood

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