

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/6/2

Title: Deputy Assistant Director Veterinary
Services, 3rd Australian Division

December 1916



AWM4-27/6/2

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

of ADVS. 3rd Australian Division

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Steinwerk	1-12-16		Office routine	
	Saturday 2-12-16		Inspected 3rd D.A.C. with Capt. Wakeham A.A.V.C. Conditions of lines very bad.	
			- no brick standings & no roofs for great majority of animals - mud everywhere. Proper grooming impossible & even proper feeding out of nosebags difficult.	
	Sunday 3rd		Office routine. Visit to 3rd Glob. Vet Sectn	
	Monday 4-12-16		Sick - with bronchial catarrh.	
	Tuesday 5-12-16			
	6-12-16		Inspected 11th Infantry Brigade Transport lines at Blanche Maison & Pont de Pierre with Capt Bishop A.A.V.C. - all except 41st Battalion - this seen at Outtersteene. In 41st saw 1 case acute pneumonia & had animal destroyed.	
	7-12-16		Conference of Vet Officers - Capt. Wakeham, Bishop, Davidson, & Heggall attending	
	8-12-16		Inspection of 9th & 10th Infantry Brigade transport lines @ Capt Davidson.	
			First evacuations of animals to No 2. Vet Hospital, St. Omer, by road & by barge, from the Division.	

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Steenwerck	Saturday 9-12-16		Office routine. Visit to Bailleur.	
	10-12-16		Inspected 36 "remounts" at Railhead with Capt Bishop A.V.C. Visit to 3rd Austral. Glob. Vet. Sectn.	
	11-12-16.		Inspected 11th Field Coy. A.S. Conditions generally bad. - only part standings, & no roof. Some neglect of Officer's horses - reported to C.C.	

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Steenwerk	11-12-16		Inspected animals & standings of 11 th Field Coy. Australian Engineers. Entrance to farm built very bad road - up to horses hocks in mud. Standings paved & bricks in part but no roof or shelter from rain & wind. Officers horses in a lean-to shed - dirty & neglected. discovered one case of strangles in an officer's horse. Officer in charge advised of alteration necessary. Strangles case isolated.	
"	12-12-16		Visit to Mobile Vet. Section to see evacuation barge cases.	
"	13-12-16		Inspected 11 th Field Ambulance at La Creche & made inspection. Found standings in very bad order - without any floors & without roofs. also a shortage of nosebags & haynets. Harness stiff for want of dubbing & oil, apparently a shortage of hay supplied. Was shown carcass of a horse dead to acute epistaxis. - arranged for P.M. & then disposal of carcass.	
"			attended demonstration of intra-palpebral method of mallein testing by D.D.V.S. at Mobile Vet. Section (Col. Wilson.)	2 nd Army
"			Saw P.M. of horse of 2 nd Pontoon Park R.E. at Steenwerk - died of colic after 2 hours illness - "not anthrax" & gave directions for burial with all precautions.	
"	14-12-16		Conference of Vet. Officers of Division. Visit to 3 rd Mobile Vet. Section to see horses malleined on 13-12-16 - no reactions.	

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Steam work	15-12-16		<p>Inspected No 2. & No 4. Sections D.A.C. with Capt Wakeham a.A.V.C. - conditions very bad - roadways 1' deep in mud - much work proceeding in making standing floors & erecting roofs. Shortage of head ropes. & advised D.A.Q.M.S. of necessity of wire rope for breast lines for mules.</p> <p>Saw mallein tests at ellobuk Vet. Sectⁿ at 4.5th hour. - no reactions.</p> <p>Arranged with V.O. of 34th Divⁿ (Capt. H. Milton A.V.C.) re taking over charge of 2nd Canadian Reserve Park - Capt Bishop posted to this unit.</p>	
"	16-12-16		Office routine. - letters to D.D.V.S. a.I.F. & correspondence. Weekly returns.	
"	17-12-16		<p>Visit to 3rd ellobuk Vet Sectⁿ to see evacuations for 19th</p> <p>Also to 34th Batta 10th Brigade re an injured mule (? incurable) with Capt Davidson a.A.V.C. advised mule to be sent to butcher.</p> <p>letter to D.D.V.S. re issue of a chaff cutter to 3rd M.V.S.</p>	
"	18-12-16		Inspected 11 th Field Coy. A.E. - & found a great improvement in conditions - but still a bad road entrance & no roof to standings. ∴ impossible to secure proper grooming. Shoeing in good order since a field forge available.	

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Steenwerk	19-12-16		Office routine. Arranged with local farmer re hire of a float to remove incurably injured animals to butcher at Bailloul. Visit to 3rd D.A.C. to observe effects of intra palpebral mallein test. - no reactions.	
	20-12-16		Visit to A.D.V.S. of 25th Div. at Bailloul. (Major Ludgate A.V.C.) but only saw clerk. afternoon. inspected a skin suspect at 3rd Mob. Vet Section, & other cases for evacuation.	
	21-12-16		Conference of Divisional Vety Officers. - discussed improvements in horse management. & found a great improvement impossible until horse stables & stables floored & roofed. Weekly returns discussed. Visited D.H.Q. & Div. Signal Coy. lines to observe results of mallein test. - no reactions. Urged necessity of a roadway into Div. Sig. Coy's lines.	
	22-12-16		Review of 3rd Div. units by C-in-C. 3rd Australian Mob. Vet. Sect. had 1 Officers & 12 O.N. on parade. afternoon visit 2nd Canadian Reserve Park (to Beeche) to see 2 horses for casting. Complaints (1) "vice" (2) "quitter." - latter term being Canadian equivalent for jibber. ∴ both remount cases.	

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Steenwerk	23-12-16		Office routine. Inspected animals of 37th Batt. re mallein test with Capt. Davidson A.V.C. Visited 3rd Pioneer Batt. & 9th & 10th Field Coys. with Davidson in Armentières. Generally very satisfactory but clipping urgently needed.	
	24-12-16		Inspected 20 remounts at Steenwerk Ry. Station with D.A.Q.M.G. - found one horse (Grey geld. H.D. - to 43rd Batt.) rather suspicious of mange. Ordered isolation & notified V.O. - Capt Bishop. - (Subsequent report - "not mange") afternoon - discussed with Capt Wakeham V.O. to 3rd D.A.C. high % of injuries in this unit. & arranged a conference @ O.C. & O.C.s of sections	
	25-12-16		Visited 3rd Aust. Mob Vet Sect. & inspected Section & A.V.C. Sergeants of 9th 10th & 11th Infantry Brigades & 3rd D.A.C. Informed men of receipt of cable from Melbourne with £28-7-6 for comforts for A.V.C. men of 3rd Australian Division.	
	26-12-16		Conference with O.C. 3rd D.A.C. O.C.s of 4 sections, Adjutant & V.O. (Capt. Wakeham) of 3rd D.A.C. to discuss horse & mule wastage, & methods of lessening same. _____	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Steenmark	27-12-16		Inspection of 9 th Infantry Brigade Transport with Brigade Transport Officer (Lieut. Clonan) & Vet. Officer (Capt. Davidson) with with with . Examined one horse at request of Capt Bishop with suspicious reaction to intra palpebral mallein test, belonging to A.P.M. & ordered evacuation to 3 rd elab. Vet. Sect. for retesting. (Time 50 th hour after injection)	
	28-12-16 Thursday		Inspected two companies of 3 rd Div Train. with O.C.s. Capt. Dawson & McHattie. with with with . Conference of Vet. Officers. - discussed horse wastage & measures to avert. Called on C.R.E. re bricks for horse standings. He advised no chance of obtaining nearer than at present owing to difficulties of discovering ownership by French Civil authorities.	
	29-12-16		Letter to Transport Officers of Infantry Brigade Groups re issues of forage. "How much straw, straw chaff, & hay, has been issued to you between Dec. 1 st & 29 th inclusive?" Took over charge of I Battery R.H.A. - with lines in Armentieres.	
	30-12-16		Office routine. Conference with O.C., Vet. Officer & O.C.s Companies of 3 rd Div Train. on "Horse Wastage."	

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Steerwork	31-12-16		<p>Investigated with Capt Bishop a.o.v.c. sudden death of a HD horse in lines of 4th Battalion 11th Inf Brigade ? Anthrax. Made blood smears & a careful P.M. examination, with all precautions. Took part of stomach contents for analysis since P.M. did not support diagnosis of anthrax.</p> <p>Smears sent to P.D.V.S. for examination - results returned "not anthrax".</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p><i>H.A. Woodruff.</i> Major, A.B.V.S. 3rd Aust. Divn.</p> </div>	