

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/3/10

Title: Assistant Director Veterinary
Services, 1st ANZAC Corps and
Assistant Director Veterinary
Services, Australian Corps

April 1918



AWM4-27/3/10

18,000-12/1 -8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

A.P.V.S Aust. Corps

FOR

APRIL 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

[Handwritten signature]

LT. COL

ADVS

AUST. CORPS

Signature of Officer Commanding

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	1918 2/4		Under orders to move, packing up office. Conference at Army HQ. Th	
BERNAVILLE	3/4		moved to BERNAVILLE by road motor. Th	
BERNAVILLE	4/4		Saw DLS. BET and DDLS a 2.7. at ABBEVILLE discussed City evac Station etc.	
BERTANGLLES	5/4		moved to BERTANGLLES. saw Col Condon ADLS. VII Corps re taking over temporary City Evac Station at OLINCOURT. CHATEAU	
"	8/4		met DDLS 4 th Army at L.E.S. Th asked 'A' Branch to instruct Capt Stanhope and City Office Corps troops with 13 th LH. Bgt to report to 18 th Reserve Park, as 13 th LH is too far from units of Corps area. Th	
VICINACOURT	9/4		moved office to VICINACOURT. Th Instructed all DLS to evacuate by road to ABBEVILLE per instructions of DLS only cases unable to walk ferry by rail to ROVEY. Th	
"			Arranged City attention all Corps troops sent to 18 th Reserve Park. Th	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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VIGNACOURT	1918 11/4		ADLS VII Corps called re U.E.S. I wrote to DDLB for approval for it to be attached to this Corps. The	
"	12/4		1st Aust Div moved out of Corps. The Corps troops, found went to 18th Reserve Park to see LCO Corps troops, found he had not been moved. saw "Q" and "A" at Corps HQ. The	
"	13/4		Capt Stanhope reported at 18th Reserve Park.	
"	14/4		Get approval OPLS to send all sick from U.E.S. by rail to ROUEN	
			Get approval for Capt Henton A.C. VII Corps to be attached as LCO. Corps Heavy Artillery (see Hindle) to Base. sent Capt Hindle at temporary LCO to 108th Army Bde PFA pending arrival Capt Hobbs Hobbs A.C. to arrive from Base. The	
"	15/4		met DDLB 4th Army at U.E.S. The	
			DADLS 4th Aust Div. Lt Col Kendall evacuated. Heart. The	
"	16/4		Visited 46th Reserve Park with DDLB army re inspection, one epizoo case reported to have been transferred from this unit. developed 6 weeks after transfer. Maj James A.C. acting as DADLS 4th Aust Div. The.	

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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MENACOURT	1918 17/4		Inspected 150 and 189 Army Bdes RFA. with DDB 4 th Army. these units were very scattered, some batteries were showing horses as very obvious targets for enemy aeroplanes, on my advice they were moved to better positions. Most of these animals had been in the march retirement and had suffered in condition, but were on the whole not unsatisfactory. <i>Th</i>	
"	20/4		Conference all DDB at VILLERS BOCAGE Corps A Echelon. I met them there as being more central than my office. Discussed evacuations and other matters of routine. <i>Th</i>	
"	21/4		Inspected Heavy Artillery Hoses with Capt Hutton asst. <i>Th</i>	
"	22/4		Continued inspection of heavy artillery, on whole satisfactory. <i>Th</i>	
"	26/4		Capt Robb ^{Hopbs} reported to 108 Army Bde RFA. <i>Th</i> Visited 108 Army Bde RFA. and 16 Army Bde RFA. Satisfactory. <i>Th</i> Visited 5 th Aust DHB and HLB. re gas casualties, report attached Corps Commander taking up matter of concentrating animals in Vallays. <i>Th</i>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 299

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YIGNACOURT	1918 27/4		Saw DA + G. Corps with DDLS 4 th Army re scheme for evacuation in case of possible retirement. M.	
"	28/4		Capt Gady with 16 th Army Bde RHA. M. Inspected site for L.E.S. at St REQUIER. with DDLS. M.	
	29/4		Inspected 5 th Army Bde RHA. Animals very good. M.	
	30/4		Inspected 14 th Army Bde RHA. behind DILLERS BRETTBINEOUX. M. Capt Hndch ASB sent to report to No 2 R. Havre M.	
			During this month I have had a very busy time, my weekly reports will show number of units and animals, animals under my administration. i.e. Capt's troops have been more numerous than all Divisions put together M.	

W. Watson
 ADL S Aust Corps

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18,000-12/17-872

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Original
WAR DIARY

OF

A. D. V. S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

FOR

A P R I L, 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Instructions re Evacuation of Sick Animals.
2	Veterinary Report for Week Ending 11. 4. 18.
3	Transfer of Capt. T.W.W.Hindle, A.V.C. from Aust. Corps Heavy Artillery to 108th Army Brigade, R.F.A., and Capt. Henton, A.V.C. from VII Corps Heavy Artillery to Aust. Corps Heavy Artillery.
4.	Veterinary Report for week ending 18. 4. 18.
5.	Report on inspection of animals of Heavy Artillery units attached Aust. Corps.
6.	Suggesting scheme for evacuation of sick horses in event of line being withdrawn.
7.	Veterinary Report for week ending 25.4.18.

J. H. H. H.

LT. COL
A. D. V. S.
AUST. CORPS

copy

APPENDIX .1.
 A.D.V.S.
 AUSTRALIAN
 CORPS.
 No. 11/7
 Date 10 APR 1918

D.A.D.V.S. 1st Aust Div.
 2nd " "
 3rd " "
 4th " "
 5th " "

to Vets Evacuation Str.

Evacuation of Sick Animals

Each M.V.S. will send an NCO of party and 2 mounted men with every 10 animals able to march to Abbeville: they will stay at Olincourt Chateau one night, and proceed to Abbeville by road next day.

Animals unable to march to Abbeville will be retained at V.E.S.

Animals will be rationed for the journey at V.E.S. and men will carry 3 days rations from their M.V.S.

Evacuation Rolls will accompany animals from M.V.S.

J. H. H. H.
 Hateson

LT. COL.
 ADVS
 AUST. CORP.

A.D.V.S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.	Date 15 APR 1918

Headquarters

A. D. V. S.,
AUSTRALIAN ARMY.

Veterinary Report for week ending 11. 4. 18.

CONDITION & GENERAL HEALTH. The condition of animals of Australian Units is very satisfactory, and as far as I have been able to see them or to judge by reports of D.A.D.V.S., they have not suffered much from the amount of moving they have done lately. The general health is also good.

Some animals of Army Artillery Brigades are not so satisfactory, but I will give more detailed reports when I am able to make proper inspections.

DEBILITY. Evacuated 34 cases; causes - extra work and lack of systematic feeding and attention due to rather hurried moving during retirement.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES.

Colic, 17 cases; 2 died, 1 destroyed.
Enteritis, 3 " 2 " 1 remaining.
Impaction, 1 " died.
Ruptured Stomach, 1 cases - died.

MANGE. 22 cases during week - 3 evacuated - mostly very slight. There does not seem any probability of any spreading, and it has been practically stamped out, in Australian Units, the Mange Dip in last Corps area proving of great value.

NEGATIVE CELL LITIS. 6 cases - 5 evacuated. Nothing of special note, as conditions are not excessively muddy this disease is much less common.

SPECIFIC DISEASES. 13 cases of Montague's Stomatitis in 2nd Aust. Division; proper precautions have been taken to isolate all cases.

GAS POISONING. No cases.

OPHTHALMIA. 91 cases - 15 evacuated; about an average incidence.

BATTLE CASUALTIES. 328 cases Shell Wounds; 115 died, 38 destroyed, 41 evacuated. No Bomb Wounds reported.

Owing to Units and Headquarters being on move during week there has been little opportunity for inspection, but the evacuation arrangements for evacuations from units to Mobile Veterinary Sections to Veterinary Evacuation Station and Base has been satisfactorily arranged.

All units have had veterinary attention arranged. Some delay was caused in the arrangements for Corps Troops owing to the Veterinary Officer in charge Corps Troops being with Corps Mounted Regiment, and a delay occurring in conveying the instructions for him to report to a more central unit.

<u>CASUALTIES.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	108	31	
Destroyed	44	8	
Missing	13	3	
Transferred	175	19	
	<u>354</u>	<u>61</u>	Total - 415.

Copy to "Q"
Aust. Corps.

Watson

Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX 3

A.D.V.S.,
AUSTRALIAN
CORPS.

Headquarters.

No. 4/11

Date 15 APR 1918

3

D. D. V. S.,
FOURTH ARMY.

When this Corps took over Batteries of Heavy Artillery from VII Corps, the Veterinary Officer, Capt. Henton, A.V.C. was left to look after them.

Capt. Hindle, A.V.C. accompanied Aust. Corps. Heavy Artillery H.Q. to this area.

Owing to Capt. Trydell, A.V.C. attached to the 108th Army F.A. Brigade being evacuated, I am sending Capt. Hindle to be temporarily attached to this unit. May this change be made permanent, please? - Capt. Hindle, A.V.C. from Aust. Corps Heavy Artillery to 108th Army F.A. Brigade, and Capt. Henton from VII Corps Heavy Artillery to Aust. Corps. Heavy Artillery.

A Veterinary Officer with Heavy Artillery usually has a lot of scattered units and has a lot of riding to do, and I do not consider Capt. Hindle, on account of his age, is sufficiently active to do it, and consider him much more suitable for a Base unit - a Remount Depot for preference.

Approved.

Watson

Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

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APPENDIX 49
 A.D.V.S.
 AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
 No. 20
 Date 20 APR 1918

Headquarters.

D. D. V. S.,
FOURTH ARMY.

14

Weekly Veterinary Report - week ending 18.4.18.

CONDITION.- Of most Australian units, good, but many have lost some condition since leaving 2nd Army.

Some animals in Army Artillery Brigades are not satisfactory. 189th Army F.A. Brigade having to evacuate a number with Debility; the average condition of animals of Army F.A. Brigades which took part in recent retirement is not quite satisfactory, most Batteries lost their Chaffcutters, but these are being replaced.

Evacuations for Debility - 45.

The hay ration is insufficient for L. D. horses, 9 lbs. only being issued, 20% of which is straw which is no use without chaffcutters. Less of condition is inevitable with a 9-lb. hay ration.

COLIC. 21 cases, no deaths.

MANGE. 20 cases - 5 evacuated. Other cases are very slight or merely suspects, but are diagnosed and treated as Mange - results have always proved this practice satisfactory.

SPECIFIC DISEASE. Ulcerative Cellulitis, 7 cases - 6 evacuated.

Strangles, 2 cases - remaining.
Ophthalmia, 76 cases, 7 evacuated; units have been instructed to evacuate more of these cases.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. 96 cases; 29 died, 14 destroyed, 10 evacuated.

BOMB WOUNDS. No cases.

Amongst Injuries there has been a number of Sore Withers caused through the necessity of keeping Artillery animals standing in harness for long periods.

<u>WASTAGE.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	25	9	
Destroyed	19	3	
Missing	16	1	
Transferred	112	14	
	<u>172</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>Total - 199.</u>

A. G. Gibson

Copy to "Q",
Australian Corps.

Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX 10
 AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
 No.
 Date 23 APR 1918

Headquarters,
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

On the 21st and 22nd inst. I inspected all animals of Heavy Artillery Units attached to this Corps, and report as follows.

On the whole the animals are not unsatisfactory, and taking into consideration that they were all in the recent retirement in this area, some units have kept their animals in very good condition, though some are certainly less satisfactory, but none are bad.

The loss of chaffcutters in most units is a handicap, but it is hoped that these will soon be replaced.

Most units are getting some grazing, but in some Batteries it is considered advisable to keep gun teams up with guns, rendering grazing and proper supervision difficult.

Most units are short of hay nets, and some hay is being wasted, but these are being rapidly replaced by Ordnance.

Heavy 109th Battery. Animals in satisfactory condition; 2 Debility cases evacuated; no chaffcutter; short of rugs and hay nets.

25th Heavy Battery. Condition good; one Debility evacuated; grooming unsatisfactory; short of hay nets and grooming kit. Hay being wasted on lines.

114th Heavy Battery. Condition good; no chaffcutter; hay nets not in use, considerable waste of hay on lines.

144th Heavy Battery. Condition good; hay being wasted by being put on ground and nose bags put on, when nosebags are taken off much hay is tramped into mud. No chaffcutter.

139th Heavy Battery. Condition not satisfactory - 5 Debility cases evacuated.

120th Heavy Battery. Condition generally satisfactory; 2 Debility evacuated; no chaffcutter.

128th Heavy Battery. Condition not satisfactory; no hay nets. There is a Horsemaster with 130th H. B. of this group, but he does not visit 128th Battery - suggest that he be instructed to do so.

130th Heavy Battery. Condition good; no chaffcutter.

2nd Siege Battery. Condition generally fair, some good. 4 Debility evacuated.

3rd Siege Battery. Condition generally unsatisfactory; short of horses; 10 will be evacuated on arrival of remounts. No chaffcutter, hay nets short; some animals forward with guns.

The variety of condition of units and the similarity of condition rather emphasises the fact that good horsemangement would have got better results in the less satisfactory units.

Stalton

Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

Dany

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX 6
 A.D.V.S.
 AUSTRALIAN
 CORPS.
 Headquarters, 11/21
 No. 27 APR 1918
 Dms.

D. D. V. S.,
FOURTH ARMY.

Re scheme for evacuation of sick horses in the event of line being withdrawn and rendering existing arrangements unsatisfactory; I suggest the Veterinary Evacuation Station being at St. RIQUIER with Corps Collecting Posts, if necessary, at ALLY-le-HAUT CLOCHER for "B" Corps area, and DOMQUEUR for "C" Corps area. Divisional Mobile Veterinary Sections would be forward of these points, and collect from all forward units, evacuating to V.E.S. or Corps Collecting Posts, sick horses would be sent by rail from St. RIQUIER accompanied by personnel supplied by V.E.S.

A Motor Ambulance should be available at Corps V.E.S. to collect float cases from M.V.S. at Collecting Depots and evacuate them to V.E.S. near railhead.

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Lieut-Colonel
 A. D. V. S.
 AUSTRALIAN Corps.

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299

Headquarters.

A.D.V.S.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
No. 28 APR 1918
Date

D. D. V. S.,
FOURTH ARMY.

Veterinary Report for Week Ending 25. 4. 18.

Condition of animals varies a lot; most of the animals which came from Second Army with the Australian Corps are in fair condition, but there has been a considerable loss in condition, particularly in Artillery units which have had to keep many of the animals near gun positions: there has also been in some instances reports of shortage of hay ration, only 9 lbs. of which I understand comes up by rail, and the balance has to be supplied by Supply Officers to units concerned, and according to reports from units, the results have not been always satisfactory.

Some of the Heavy Draughts in Heavy Artillery units are not quite satisfactory, but the majority are good. There are a number of the L.D. horses in Army F. A. Brigades which are not satisfactory, and a lot of the Debility evacuations are from these units.
Debility evacuations, 73.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES. Colic, 13 cases - 2 deaths.
Enteritis, 1 case - died.
Ruptured Stomach, 2 cases - died.

MANGE. 5 admitted during week, giving total of 13. Cured, 5; evacuated, 2; remaining, 6.
The Corps is remarkably free from Mange.

ULCERATIVE CELLULITIS. 4 cases evacuated.
Ophthalmia,

SPECIFIC DISEASES. 113 slight cases - 9 evacuated. These are mostly very slight cases.
Tetanus, 3 cases - destroyed.
Influenza, 1 case - not the virulent type.

GAS POISONING. There has been a considerable number of cases this week; 15 cases, -2 destroyed. This was due to gas shelling, and the symptoms shown were intense lacrymation and conjunctivitis with purulent discharge; later the lips and tongues of many have swollen. In some the eye condition is already clearing up, but lips and tongues becoming worse and the breath has a bad odour. In a few cases the lungs have been affected, and 2 had to be destroyed owing to distressed condition. Appetite has failed only in those showing mouth or lung lesions. Blisters are appearing in the skin in a few instances.

The bombardment was so sudden that gas respirators were not used, but the horses were got away as soon as possible.

It is not advisable in forward areas to have horses in stables or buildings as this intensifies the result of gas. Unless gas shells burst very close horses appear to be very little affected by a general bombardment with mustard gas shells when in the open.

BATTLE CASUALTIES. Shell Wounds, 505 - 177 died; 86 destroyed. The figures speak for themselves; there was a lot of shelling of forward artillery wagon lines, and the tactical situation necessitates keeping gun teams near guns.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. 46 cases, no evacuations.

Some difficulty is experienced by V.Os. with Army Artillery Brigades not notifying their location, and when an Army Brigade moves in it is sometimes difficult to get position of wagon lines; suggest all V.Os with Army Brigades are instructed to immediately wire A.D.V.S. their location or changing over to another Corps.

When animals go to a M.V.S. or Vety. Evacuation Station, they should be struck off unit charge; the present system is ~~always~~ often difficult to arrange, especially with such units as Army F.A. Brigades, which may be in a Corps area for a few days and move again, which makes the process of notification of evacuation difficult and necessarily slow.

(2)

APPENDIX 4.

Also M. V. Sections are not expected to treat, but merely to be a channel of evacuation - this applies still more with Vety. Evacuation Stations.

It is strongly advisable to have a motor ambulance attached to the Corps Vety. Evacuation Station; it takes M.V. Sections a whole day to send in one horse in float, and it is difficult to evacuate a considerable number, and many shell wound cases with a good prospect of ultimate recovery are unable to walk to railhead.

WASTAGE.

Horses.

Mules.

Died ----- 168
Destroyed --- 78
Missing --- 8
Transferred-- 177

168
78
8
177
431

26
19
-
21
66

Total - 497

STRENGTH:

18850

6689

Total - 25539

Copy to "Q",
Australian Corps.

Hatson

Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN Corps.