

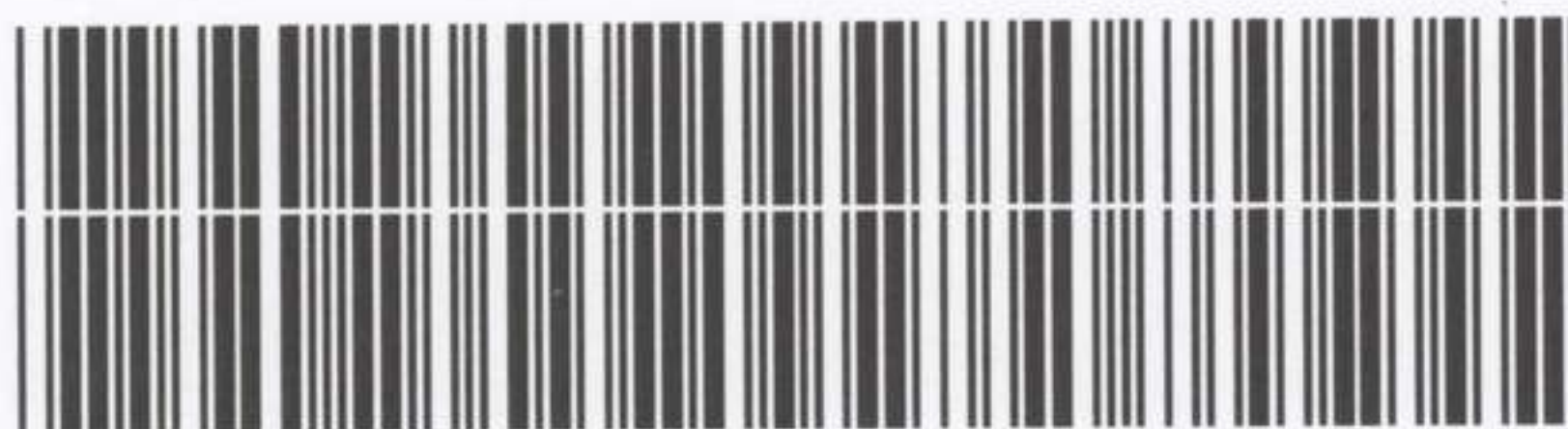
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Veterinary

Item number: 27/3/11

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

May 1918



AWM4-27/3/11

399

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

A.D.V.S. Australian Corps

FOR

MAY 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

LT COL

ADVS
AUST. COR

296

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Aust Corps
A.D.V.S.
orig
May

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VICENACOURT	1/5		Inspected 169 Army Bde. R.F.A. animals in very unsatisfactory condition - see report attached.	
			Inspected 96 Army Bde. R.F.A. animals also in bad condition put up a lot for evacuation, see report.	
			Saw DDT 4 th Army and arranged for remnants to replace disability cases evacuated. The	
			Lieut Col (temp) Major Henry M. DADDS 3 rd Aust Div	
"	2/5		Saw animals of 18 th Reserve Park where there had been one epizootic lymphangitis case	
"	3/5		there was nothing at all suspicious. The visited DADDS of all Divisions, instead of	
			holding conference, as it is more convenient to have one car than several. saw all M.S. 18 th Army	
			Artillery and Corps troops. The arranged extra train for Sunday for animals from	
	4/5		V.E.S. many disability cases are coming in The	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIENACOURT.	5/5		<p>Inspected 32nd Reserve Park and 4th and 5th Cavalry Div Aux Horse Tpt Coy. these animals are all a first rate condition, such units usually have a good horsemaster in charge of them and are seldom any trouble. <i>Th</i></p>	
"	4/5		<p>Inspected 179 Army Bde Q.F.A. evacuated 68 for debility generally bad. see report. I always put in most of my time to units I know are bad, I can always know this by watching evacuation rolls and horses going through V.E.S. I do not report on units which are satisfactory. <i>Th</i></p>	
"	8/5		<p>Inspected 23 Army Bde Q.F.A. very good, animals had been through all retirement, but food management which was evident, had attained excellent results. <i>Th</i></p>	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	9/5		10 cases of Contagious Stomatitis found in 23 rd Army Bde 40 asked to explain, thought it was caused by gas. Th.	
"	9/5		Capt Cole A.S.B. sent to relieve Capt Wolff with 150 Army Bde RFA shot himself in bed. Th.	
"			Went to GORENFLOS to see watering arrangements C. USA Engineer Went to Major Fletcher A.S.B. to see site of VES at Obicourt Th. Visited 150 Army Bde RFA. Th.	
"	11/5		Arranged with DAJ A.S.B. to have duty officers shown on strength of Div HQ, met with units of DDHB. A.S.B. visited Corps Th.	
"	12/5		Promotion of Fletcher to Major in orders. Also Major J. Kendall to Lt Col (temp) Inspected some horses drawn from 16 th Army Bde RFA by 10 th Army Bde RFA and complained of (58) all but 4 considered satisfactory Th.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIENACOURT	14/5		Inspected animals being consigned to ROUEN from V.E.S. at Vignacourt th	
			Visited American Engineers at GORENFLOS th	
"	15/5		Reports on horses passed in 5 th Div. th	
			Received instruction re formation of Australian V.E.S. th	
"	16/5		Arranged 4 days special leave Capt Gillard A.S.C. th	
"	17/5		Conference with DDHS and ADHS th Corps in my office. Discussed	
"	18/5		Vety Evac Stations, and other matters. th	
"	19/5		Went to ST PEEVIER with DDHS to choose site for V.E.S. in	
"	20/5		Case of having to be moved. th	
"			arranged with HQ Corps th for tents for Aust V.E.S.	
"	21/5		Also went to Ordnance with Major Fletcher re incidents th	
"			Inspected all 3 rd Div artillery with DDHS th Army, the	
"			animals in some batteries have lost condition. saw Gen Linnwade th	
"	22/5		Capt Reynolds A.S.C. from 5 th Div to 6 th Army Bde A7A th	
"			37 horses killed & wounded by bombs 3 rd Army Bde A7A th	

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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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIENACOURT	23/5		Capt Mc GREGOR. AVC reported to 2nd Div as of 4/25. 7.	
"	25/5		Held conference all DADSB at BERTANGLES discussed evacuations, ophthalmia, stray horses, provision of section house for Det. Officers 7.	
			Maj. S. Fletcher AVC reported to 1st Sect. V.E.S.	
	28/5		Inspected all animals of 2nd Div Artillery all good except 11 th & 12 th Batteries which are only fair. 7.	
	29/5		Inspected 13 th LH Animals very good.	
	31/5		Visited 23 rd Army Bde B.F.A. New Stomatitis recovered.	
			<p>Fletcher A. Col</p> <p>ADJ. General</p>	

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18,000-12/17-8723

APPENDIX

Original
WAR DIARY

OF

A. D. V. S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS

FOR

M A Y, 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Report on inspection of 169th Army Brigade, R.F.A. |
| 2. | " " " 96th " " " |
| 3. | " " " 5th & 16th " R.H.A.,
23rd, 48th, 65th, 150th & 189th " R.F.A. |
| 4. | Veterinary Report for Week Ending 2. 5. 18. |
| 5. | " " " " 9. 5. 18. |
| 6. | Re inquiry reference short hay ration. |
| 7. | Report on inspection of 179th Army Brigade, R.F.A. |
| 8. | Veterinary Report for Week Ending 16. 5. 18. |
| 9. | " " " " 23. 5. 18. |
| 10. | Reference Veterinary Officers and D.A.Ds.V.S. Divisions reporting personally to A.D.V.S. Corps on being attached, &c. |
| 11. | Veterinary Report for Week Ending 30. 5. 18. |

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

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APPENDIX. 7



AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters.
2nd May, 1918.

A.D.V.S.
AUSTRALIAN
CORPS.
No.....
Date.....

G.O.C., R.A.,
Aust. Corps.

On the 1st instant, with D.D.V.S., 4th Army, I inspected the animals of 169th Army F.A. Brigade, which was transferred to this Corps on the 30th ~~April~~ and found the animals in many instances in very poor condition, and quite unfit for work. There is in the Batteries obvious evidence of bad stable management, and though I know this Brigade has had a trying time during the last month, I am sure more care and attention given to regular feeding and watering would have resulted in the animals being much better; the evidence of this is obvious when inspecting other units which have had similar condition, and which are quite satisfactory.

Detailed report is as follows:-

376th Battery. 13 animals quite unfit for use and require immediate evacuation. Unit has no chaffcutter and very few hay nets, and a considerable amount of forage is being wasted.

377th Battery. 6 being evacuated on our arrival, 15 were picked out for evacuation, being quite unfit for work. Unit is short of hay nets; hay being wasted.

378th Battery. 8 picked for evacuation; short of hay nets; horses were getting ~~xxxxxx~~ grazing which should improve their condition.

379th Battery. 25 for evacuation; no hay nets.

B. A. C. 14 for evacuation; chaffcutter missing a month, but only demanded from Ordnance four days; nosebags and hay nets very short.

A total of 75 animals quite unfit for work; most of the other animals are not very good, but with care and attention should improve.

There were no complaints of shortage of forage.

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

Copies to:-
"Q", Aust. Corps,
D.D.V.S., 4th Army.

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APPENDIX.	
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.....	2. 8. 18.
Date.....	

2

Headquarters.

C.O.C., R.A.,
Anst. Corps.

On the 1st instant I inspected the 98th Brigade, R.F.A. with the P.M.V.S., 4th Army. This Brigade was transferred to this Corps on.

One Battery - 407th - showed evidence of good stable management and animals were quite satisfactory; the same may be said of the B.A.C.

409th and 410th Batteries were not good, but 408th showed me the worst horses I have seen during the war - some of them are so bad that it will probably be better to destroy them.

Details as under:-

407th Battery. Animals in satisfactory condition, no evacuations, shows evidence of good stable management. No chaffcutter; shortage of hay nets.

408th Battery. 32 horses picked out for evacuation, evidently starved and neglected; I was shown remounts drawn less than two weeks ago, admittedly in good condition, and now only fit for evacuation as Debility cases. No chaffcutter, and no demand made for one.

This is the worst unit I have seen, and I do not consider the Officer who has had charge of these animals is fitted to hold such a position.

409th Battery. 51 for evacuation; no chaffcutter; short of nosebags and hay nets; generally not satisfactory.

410th Battery. 14 for evacuation; no chaffcutter; short of hay nets. No advantage taken of ample grazing opportunities. Not satisfactory.

B. A. C. Animals in good condition - evidence of good stable management. No chaffcutter.

A Horsecutter has just joined this Brigade - 30.4.18 - and I suggest that he should be given every opportunity to improve the three bad Batteries.

W. Gibson

Major-General
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

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APPENDIX. 3. 9

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

No.....

Date 2. 5. 19.....

Headquarters,

G.O.C., R.A.,
Aust. Corps.

During the last fortnight I have inspected, in addition to those specially reported on, more or less thoroughly according to time and circumstances -

- 5th and 16th Army Brigades, R.H.A. (part)
- 23rd Army P. A. Brigade, "
- 48th " " "
- 65th " " "
- 150th " " " (thorough
- 189th " " " (inspection);

and though some are not all that could be desired, there is nothing so bad as to necessitate a special report; most of them are very good, particularly the R.H.A. Brigades.

Several have had to have Veterinary Officers brought from Base, and veterinary equipment made up. I have also been able to assist in arranging supply of necessary chaffcutters, mosebags, &c. through Ordnance.

J. Watson

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

Copy to:-
"Q" Aust. Corps.

Headquarters. 5. 5. 18.

No.....
Date.....

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

Veterinary Report for Week Ending 2. 5. 18.

Condition of animals in Divisions is reported by D.A.Ds.V.S. to be generally satisfactory, and those I have seen have been in many cases fat, some even too fat.

The Australian Army F.A. Brigades - 3rd and 6th - are also good; all these units have had better conditions than those of units which took part in retirement during March in this area, but amongst them there is a great variation, some, e.g., 2 Reserve Parks, 2 Army R.H.A. Brigades, and some of the Army F.A. Brigades, and most of Heavy Artillery are quite good, but some Army F.A. Brigades are in a deplorable condition, particularly 96th and 169th, some batteries of which are quite immobilised by debilitated horses. I saw several horses taken to Veterinary Evacuation Station from 96th Brigade which had to be fed while lying on the ground, through exhaustion - some died, and several probably will-. Horses should not be allowed to get in such a bad state, by exercising better management or evacuating before they reach it: Administrative Veterinary Officers should watch such things more closely. These two Brigades have been the subject of special reports to G.O.C., R.A., Corps.

Debility evacuations, 119, and a number are under orders for evacuation on arrival of remounts; of these only 12 came from the Divisions; majority are from Army F.A. Brigades.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. These were practically negligible.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES. Colic, 41 cases, (37 cured, 1 evacuated, (1 died, 2 remaining).
Enteritis, 9 cases, (5 died, 3 destroyed).
Volvulus, 2 " (died).
Strangulated Intestine, 1 case (destroyed).

MANGE. 11 admitted, giving total of 18; 5 cured, 8 evacuated, 5 slight remaining.

SPECIFIC DISEASES. Ophthalmia, 91 cases, (13 evacuated).
Ulc.Cellulitis, 15 cases, (12 evacuated).
Tetanus, 1 case (remaining).
Strangles, 2 cases, "

GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

Shell Fire. 243 cases; 51 died, 58 destroyed, 47 evacuated.

Bomb Casualties. None reported.

GASSED. 54 cases; 32 evacuated, 2 died, 9 destroyed.

Observation of the occurrence of these casualties - Shell fire and Gas - impresses me with the necessity of exercising some discrimination in the placing of horse lines, avoiding as much as possible villages and open hill tops. I saw some Artillery Brigades, particularly one, -not very far behind Villers Brettonoux, which is certainly not a quiet area, -on the crest of a hill with no cover from view, and horse lines in regular rows, offering a splendid target. Horses are too valuable to waste in this manner, and I prevailed on Officers in charge to seek the protection of hedges, woods, banks, or anything to make a less obvious target.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. 70 cases, 1 evacuated.

Owing to the number of units in Corps Troops for which I am directly responsible for veterinary administration, I have not been able to see much of Divisional units, but have seen as much as possible of Corps Troops, particularly Artillery. Units are gradually replacing lost chaffcutters which are necessary to give any value to the straw issued as hay ration, the bulk weight of which now seems to be satisfactory. There is also a lot of opportunity for grazing, though some

units let the grass grow under their feet, but forget it may be useful to horses.

The Veterinary Officers with Corps Troops - Capt. Stanhope, A.A.V.C.- and Heavy Artillery - Capt. Henton, A.V.C.- have had a busy time and worked very well.

On inspecting units, one who is interested in the welfare of horses cannot but regret the time that is wasted on polishing steel work, chains, etc., which could be so much more advantageously spent making protection from Bombs, or grazing animals.

The Veterinary Evacuation Station under Capt. Whright, A.V.C. has done valuable work and no congestion has occurred, either there or in Mobile Veterinary Sections, which have been able to cope with all evacuations.

Some delay occurs in men getting back from Rouen after taking sick horses, it taking 80 hours for men to be returned. A lot of this time is wasted at Romescamps on the journey each way.

<u>WASTAGE.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	46	23	
Destroyed	80	19	
Missing	6	1	
Transferred	325	37	
	<u>457</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>Total - 537.</u>
<u>STRENGTH.</u>	28,378.	9,353.	<u>Total - 37,731.</u>

Copy to "Q",
Aust. Corps.

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

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

Veterinary Report for Week Ending 9. 5. 18.

Condition. Generally improving; forage ration is generally satisfactory, and there is plenty of grazing available. Some of the oats on issue lately have been very dirty - some obviously floor sweepings; in some cases units have been advised to return them to Supply Officer, and get others in lieu. I understand there is no difficulty about this if Supply Officer is satisfied.

The animals evacuated for Debility are practically all from Army Artillery Brigades, and are old standing cases, and in my opinion chiefly due to bad horse management. Many of the Officers concerned will refer to the work and bad conditions during the recent retirement, in which case I would be pleased to shew them 23rd Army Brigade, R.F.A. whose horses had the same conditions, and on my inspection on the 8th instant I found their animals equal to any I have ever seen in the field.

It is not expected that every unit can come up to this standard, but it shows what can be done by good management.

Evacuated for Debility, 54 - mostly from Army F.A. Brigades.

RESPIRATORY. Catarrh, 40 - 33 evacuated; all in 6th Regt. U.S.A. Engineers.

DIGESTIVE. 33 cases of Colic - 29 cured, 1 evacuated, 3 died, 3 deaths & one evacuation from Digestive troubles

MANGE on lines 1, admitted 5, evacuated 2. Slight remaining, 4, which is very good for the number of animals in the Corps.

SPECIFIC DISEASES. Ophthalmia, 134 - 11 evacuated. Tetanus, 3 destroyed, 1 died. Stomatitis Contagiosa, 13 cases; 12 of these were discovered during my inspection of an artillery battery and necessary precautions taken to prevent spread. Strangles, 27 cases - 26 evacuated. 26 cases in 6th Regt. U.S.A. Engineers - all evacuated by special arrangements ~~wik~~ to Veterinary Hospital, Abbeville.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. Shell Wounds, 52 - 4 died, 16 destroyed, 10 evacuated. Bomb Wounds, 17 - 7 evacuated, 2 died, 2 destroyed.

GAS CASES - 22. 18 evacuated, 1 destroyed, 1 died. Symptoms shown were the same as reported in my last two reports.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. 75 cases - 4 evacuated.

One case of Yew tree poisoning and several reports of suspected poisoning caused by oil cake; no evidence or report has been given to prove the existence of poison, but the evidence is sufficient to warrant stopping feeding with this food.

No. 7 Veterinary Evacuation Station attached to this Corps has evacuated during the week 303 animals, and 239 were evacuated on 10th, the day after the week for which the report is made; it is evacuating for III Corps in addition to Australian Corps.

<u>WASTAGE.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	18	8	
Destroyed	20	4	
Missing	4	3	
Transferred	198	34	
	<u>240</u>	<u>49.</u>	<u>Total - 289.</u>

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(2).

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13
5-

STRENGTH.

Horses.

Mules.

22,627.

7768.

Total - 30,395.

A. G. Watson

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

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APPENDIX

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters.

A.D.V.S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.	12/4
Date	8 MAY 1918

D. D. V. S.,

FOURTH ARMY.

Will you please let me know when the enquiry is to be held by the D.D. of S. & F. regarding my statements of short hay ration.

The statement that either Supply Officers were misrepresenting or that I was under a misapprehension, and that Officers should be checked in making false charges, is inferring, at least, that I do not appreciate my appointment or know my job, and I consider it my duty to request the Corps Commander to find out who is in error.

When the enquiry is held, I would like the D.A. & Q.M.G., Australian Corps, to be present, and also the Supply Officer, Australian Corps, Lieut. Rawson, A.A.S.C.

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

G.O.C., R.A.,

Aust. Corps.

On the 7th instant I inspected animals of the 179th Army Brigade, R.F.A., and found a large number of them quite unfit for duty owing to Debility. I picked out 68 for evacuation, but owing to the Brigade being over 100 animals short they could not be evacuated until remounts arrived, which should be facilitated if possible, as the debilitated animals should go to Base as soon as possible.

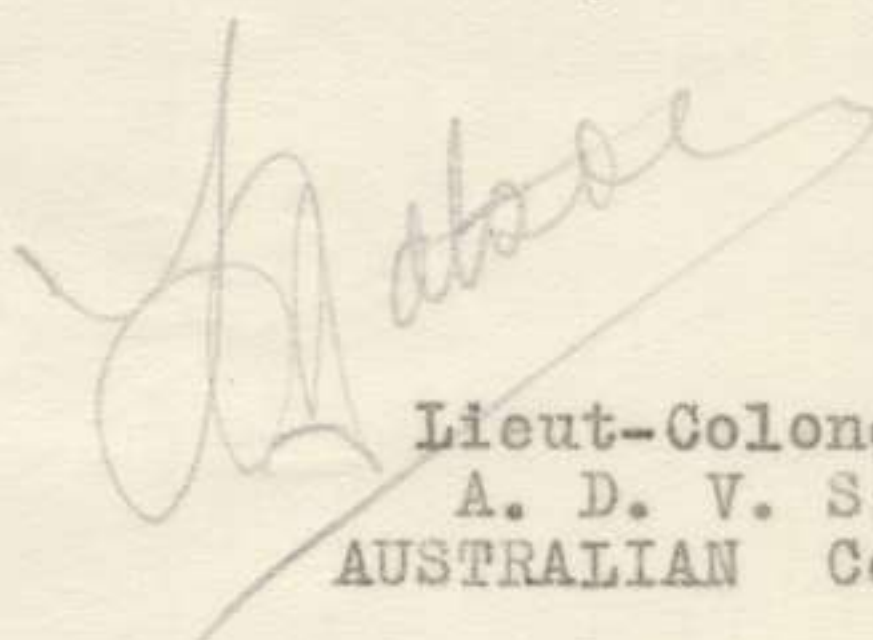
383rd Battery. Much the worst in Brigade; 38 animals picked for evacuation. Chaffcutter lost since beginning of retirement, only indented for a few days ago. Short of hay nets and nose bags. Much room for improvement in this Battery.

462nd Battery. This is the best Battery, and all circumstances being considered, animals are not unsatisfactory. No Debility; no Chaffcutter.

463rd Battery. 18 horses picked out for Debility. No Chaffcutter; average condition of animals not good.

464th Battery. 12 picked out for Debility. No Chaffcutter; general average fair.

179th B. A. C. Saved Chaffcutter in retirement; mules very satisfactory.



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

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX	
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.....	Date.....
	19. 5. 18.

8
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Headquarters.

D.D.V.S.,
FOURTH ARMY

Veterinary Report for Week Ending 16. 5. 18.

CONDITION generally is shewing much improvement; there are still a large number of evacuations from Army F.A. Brigades, but these are animals which became so low that it was not considered advisable to try and condition them in the Field, as they were not fit to do the work which is or may be required.

Debility evacuated - 109.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Catarrh,	2	- remaining,
Laryngitis,	1	- evacuated,
Pneumonia,	1	- remaining,
Broken Wind,	2	- evacuated.

This is very low. During my experience with units in the field I have never been much troubled with Respiratory Diseases.

DIGESTIVE.

Colic,	31 cases	- 29 cured, 1 destroyed, 1 evacuated.
Eversion of Bowel,	1 case	- destroyed.
Enteritis,	3 cases	- 2 died, one destroyed.
Pharyngitis,	3	" - remaining.
Ruptured Stomach,	2 cases	- died.
Twisted Bowel,	1	" - "

A few more cases of Colic this week, mostly simple cases and shewing quick recovery - probably in part due to large quantities of green herbage.

MANGE. From last week, 2; Admitted, 11; Evacuated, 10; Remaining, 3. All slight, and in many cases, doubtful. Corps animals are remarkably free from skin troubles.

SPECIFIC. Ophthalmia, 137 cases, 22 evacuated. Many of these cases are rather chronic lesions than acute attacks, but are being treated, - usually with Atropine Ointment.

Strangles, 9 cases - evacuated by special arrangement by road to Abbeville.

Ulcerative Cellulitis, 3 cases - evacuated.

Tetanus, 3 cases, - 1 destroyed, 2 remaining.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. Shell Wounds, 62 cases - 17 evacuated, 12 died. Bomb " 4 " - remaining. Much improvement has been made in protection against bombs.

GAS POISONING. 21 cases - 10 evacuated, 2 destroyed. The 2 destroyed were cases remaining from previous week; all the remainder were skin lesions which shewed symptoms after gas shelling reported last week - Mustard Gas shelling on lines during night or early morning shewing blistering chiefly underneath forearms or in perineal region or inside legs.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. 81 cases - 2 evacuated. This is a large number of cases, but they are mostly making good recoveries.

The M.V. Sections are working satisfactorily; the formation of No. 7 V.E.S. is now complete and the unit is in good working order.

The formation of Australian V.E.S. is being proceeded with, and it will very soon be in working order.

As I am arranging evacuation for this Corps and III Corps, these two units can be conveniently worked from this railhead, each V.E.S. being open alternatively and closing when the cases are put on train,

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(2).

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8 17

When the other is open until its complement is entrained.. This will mean that M.V.S. will be able to evacuate at any time into one which will be indicated by signs, and each V.E.S. will have the opportunity of cleaning its premises, &c. while the train parties are away at Base.

Some delay has been caused in men returning from Base, but that is all stated in my special report to you.

Evacuated through V.E.S. during week to Rouen, 430 cases.

WASTAGE.

	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died,	27	1	
Destroyed,	15	5	
Missing,	5	2	
Transferred,	200	37.	
	<u>247</u>	<u>45.</u>	<u>Total - 292.</u>

STRENGTH.

21,561.	7,950.	<u>Total - 29,511</u>
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Hatsoy

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

Copy to "Q",
Australian Corps.

Headquarters.

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

Veterinary Report for Week Ending 23. 5. 18.

CONDITION. Generally improving; it is hard to understand why animals should not improve now, as conditions are good, the weather is warm, work not too heavy, forage rations satisfactory, and grazing plentiful for units which will take the trouble to look for it.

Evacuated for Debility, 48, again chiefly Army Artillery Brigades.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES. Colic, 35 cases, - 34 cured, 1 evacuated.
 Enteritis, 5 " - 4 died, 1 remaining.
 Ruptured Diaphragm, 1 " - " "
 Peritonitis, 1 " - " "

MANGE. Admitted, 8; remaining from last report, 2; cured, 2; evacuated, 7; remaining, 1. The skins of animals right through the Corps look remarkably healthy.

SPECIFIC DISEASES. Ophthalmia, 94 cases - 11 evacuated.
 Ulcerative Cellulitis, 3 " - 3 evacuated.
 Tetanus 1 " - remaining.
 Strangles.. 5 " - evacuated per D.V.S. instructions.

WOUNDS, GUNSHOT. Shell Wounds, 102 - 17, died, 14 destroyed, 27 evacuated.
 Bomb Wounds, 134 - 11 died, 41 destroyed, 16 evacuated. 37 were

killed or destroyed and 60 wounded in 3rd Army Brigade, Aust. F.A. The unit has been asked to report whether the precautions as instructed in A.R.O. 1944 of 27.4.18 were observed, for the information of Fourth Army "Q", as you desire, but the reply is not yet to hand.

It is undoubtedly advisable to have these precautions carried out.

GASSED. Nil.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. 65 cases - 6 evacuated, 1 destroyed.

The formation of the 1st Aust. Vety. Evacuation Station is now complete as regards personnel; Major Fletcher, the O.C. reported on the 25th instant. All indents have been submitted for Ordnance Stores and other requirements, and it will be ready for function in a few days.

Re the suggestion during the week that Mobile Veterinary Sections should be reduced by three animals, I approved of it because I thought it a practical suggestion, and that the efficiency and working of the unit would not suffer thereby, but I do not approve of Veterinary Officers attached to units having only one horse, and the three cut off M.V.S. should be utilised by Vety. Officers. It is a mistake to imagine that a Vety. Officer attached to an Artillery Brigade has nothing to look after but the animals of that Brigade, but all the odd units in the Division as well as units of Corps Troops at times. I have no hesitation in saying that each Veterinary Officer with units has more riding than any other Officer in the Division, and he should have two horses.

I would also like to draw attention to the method of accounting for stray horses in Army Form A2000. On the back of the form animals found straying are subtracted from gross wastage, and when evacuated, added to it. To make the return complete, the evacuations on front of form should also shew strays evacuated, which gives the Division collecting and evacuating strays - which is certainly to be commended -

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APPENDIX.



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the credit of having a greater number of evacuations - probably from debility - than the unit is actually responsible for.

I would therefore suggest that the strays be not included in Wastage Return or in the evacuated on front of form, but be kept quite separate on back of form.

WASTAGE.

Horses. Mules.

Died	31	7	
Destroyed	51	10	
Missing	5	2	
Transferred	167	52	
	<u>254</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>Total - 325.</u>

STRENGTH.

	<u>22,455</u>	<u>8023.</u>	<u>Total - 30,479.</u>
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*Copy to
Aust Corps*

Watson

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

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APPENDIX 10



AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,

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

A.D.V.S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
15/13.	
No.....
Date.....

It would greatly facilitate the work of A.D.V.S. Corps if an instruction was sent out from H.Q., D.V.S. that all D.A.Ds.V.S. Divisions and Veterinary Officers with Army or Corps units would report personally to the A.D.V.S. on being attached to a Corps, and report departure in writing.

This is seldom done, and particularly with Army Artillery units it is often quite difficult to find location of Veterinary Officers, and a talk over policy is always useful, also arrangements can be made for an inspection; weekly conferences are not always possible or advisable.

Watson

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

4
Headquarters.No.....
Date 2. 6. 18.D. D. V. S.,
FOURTH ARMY.Veterinary Report for Week Ending 30. 5. 18.

CONDITION. Generally showing improvement; the few Debility cases that were evacuated were animals that have been low for months, and only awaiting the arrival of remounts to replace, to be evacuated. Every effort has been made to clean up units - particularly Army or Corps units - of inefficient animals, and they are in a very different state to when taken over by this Corps.

The animals of Australian units are on the whole in very satisfactory condition.

Evacuatiions for Debility, 20.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES. Colic 38; cured, 32; died, 2; destroyed, 1; remg. 1.
Mostly simple cases, probably due to flatulence caused by green fodder.

SKIN DISEASES. Mange. Admitted, 12; evacuated, 10; remg. 2.

SPECIFIC DISEASES. Ophthalmia, 123 cases - 11 evacuated; mostly simple cases which quickly respond to treatment but recur again, and the percentage of horses blind in one or both eyes is really a serious question - almost every unit has a number of blind or partially blind animals due to this disease.. Only animals blind in both eyes are evacuated for other than the acute stages.

Ulcerative Cellulitis, 9 cases - evacuated.

Tetanus, 1 case - destroyed.

Notwithstanding the fact that - according to instructions received - anti-tetanic serum has not been used during the months of April and May, there has not been any increase in the occurrence of this disease, but the incidence in the field has never to my mind been wide enough to make the experiment of much value; further report will be rendered when the data is available.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. Shell fire, 172 cases - 40 died; 15 destroyed; 22 evacuated.
Bomb Wounds, 62 cases - 4 died; 8 destroyed; 10 evacuated.

GASSED. 5 cases - evacuated. The following are the particulars:-

On duty; shell gas; night time; yellow cross gas; no respirators worn; shells burst near by and animals hurried away; symptoms, conjunctivitis, afterwards blistering of parts of skin in contact with gas.

During my inspections I have noticed great improvements in bomb or shell protection in horse lines, particularly in 2nd and 5th Divisional Artillery, who deserve great credit for the work that has been done.

The value of such protection is great, and I have seen several cases where casualties have been obviously much reduced by such precautions being taken..

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. 44 cases - all remaining.

Working of personnel very satisfactory. Mobile Veterinary sections are in convenient situations and have been evacuating from units in the field to No. 7 V.E.S. at Olineourt Chateau, which evacuates by rail to Rouen. 223 horses and 63 mules passed through Vety. Evacuating Station during week.

1st Aust. V.E.S. is also at Olineourt Chateau, separate from No. 7; they are assisting No. 7 with personnel but not functioning as a unit until necessary ordnance stores, lines, &c. are available; they are, however, available for duty in the event of a large number of



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evacuatiens being required.

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WASTAGE.

Horses. Mules.

Died	41	10	
Destroyed	36	1	
Missing	2	-	
Transferred	137	41	
	<u>216</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>Total - 268.</u>

STRENGTH

22,375. 8,084. Total - 30,459.

Stokes

Copy to "Q",
Aust. Corps.

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