

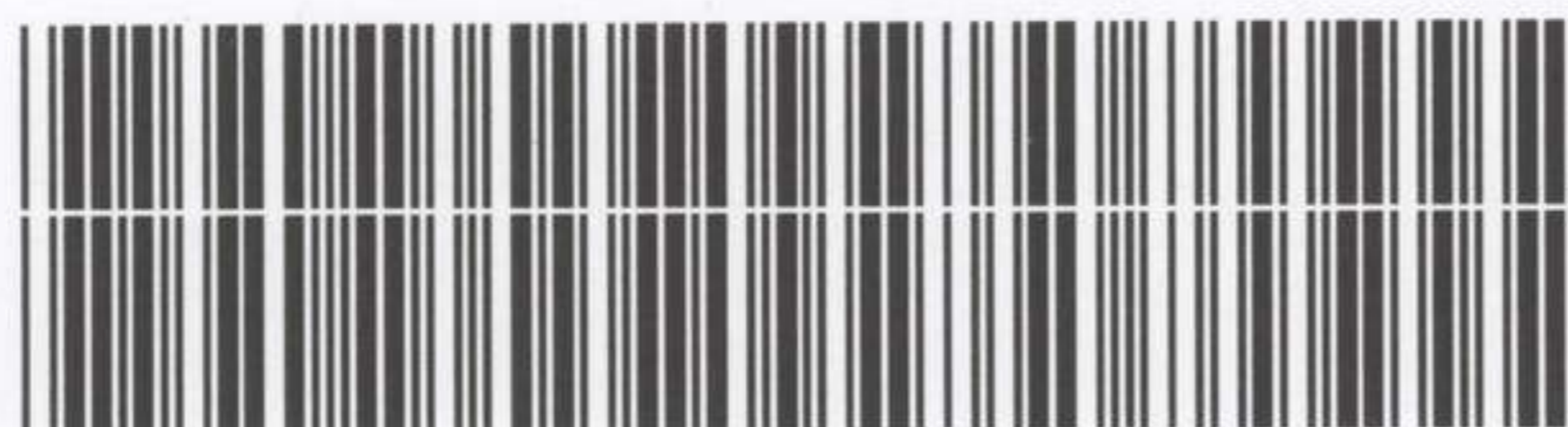
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Veterinary

**Item number:** 27/3/18

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

December 1918



AWM4-27/3/18

CONFIDENTIAL.

Original  
~~uplicate~~  
uplicate

299

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

WAR DIARY

of

ADV. ST Australian Corps

for

December 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Hatson*

LIEUT. COL.  
ADV. AUST. CORPS.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Hatson*

LIEUT. COL.  
ADV. AUST. CORPS.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Par. II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

299

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
LECATEAU	1/12		VES at BUSIGNY. Inspected and inspected it	
"	2/12		arranged transport to move VES to AVESNES. 3 motor lorries	
"	3/12		my office moved to AVESNES.	
AVESNES	4/12		wrote at suggestion of G. to Corps HQ re Officers due for 75 days leave being replaced.	
"	5/12		wrote D.D.S. A. 27. re new Cog wheel for motor ambulance put up scheme for transfer of A. class men to veterinary units to Corps HQ saw Corps commander re same matter.	
"	7/12		Inspected and branded mares for breeding purposes in 1st Aust Div. Branded 25/139.	
"	8/12		Inspected and branded 28 mares 2nd Aust Div	
"	11/12		moved to HAM-SUR-HEVRE	
"	13/12		Capt Guertin TRAVC reported for duty to 4th Aust Div	
"	14/12		Looking for site for VES at Charleville and Beaumont.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

299

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
<del>ALESIDES</del>	15/12		100 Corps troops Capt Stanhope went on leave	
	16/12		Went to RAGNIES and selected site for VES	
H.A.M.	17/12		VES moved to RAGNIES	
SWR	17/12		Rode to VES	
HEVRE	18/12		Instructions arrived from Lt Col Henry DSO and Majr How to go on 75 days leave, book in London on ordinary leave, wired A27. London caught How missed Henry, who came back	
"	20/12		Visited Corps Intd troops and Heavy Artillery.	
"	23/12		Inspected 344 Rail Const Coy Blainmont.	
"	24/12		Discussed with Corps of financial aspect of animals of A27 on demobilization.	
"	27/12		Inspected 104 Army Artillery Bde, saw mares for breeding and branded them	
"	28/12		Lt Col Henry went on 75 days leave to UK	
"	30/12		Inspected mares at 47 Cav Div Amst Horse Coy.	

W. H. D. S.  
7 D. H. S.

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W A R D I A R Y  
of  
A.D.V.S. Australian Corps  
for  
December ----- 1918

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L I S T O F A P P E N D I C E S .

- | No. | Subject   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Letter to the Director of Education re Veterinary Education.  |
| 2.  | Letter to H.Q. Aust. Corps re shortage of Veterinary Officers.  |
| 3.  | Veterinary Report for week ending 5th December 1918.  |
| 4.  | Letter to H.Q. Aust. Corps re shortage of A.A.V.C. personnel.   |
| 5.  | Veterinary Report for week ending 12th December 1918.   |
| 6.  | Veterinary report for week ending 19th December 1918.   |
| 7.  | Letter to D.D.V.S. 4th Army, D.D.V.S. A.I.F., A.A.G. A.I.F., Aust. Corps "A", D.A.G. 3rd Echelon reference changes in Veterinary Officers A.A.V.C. in this Corps. |
| 8.  | Veterinary Report for week ending 26th December 1918.   |

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Director of Education.  
A.I.F.

The matter of Veterinary education after the war is over will be one of national importance. I am afraid it will not be practicable to arrange full courses for those who have not previously studied Veterinary Science, but something should be done with Veterinary Officers, some of whom have served over 4 years, others have hurried through their university course to fill the urgent need for Veterinary Officers in the field.

The practice received in the field is not particularly valuable as a national asset nor to the individual, as most cases requiring treatment are evacuated to Base Veterinary Hospitals.

From a national standpoint the greatest value of a Veterinary Surgeon is for public health reasons and the investigation of stock diseases, particularly cattle and sheep. Therefore as many of our Officers are or will be employed by Australian Governments, and all are expected to be valuable from a public health standpoint I recommend that something should be done to give them the opportunity of getting further knowledge in their profession.

Unfortunately we are so short of Officers that we have not enough for present needs, and it would be very inconvenient to take any away until the horses are disposed of, but I recommend that a course of study be arranged as soon as possible in England covering a period of 4 months.

The Officers should be lodged in a hostel, probably the same one as the A.A.M.C. propose.

The Royal college of Veterinary Surgeons, Camden Town should be approached and asked if they could arrange a course of lectures and demonstrations in the following subjects :-

- Pathology
- Bacteriology
- Epidemic Diseases  
(particularly relating to  
cattle and sheep.)
- Parasitology
- Veterinary Medicine
- Veterinary Surgery
- Meat Inspection.

If the R.C.V.S. could not arrange, it might be done by Liverpool University who give a Veterinary Public Health Post graduate course. If this could not be arranged, we would be quite capable of arranging lectures etc by Officers of the A.I.F. and others. I would suggest that this matter be gone into without delay.

Lieut. Colonel  
A. D. V. S.  
Aust. Corps

Copies to :-  
Director General  
Demobilization, A.I.F.

D.D.V.S.  
A.I.F.

A.D.V.S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.	10/3/8
Date	2 DEC 1918

299

H.Q.  
Aust. Corps

There are a number of Officers of the A.A.V.C. in this Corps including A.D.V.S. Corps and D.A.D.V.S. of each Division who left Australia in 1914 and are due for return to Australia or 75 days leave in France or England, several have applied for it, but owing to shortage of Veterinary Officers it has been impossible to permit any to go, except Major Heslop who had leave to attend Liverpool university and Major Finlay who went back to Australia.

I would like to point out the heavy work these Officer have had to perform, the personnel of a Division is about a third of what we had at the beginning of the war, and the work is always the same whether units are in the line or in rest.

The A.A.V.C. is not a branch that is in the limelight, but I might say that all officers of the Corps have worked conscientiously and unselfishly, and often stuck to their work when really medically unfit, therefore I consider something should be done to relieve them and allow those due for and entitled to leave to take it.

The only methods of doing this, as far as I can see, as I understand it is intended to maintain the Corps organization as long as possible :-

(1) To send the officers employed in England to France as I understand Base establishments are closing and horses will not be required.

(2) Demobilize the Australian Veterinary Hospital owing to small number of animal casualties, probably one Veterinary Hospital could be dispensed with, also the men employed are "B" Class and these are being returned to Australia.

At the present time the Corps is short of several Veterinary Officers from the lowest possible working establishment.

A.D.V.S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.	10/3/9
Date	12/18

*Handwritten signature*  
*Plan*

Lieut. Colonel  
A. D. V. S.  
Aust. Corps

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Australian Corps.

Headquarters  
10th December 18.

D.D.V.S.  
Fourth Army.

Veterinary Report for week ending 5th December 1918.

Debility.

Evacuated 108

Respiratory.

Catarrh, Admitted 3, Evacuated 1, Remaining 2.  
Broken Wind, Admitted 1 Remaining 1.  
Exhaustion, Admitted 2 Remaining 2.

Digestive.

Indigestion, Admitted 1 Cured 1.  
Colic, Admitted 6, Cured 3, Died 1, Remaining 2.  
Enteritis, Admitted 3 Died 3.

Mange.

1 Case admitted 4th Aust. Division, Remaining.  
1 Case Suspected Mange admitted 35th Battery R.G.A.  
Remaining.

Specific.

Ophthalmia, Admitted 32 Evacuated 11.  
Ulc. Cellulitis, Admitted 4 Evacuated 4.

Wounds.

P.U.N. Admitted 54 Evacuated 5.

Evacuations for debility are still rather high, units are still clearing out animals which are not in satisfactory condition, units have had some very long marches during the last few weeks and continually moving from one area to another is always hard on horses.

Picked up nails are still numerous but the results are seldom serious, everyone concerned being familiar with prompt treatment which usually results in quick cure.

We are still short of personnel and one officer has had to be detached from 1st Aust. Division to do duty with 5th Aust. Div.

N.C.O's and men are still being sent away being 1914 - 1915 or "B" class men and are now difficult to replace, I have suggested a scheme for transferring "A" class men to Veterinary units for instruction.

1st Aust. V.E.S. is now at "Avesnelles" and took over 140 animals from 9th V.E.S. most of which have now been evacuated from Landrecies.

Wastage.

Horses.

Mules.

Died  
Destroyed  
Missing  
Transferred

5

4

8

225

242

17,414

3

1

1

34

39

6,377

Total 281.

Total 23,791

Strength.

Copy to :-  
Q. Aust. Corps

*M. Atkinson*

LIEUT. COL.  
ADVS. AUST. CORPS.



299

Headquarters,  
Australian Corps.

The A.A.V.C. of the Corps is at <sup>the</sup> present time suffering a lot of inconvenience from the loss of its trained personnel by 1914 or B class men being sent away, these comprise a large proportion of our personnel.

The work of our branch is still going on the same as ever, the war by no means having stopped for us.

I therefore suggest the transfer or attachment of suitable volunteers from units to make up establishments, these men will be trained in elementary veterinary work, dressing etc, and the training would be valuable to farmers or horse owners as an educational scheme, and would I think, fit in with the general policy. May something be done without delay please as the matter is urgent.

A.D.V.S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.	1/6/16
Date	5/12/18.

*J. H. Hutton*

Lieut. Colonel  
A. D. V. S.  
Aust. Corps

Copies to :-

- D.D.V.S. A.I.F.
- D.A.G. 3rd Echelon.
- O.C. Aust.Vety Hospital.
- Director of Education.
- E.A.D.V.S. 1st Aust.Division
- " 2nd " "
- " 3rd " "
- " 4th " "
- " 5th " "

Australian Corps.

Headquarters.  
18th December, 18.D.D.V.S.  
Fourth Army.Veterinary Report for week ending 12th December, 1918.Debility.

Evacuated. 35.

Respiratory.Pneumonia. Admitted 1, Remaining 1,  
Catarrh. Admitted 3, Evacuated 3,Digestive.Intestinal Calculi, Admitted 2, Died 1, Evacuated 1,  
Colic, Admitted 6, Cured 5, Died 1,  
Indigestion, Admitted 2, Cured 2,  
Impaction of Stomach, Admitted 1, Destroyed 1,  
Pharngitis, Admitted 1, Remaining 1,  
Enteritis, Admitted 1, Died 1,Mange,

- 1. Case admitted 104th Army Bde, R.G.A., Evacuated.
- 1. Case admitted 3rd Aust Division. Evacuated.
- 1. Case admitted (Suspected) 35th H.B. R.G.A. Evacuated
- 1. Case admitted (Suspected) 113th H.B. R.G.A. Evacuated
- 1. Case admitted (Suspected) 2/1st Lowland H.B, R.G.A. Evacuated.

Specific.Ophthalmia, Admitted 36, Evacuated 5.  
Ulcerated Cellulitis, Admitted 10, Evacuated 7.  
Tetanus, Admitted 1.Wounds.

P. U. N. Admitted 44, Evacuated 3.

The condition of animals is generally satisfactory, especially especially of clipped animals, Owing to constant moving, supervision of stable management has not been quite as good as usual, but when Units become more settled more can be done in this direction.

Diseases are not numerous and fortunately there is hardly any

Mange.Wastage.

	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	6.	-	
Destroyed	5.	2.	
Missing	1.	-	
Transferred	106.	19.	
	<u>118.</u>	<u>21.</u>	Total 139.
	<u>18,158.</u>	<u>6,383.</u>	Total 24,541.

Copy to :-  
Q. Aust Corps.

LIEUT. COL.  
ADVS, AUST. CORPS.

999  
Australian Corps.  
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Headquarters,  
23rd December, 1918.

D. D. V. S.  
Fourth Army.  
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Veterinary Report for week ending 19th December, 1918.  
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Debility. Evacuated. 10.

Respiratory. Catarrh, Admitted 2, Remaining 2.  
Pneumonia, Admitted 2, Remaining 2.

Digestive. Colic, Admitted 4. Cured 4. Died 1.  
Entiritis, Admitted 5. Died 5.  
Pharangitis, Admitted 1. Remaining 1.

Mange. Admitted 2. Cases Suspected Mange, 2/1st Lowland H. B.  
R.G.A. Remaining 2.

Specific. Ophthalmia, Admitted 14. Evacuated 2.  
Ulcerative Cellulitis, Admitted 1. Evacuated 4.  
Tetanus, Admitted 2. Destroyed 1. Remaining 1.

Wounds. F. U. N. Admitted 33. Evacuated 3.

Condition is generally satisfactory. During the week I inspected all Heavy Artillery Horses which were satisfactory, but I reported I did not consider 1 hour a day sufficient exercise for animals standing on hard stable floors.

I also inspected 6th Army Brigade A.F.A., 4th Cavalry Division, A.H.T. Coy, and Corps Mounted Troops, all of which were satisfactory.

The 1st. Aust V.E.S. at RAGNIES is collecting animals unable to walk by means of the Motor Ambulance, which has already proved its value. It would be extremely difficult to collect animals in such a wide area with the ordinary Horse Float.

During the week personnel of Officers was correct excepting 1/short in the 5th Aust Division, where we are expecting Captain Spence; but owing to Lieut Colonel Henry and Major More going on 75 days leave, and Captain Cooke being evacuated, we are again 4 below strength. I am at present looking after an Army Artillery Brigade, and 1100 Corps Troops myself, owing to the Veterinary Officer Corps Troops being on leave.

Veterinary Officers have to work hard, and I have to find some method of giving them leave. It is usually at fairly long intervals.

<u>WASTAGE.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Died.	7.	2.	9.
Destroyed.	8.	1.	7.
Missing.	7.	-	7.
Evacuated.	44.	11.	55.
	<u>64.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>74.</u>
<u>STRENGTH.</u>	<u>18,345.</u>	<u>6,450.</u>	<u>24,795.</u>
	=====	=====	=====

Copy to:-  
Q. Aust Corps.

LIEUT. COL.  
ADV.S, AUST. CORPS.

299  
D.D.V.S. 4th Army,  
D.D.V.S. A.I.F.  
A.A.G. A.I.F.  
Aust Corps. "A".  
D.A.G. 3rd ECHELON.

Judging by resent wires etc., ordering changes in personnel, there is evidently some misunderstanding re Veterinary Officers A.I.F. in this Corps, the extract positionis:n

Aust Corps .	Lieut Colonel. matson, D.S.O. A.D.V.S.
1st Aust Division.	Major. Fletcher. M.C. D.A.D.V.S. Capt Robson. " " Bell. " " Lukey, - ( Temporarily detached by) ( me to 5th Aust Division) " " Lucas, O.C 1st A.M.V.S.
2nd Aust Division.	Major. Hankin. a/D.A.D.V.S. Capt Veech. " Finney. " Guertion. R.A.V.C. Major. Gilbert. O.C. 2nd A.N.V.S. " Hore. D.A.D.V.S. ( ON 75) ( days Leave) ( To U.K.)
3rd Aust Division.	Major. McKenzie. D.S.O. D.A.D.V.S. " Callow. Capt. Davidson. " Wakeham. " Legg. O.C. 3rd A.M.V.S.
4th Aust Division.	Major James . D.A.D.V.S. Capt Bishop. " Morigin. " Heywood. O.C. 4th A.M.V.S. (1. officer short of establishment.)
5th Aust Division.	Major. Symonds. D.A.D.V.S. Capt. Tucker. " Edwards. O.C. 5th A.M.V.S. (2. Officers short of establishment.)
Lieut COLONEL Henry, D.S.O. on 75 days leave to the United Kingdom	
Capt. R.N. Spence to report from Aust Veterinary Hospital.	
1st Veterinary Evacuating Station.	Capt Hindmarsh.
Corps Mounted Troops.	Capt Stanhope.
3rd Army Brigade. A.F.A. (To go on 75 days leave on relief by R.A.V.C. Officer)	Major. MacIndee.
6th Army Brigade. A.F.A. ( Evacuated on 17th inst, expected to return.)	Major Capt Cooke.
12th Army Brigade.	Capt. Phillips.

20/12/1918.

Lieut Colonel.  
A.D.V.S.  
Aust Corps.

299  
Australian Corps.  
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Headquarters,  
29<sup>th</sup> December, 1918.

D. D. V. S.  
4th Army.  
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Veterinary Report for week ending 26th December, 1918.  
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Debility, Evacuated, 19.

Respiratory, Laryngitis, Admitted 2. Evacuated 1. Remaining 1.  
Pneumonia, Admitted 1. Remaining 1.  
Roaring, Admitted 1. Evacuated 1.

Digestive. Colic, Admitted 17. Cured 2. Died 2. Remaining 2.

Rango. Admitted, 2 Cases, 4th Aust Division Evacuated 2.  
Admitted, 1 Case, 3rd Army Brigade, A.F.A. Remaining 1.  
Admitted, 2 Cases, 2/1st Lowland H.B. R.G.A.  
Admitted, 1 Case, 132nd H.B. R.G.A.  
Admitted, 2 Cases 113th H.B. R.G.A.

Specifics. Ophthalmia, Admitted 21. Evacuated 5.  
Strangles, Admitted 3.  
Ulcer Cellulitis, Admitted 3. Evacuated 3.  
Tetanus, Destroyed 1.  
Nec Dermatitis, Admitted 4. Evacuated 1.

P. U. N. Admitted 24. Destroyed 1. Evacuated 1.

Condition of animals is generally most satisfactory. The figures for sickness and injuries are small, and there is nothing of importance to report.

The Corps is still several Veterinary ~~positions~~ short which entails extra work on an establishment already too small, especially in an area so large in extent.

W A S T A G E

	Horses.	Mules.	Total.
Died	1.	3.	4.
Destroyed	5.	2.	7.
Missing	3.	1.	4.
Evacuated	68.	3.	71.
Total	77.	9.	86.
Found	-	3.	3.
<u>Net Wastage</u>	<u>77.</u>	<u>6.</u>	<u>83.</u>

S T R E N G T H

HORSES.	MULES.	TOTAL.
18229.	6453.	24682.

*W. J. Gibson*

LIEUT. COL.  
ADVS. AUST. CORPS.