

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/3/19

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

January 1919



AWM4-27/3/19

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~~TRIPPLICATE.~~

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AUSTRALIAN. IMPERIAL. FORCES.

WAR. DIARY

A.D.V.S. ^{OF.} AUSTRALIAN. CORPS.

FOR.

JANUARY. 1919.

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER COMPILING.

J. Watson

LIEUT. COL.
ADVS. AUST. CORPS.

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER COMMANDING.

J. Watson

LIEUT. COL.
ADVS. 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.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
HAM- sur - HEURE BELGIUM	1919 1/1		Inspecting suitable breeding mares in 4 th Can Div Art (6) Capt Standhope OARF. NO Capt's troops should have been back from leave on 30.12.18, but was granted an extension on medical grounds, this necessitated me doing his work myself, which as all animals are to be classified for demobilization is extremely difficult to arrange.	
"	4/1		Visited Charleroi and arranged with "Traffic" 4 th Army to truck sick horses to Base - last rail evacuation arranged with horse butcher in Charleroi to buy horses cast for sale to butcher - just 6 brought for 3000. During the war I have acquired a fair knowledge of French which is a valuable asset.	
"	4/1		Visited 3 rd Div Artillery to commence Classification but, owing to some disciplinary difficulty it had to be postponed.	

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299

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAM-SUR-HEURE	1919 7/1		<p>Carrying on with Veterinary Classification of animals of Corps troops. After I had arranged for all Divisions to go on with their own, owing to shortage of officers, I had to do it entirely by myself, instead of having a Board of 3 Officers I also arranged to work in conjunction with the Remount Board, arranging all inspection etc. animals being inspected by remount officer. After I had finished my classification, the method was all animals were classified "A" 5 to 8 years old and workably sound "B" sound 8 to 12 yrs old, "C" over 12 and sound enough to work for sale in France or Belgium "C" - over 13 but sound may be chosen by remount officer for X or Y Class. "D" over 20 or unsound - for sale to Butcher.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAM-SUR HEURE			<p>D-200000 - to be sold locally, being declared 200000 at Sale. Regiment Board Classified them X for Army of Occupation Y for sale in U.K. Z for sale locally w/ ophthalmia cases are to go to U.K. this work occupied all the month every horse sold or sent to U.K. has to be malleus tested and certified free from contagious disease, and branded with reversed V - veterinary cases only which are sold through V.E.S.</p>	
"	9/11		<p>Inspecting animals from V.E.S. for sale locally at THUIX on 18.1.19.</p>	
"			<p>Capt Mc Gath RAVC attached Corps Heavy Artillery went on leave without my approval and was wired for by GAB to return.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

6630

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
"	1919		<p>He however did not return until 24.1.19. leaving me to undertake veterinary care of all heavy artillery Batteries as well. I could not detach an officer from a Division at such a strenuous time. Capt Cook OARF was also evacuated sick and I had the care of 6th Army Bde A7A to attend to.</p>	
	13/1		<p>visited 3rd Div Artillery and arranged for Rely Board consisting of Maj Ballou and Capt Wakeham to carry on classification. The Artillery was a long way from Division and I had to supervise as with Corps troops visited sale of horses, & mules cast for</p>	
"	18/1		<p>Rely reason from V.E.S. at THUIV. 69 actual average price Frames 1538</p>	<p><i>Letson</i></p>

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WAR DIARY
of
A. D. V. S. Australian Corps
for
January 1919

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LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Veterinary Report for week ending 2nd January 1919.
2	Veterinary Report for week ending 9th January 1919.
3	Letter to D.D.V.S. A.I.F. re shortage of Veterinary Officers.
4	Veterinary Report for week ending 16th January 1919.
5	Veterinary Report for week ending 23rd January 1919.
6	Veterinary Report for week ending 30th January 1919.

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Australian Corps.

Headquarters,
2nd January, 1919.

D. D. V. S.
4th Army.

Veterinary Report for week ending 2nd January, 1919.

Debility. Evacuated 11.

Respiratory. Catarrh, Admitted 2. Remaining 2.
Laryngitis, Admitted 1. Remaining 1.
Pneumonia, Admitted 2. Died 1. Remaining 1

Digestive. Colic, Admitted 15. Cured 13. Evacuated 1, Destroyed 1. Rung 1
Stoppage Bowels, Admitted 1. Died 1.
Enteritis, Admitted 1. Died 1.
Volvulus, Admitted 1. Died 1.

Mange. Admitted 4. Cases, 2nd Aust Division, Evacuated 1. Remaining 1
Admitted 1. Case 3rd Aust Division, Evacuated 1.
Admitted 10. Cases, Suspected Mange, 35th H.B. R.G.A. 10. Evacuated
Admitted 5. Cases, Suspected Mange, 115th H.B. R.G.A. Evacuated 5.
Admitted 1. Case, Suspected Mange, 132nd H.B. R.G.A. 1. Evacuated.
Admitted 1. Case Mange, Aust Corps Mtd Troops, 1. Evacuated.

Specific. Ulcerative Cellulitis, Admitted 10. Evacuated 6.
Strangles, Admitted 3.
Ophthalmia, Admitted 11. Evacuated 2.
Tetanus, Admitted 2. Died 1. Destroyed 1.
Ulcerative Cornea, Admitted 1. Evacuated 1.
Amaurosis, Admitted 2. Evacuated 1.

Wounds. P. U. N. Admitted 18.

Condition of animals is very satisfactory and there is little sickness. Veterinary Boards are all ready to commence the classification of animals in view of demobilization.

Evacuations are being carried out by V.E.S. from Charleroi, and arrangements have been made to sell some animals to Horse Butcher.

W A S T A G E .

	Horses.	Mules.	Total.
Died	7.	1	8.
Destroyed	10.	1	11.
Missing	1.	2	3.
Evacuated	77.	11	88.
Total	95.	15.	110.
Found	1.		1.
Net Wastage.	94.	15.	109.

S T R E N G T H .

Horses,	Mules.	Total.
18189.	6446.	24635.

L. *L. J. J. J.*
LIEUT. COL.
ADVS. AUST. CORPS.

Australian Corps

Headquarters
13th January 1919.

D.D.V.S.
4th Army.

Veterinary Report for week ending 9th Jan. 1919.

Debility. Evacuations 34.

Respiratory. Pneumonia, Admitted 2, Died 2.
Catarrh, Admitted 1, Evacuated 1.

Digestive. Colic, Admitted 5, Cured 1, Died 2, Evacuated 2.
Ruptured Stomach, Admitted 1 Died.
Enteritis, Admitted 1 Died.

Mange. 10 Mange Admitted 2nd Aust. Division Evacuated.
5 " " 4th " " "
1 " " 5th " " "
22 " " Corps Heavy Artillery Evacuated.

Specific. Ophthalmia, Admitted 14, Evacuated 13.
Ulc. Cellulitis Admitted 2, Evacuated 2.

Wounds. P.U.N. Admitted 24, Evacuated 2.

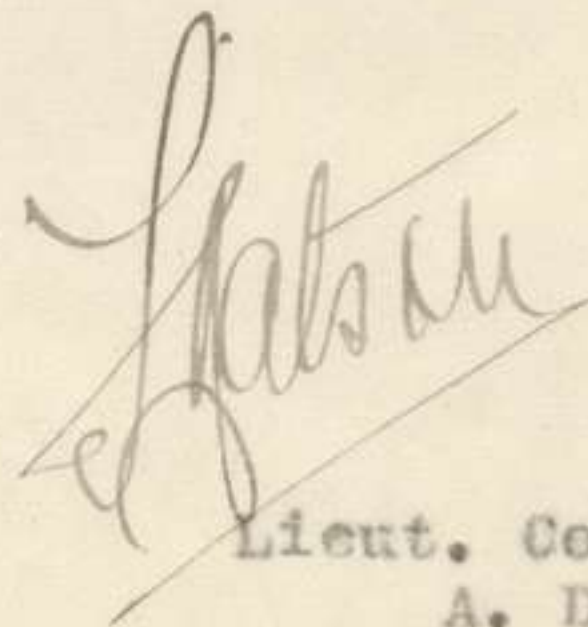
Animals generally are fairly satisfactory but units are all complaining about loss of drivers causing increased work for those remaining.

All Divisions are busy on Classification Boards, over 5,000 horses were classified in 4 days.

I have been unfortunate in losing my one remaining Veterinary Officer with a Corps unit as Captain McGrath R.A.V.C. was allowed by Heavy Artillery H.Q. to go on leave without my permission, leaving me to look after personally all animals of H.A., a Cavalry Regt Aux Horse Coy, an Army Brigade, Corps H.Q. and numerous small units as well as being president and members of Classification Board, in my spare time I attend to office duties.

V.E.S. is working at high pressure and I will be compelled to ask Corps for extra personnel and transport to assist.

<u>Wastage.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	8	2	
Destroyed	8	1	
Missing	2	-	
Evacuated	126	28	
	-----	-----	
	144	31	
	=====	=====	Grand Total 175.
<u>Strength.</u>	13,496	9,110	" " 22,806.



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

Copy to "Q"
Aust. Corps

289 S
D.V.S.
A.I.E.

Your wire received re McKenna and Stanhope, I allowed Stanhope to go on leave and to do his work myself, now I find myself doing very attention to a Cavalry Regt an Aux.H. Transport Company (230) animals, numerous small Units, an Artillery Brigade vice Cooke, several Brigades of Heavy Artillery vice the V.O. who went on leave without my approval as well as being a board of 3 Officers examining animals for Classification prior to Demobilization, you truly must admit rather a remarkable achievement for one man, but I do not, guarantee it is all done satisfactorily though in doing ^{my} best, as much as I can do in about 16 hours a day, I have by order of D.V.S. stopped all leave for V.O.s whilst this work is being done, I certainly cannot allow any Officer to go on 75 days leave at present until a relief arrives for them as neither Major McKenna nor Captain Stanhope will leave England till the 30th, I must expect to carry on for another 2 weeks before Stanhope arrives, when I wire ^y and asked for McKenna was because I considered he would be more of assistance than I can expect from my present V.O. Corps Troops.

A.D.V.S., AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
No. 1/6/54
Date 12/1/1919.

W. Watson

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

Australian Corps.

Headquarters
19/1/19

D.D.V.S.
4th Army.

Veterinary Report for week ending 18th January 1919.

Debility.

Evacuations 43.

Respiratory.

Rearer, Admitted 1 Evacuated.
Pneumonia, Admitted 2 Died 2.
Laryngitis, Admitted 1 Remaining.
Catarrh, Admitted 2, Cured 1, Evacuated 1.
Broken Wind, Admitted 5, Evacuated 4, Remaining 1.

Digestive.

Enteritis, Admitted 2, Died 2.
Impaction, Admitted 1, Died 1. Evacuated 3.
Colic, Admitted 14, Cured 6, Died 3, Remaining 2.

Mange.

9 Cases admitted 1st Aust. Division Evacuated 9.
10 Cases admitted 2nd Aust. Division Evacuated 10.
5 Cases admitted 5th Aust. Division Evacuated 5.
5 Cases remaining from last return Aust. Corps Heavy
Artillery Evacuated.
12 Cases admitted Army Brigades Evacuated 8.
3 Cases admitted 3rd Aust. Divnl Artillery Remaining.

Specific.

Ophthalmia, Admitted 50, Destroyed 1, Evacuated 34.
Ulc. Cellulitis, Admitted 8, Evacuated 6.
Tetanus, Admitted 1, Destroyed 1.

Wounds.

P.U.N. Admitted 21, Evacuated 3.

Condition of all animals satisfactory, but animals are dirty owing to long coats and insufficient men to groom them.

All Veterinary Officers are busily engaged on Classification Boards and mallein testing. All animals sent to U.K. or being sold to Belgium are being tested on Unit lines. My own time has also been fully occupied on the same work.

V.E.S. has been very busy dealing with evacuated animals, it has been reinforced by 30 men from Infantry Units of Divisions. All personnel have been performing their duties satisfactorily.

<u>Wastage.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	10	3	
Destroyed	11	-	
Missing	6	3	
Evacuated	216	44	
	-----	-----	
	243	50	Total 293.
	=====	=====	
<u>Strength.</u>	17,821	6,172	Total 23,993.
	=====	=====	=====

J. Watson

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

Copy to :-
"Q"
Aust. Corps.

Australian Corps.Headquarters,
27/1/19.D. D. V. S.
4th Army.Veterinary Report for week ending 23rd January 1919.Debility

Evacuations 32

RespiratoryCongestion of Lungs, Admitted 1 Died.
Pleurisy, Admitted 1 Died.
Pneumonia, Admitted 1 Died.Digestive.Colic, Admitted 15, Cured 8, Died 5, Destroyed 2.
Enteritis, Admitted 4, Died 3, Evacuated 1.
Volvulus of Intestines, Admitted 1 Died.Mange.15 Mange admitted 1st Aust. Division, Evacuated 15.
1 Mange admitted 2nd Aust. Division, Remaining.
5 Mange admitted 3rd Aust. Division Artillery, Evacuated 15
3 Mange admitted Army Bdes, Evacuated 8.
4 Mange admitted Aust. Corps Troops, Evacuated 4.Specific.Ulc. Cellulitis, Admitted 19, Evacuated 5.
Ophthalmia, Admitted 45, Evacuated 17.Wounds.

P.U.N. Admitted 23, Evacuated 5.

The condition of animals is generally satisfactory, there is little sickness and few injuries, the point worthy of note is the increasing prevalence of Mange, this is easily explained and is due to several causes :-

1. Long coats, clipped animals seldom get it,
2. Dirt- most units are short of personnel and grooming is far from being satisfactorily done.
3. Infected stables which it is impossible to guard against though they are disinfected if there is reason for suspicion.

It is desirable that Mange cases should be promptly evacuated, but owing to rail to base not being available, Advanced Hospital at Charleroi being full, V.E.S. in the same state, Divisions have to retain cases in M.V.S.

230 cases were admitted to the 5th A.M.V.S. from the French Army, mostly mange, arrangements were made for French personnel to accompany them, and they are being ^{kept} separate from our animals.

All Veterinary Officers have been busy on classification of animals and up to 23/1/19 21,818 animals have been classified.

V.E.S. has been doing good work but have been congested owing to stoppage of channel of evacuation.

<u>WASTAGE.</u>	<u>HORSES</u>	<u>MULES.</u>	
Died	10	3	
Destroyed	8	1	
Missing	4	-	
Evacuated	157	15	
	179	19	Total 198.
Strength	16,573	5,757	Total 22,330

A.D.V.S. AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	
No.
Date	27/1/19



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

Copy to 4-
"Q"
Aust. Corps

289
Australian Corps.

Headquarters
4th February 1919.

D. D. V. S.
4th Army.

Veterinary Report for week ending 30th January 1919.

Debility.

Evacuated 21

Respiratory.

Influenza, admitted 1, Cured.
Pneumonia, admitted 2, Remaining
Rearer, Admitted 1, Remaining.

Digestive.

Colic, Admitted 6, Cured 5, Remaining 1.
Enteritis, Admitted 3, Died 3.
Ruptured Bowel, Admitted 1, Destroyed.

Mange

9 Cases admitted 1st Aust. Division, 3 Cured, 6 Remg.
3 Cases admitted 2nd Aust. Division, Remaining 3.
1 Case admitted 3rd Aust. Division, Evacuated 2.
3 cases Remg last ~~XXXX~~ return 3rd Div. Art., Evacuated 3.
1 Case admitted 3rd Aust. Div. Art., Evacuated 1.
6 Cases admitted 5th Aust. Division, Remaining 6.
3 Cases admitted Army Bdes, Remaining 2, Evacuated 1.

Specific.

Ophthalmia, Admitted 51, Destroyed 2, Evacuated 4.
Ulc. Cellulitis, Admitted 22, Evacuated 16.

Wounds.

P. U. N., Admitted 12.

Condition of animals generally satisfactory.

There is still a difficulty with evacuations for Vety reasons, we cannot evacuate by rail and Advanced Veterinary Hospital CHARLEROI has been unable to take any cases, V. E. S. is full, all M. V. S.'s have stopped evacuating for 10 days and are full, consequently there is a congestion of sick animals, many of which are Mange cases.

Veterinary classification of animals is practically finished as well as malleining for sale locally and transfer to U. K.

V. E. S. is fully employed preparing animals for sale and the whole of the A. A. V. C. personnel of the Corps has been kept very busy.

Units are being much depleted of personnel and it is urgently desired that all animals may be disposed of quickly.

<u>Wastage.</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	
Died	2	1	
Destroyed	11	-	
Missing	5	-	
Transferred	174	(((51	
	192	52	Total 244.

<u>Strength.</u>	16,328	6,016	Total 22,344
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Copy to :-
"Q" Aust. Corps

Latson

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