

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/3/7

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

January 1918



AWM4-27/3/7

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

ADLS. Australian Corps

FOR

January 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

Hatton HSB
ADLS

Signature of Officer Commanding

Hatton HSB
ADLS Aust Corps.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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
FLETRE	1918 1/1		Walked to THIESHOVEN And saw Artillery Horses of 4 th Aust Div after rail journey from Somme area, all were in fair condition. <i>Jh</i>	
"	2/1		Conference of ADHS with DDHS at Army HQ. Discussion on evacuation of sick horses And Corps Casualty Clearing Station. <i>Jh</i>	
"	5/1		Conference DDHS and officers with corps units, discussed mange And methods of dealing with it, occurrence And treatment of ophthalmia, many cases are still cropping up, with no indication of causation. <i>Jh</i>	
"	7/1		Inspected 3 rd Aust Army F.A. Bde. Much improved. report attached. <i>Jh</i>	
"	9/1		conference at Army HQ. discussed ophthalmia And evacuations. <i>Jh</i>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 299

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
FLETRE	1918 15/1		Telephoned re case of Epizootic Lymphangitis 36 th Battalion 3 rd Aust Div. Diagnosed by Capt Ballan OAHB and confirmed microscopically. Animal destroyed and all necessary precautions taken to prevent spread. D.D.H. Army came to see it.	
"	12/1		Sent Capt Robson OAHB. to 41 st Bde Heavy Artillery to assist with heavy batteries and to look after corps troops as Major Kore ^{OAHB} moved with 15 th L.H. back into training area. JH Conference DADLS and LB at my office, discussed evacuation, arranged dipping. 4 th Aust Div re attached to corps. JH	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 299

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLETRE	14/1		Inspected 12 th Aust Army 7A Bde. a number of horses are itchy & evidently mangy, condition of some is also unsatisfactory.	
"	15/1		Inspected 6 th Aust 7A Bde. Condition etc satisfactory. Rode to Corps dip which is being repaired and is temporarily not operating. H.	
"	18/1		Inspected Ringworm cases in 4 th D Ab. a number of animals affected, but outbreak well in hand H.	
"	20/1		4 men from 4 th Aust Div sent to IX Corps C&S at OUDERDOM from where this div is evacuating. H.	
	25/1		Inspected a number of Heavy Batteries, horses satisfactory H. Advised ADIB IX Corps re Changing men of 1 st and 5 th Ws at C&S on account of Division's changing over H.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 299

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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
FLETRE	1918 27/1		Instructions sent out that owing to transport difficulty oat ration will be reduced 2 1/38. 7/6	
"	28/1		Some animals being dipped at mange dip, which started work again to day. programme of work arranged to do 350 to 400 horses daily during week. 7/6	
"	29/1		Inspecting horses of 3 rd Div Artillery. all in very	
"	30/1		satisfactory condition. 7/6	
<p>1.2.18.</p> <p>Watson 4601</p> <p>ADLB Chest Inps.</p>				

WAR DIARY

OF

AID Australian Corps

FOR

January 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1	Weekly & Retiring report week ending 3.1.18
2	do do 10.1.18
3	do do 14.1.18
4	do do 24.1.18
5	do do 31.1.18

6	Report on Inspection of 3 rd Aust AHA Bde
7	do 12 th do
8	do 6 th do

1.2.18

Hatton
Hobbs

AID Aust Corps

299

APPENDIX.
APPENDIX.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A.D.V.S. 1 ANZAC.	
No.	
Date	7 JAN 1918

6

Headquarters,
6th January 1918.

D.D.V.S.,
Fourth Army.

VETERINARY REPORT WEEK ENDING 3/1/1918.

This week separate returns are rendered for horses and mules by orders from the War Office so that comparisons may be made respecting casualties.

CONDITION, is generally satisfactory. I have visited a number of Units during the week, and have been very satisfied with general condition. Units with horses and mules find they can get good results by cutting mules down in oats and giving the horses more. Nine cases were evacuated for DEBILITY, all being horses.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. Two cases of pneumonia, and a few cases of CATARH, which is very satisfactory.

DIGESTIVE COMPLAINTS. 10 cases of COLIC in horses, 1 death, 5 cases amongst mules, all recovered. 1 case of ENTERITIS which died and 1 death from INTERNAL rupture.

MANGE AND SKIN DISEASE. MANGE figures show an improvement. 85 cases against 149 last week; these are mostly horses, which are much more susceptible to the complaint. ULCERATIVE CELLULITIS cases, 16 cases and a few cases of DERMATITIS and Cracked Heels.

SPECIFIC DISEASE. One case of TETANUS which died, this disease is one which varies with the occurrence of gunshot wounds, though punctured feet are also a common cause.

EYE DISEASES. Specific OPHTHALMIA is still a serious trouble. 78 cases occurred during week and 70 animals were evacuated; some of the evacuated animals were cases from the week before.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. 7 cases occurred during week and 10 cases were evacuated which occurred the preceding week.

PICKED UP NAILS AND PUNCT. FEET - 21 cases.

ADMINISTRATION. The greatest difficulty is administering of one Division near BOULOGNE, as returns, messages etc., are ~~day~~ delayed in transmission. The V.Os with Artillery of this Division were advised by wire to send returns to D.A.D.V.S., as they are now in Divisional Area, but the wires were two days before delivery to Officers concerned, consequently returns were sent to me and attached to the Divisional returns.

M.V. Sections quite satisfactory. Evacuation was successfully carried out by rail owing to breaking down of barge service.

OTHER MATTERS. This week proved the necessity of the early issue and use of frost cogs in shoes, as some Units had great difficulty in moving through not having them. Two sets of cogs should be issued with every set of shoes, owing to the tendency to break. All Units should be fully supplied by the end of November.

Wastage for week.

	Horses.	Mules.
Died	5	-
Evacuated	157	8
Destroyed	9	2
Missing	-	2
Total -	169	12

[Signature]

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

Copy to -
"Q" Australian Corps.

A U S T R A L I A N C O R P S .

A.D.V.S.,

Aust Corps

Headquarters No. 13 JAN 1918
Date

D. D. V. S.,

4th A R M Y.

Veterinary Report Week Ending 10. 1. 18.

CONDITION. Generally good - 7 animals were evacuated for debility.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. One case of Pleurisy, 2 of Pneumonia, (one fatal).

DIGESTIVE DISEASES. Twenty cases of Colic, one of which was fatal. One Ruptured Stomach.

MANGE & SKIN DISEASE. The total Mange figures shew an increase this week, particularly in Army Artillery Brigades - 12th Brigade 49, and 6th Brigade 32: these figures are higher than whole Divisions, and will require close attention. Total Mange cases 209 against 85 last week.

The working of Mange Dip Has been temporarily suspended during the week pending repairs which are being carried out under C.R.E. Corps Troops. It will probably be in working order early this week, about the 14th.

Ten cases of Ulcerative Cellulitis.

Ten cases of Necrotic Dermatitis

The figures for these two diseases are very low compared with this time of last year when the animals were standing deep in mud; the evacuations through Cellulitis and Ulcerative Necrosis were then a very serious consideration.. Now, all animals have good standings.

Five cases of Ringworm.

SPECIFIC DISEASES. The only case of Specific Disease was a case of Epizootic Lymphangitis in the 36th Battalion, 9th Brigade, 3rd Aust. Division. This was diagnosed by Capt. Callow, A.A.V.C. and confirmed by bacteriological examination of pus at No. 23 Veterinary Hospital. The animal was destroyed and all necessary precautions taken to prevent possible spread of this very troublesome disease.

EYE DISEASES. Specific Ophthalmia has been responsible for a large number of admissions to treatment, and one third of our total evacuations (63). No reason for the spread of this disease has been found; it is suggested that nose bags may possibly be a means of transmission, by coming in direct contact with affected animals, and being changed to others.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. Only 2 for the week.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. Thirteen cases, which is not high for the whole Corps.

Mobile Veterinary Sections and A.V.C. personnel all working satisfactorily.

The following Decorations have appeared in Orders during the week.

Major Henry, D.A.D.V.S.	5th Aust. Div.	---	D.S.O.
Major McKenzie, do.	3rd " "	---	D.S.O.
Capt. Fletcher, O.C.	2nd Aust. M.V.S.	---	M.C.
S/Sgt. McNaught,	1st " "	---	M.S.M.

(2).

APPENDIX. 2

These Officers and N.C.O. had done good work since 1914 and were deserving of recognition.

Total Wastage:-

	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Mules</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Died	9	---	9
Destroyed	7	---	7
Evacuated	150	26	<u>176.</u>
			<u>192</u>

Copy fo "Q"
Aust. Corps.

[Signature]
Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

[Signature]

Headquarters.

D. D. V. S.,

FOURTH ARMY.

Weekly Veterinary Report - Week Ending 17.1.18.

CONDITION. Condition generally is very good; 16 animals were evacuated for Debility.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. No cases.

DIGESTIVE. 13 cases of Colic, none of which were fatal; one fatal case of twist in the intestine.

MANGE. This shows a considerable decrease, probably ^{due} to energetic treatment and prompt diagnosis of cases. 169 cases against 205 last week; only 10 cases were mules.

The highest figures were 12th Aust. F.A. Brigade, 44, and 3rd Aust. Division 32.

The Corps Mange Dip is still undergoing repair; unfortunately flood waters carried away some of the cement and the work had to be done over again. It is not expecting to be in working order ~~until~~ before the 24th instant.

An outbreak of Ringworm occurred in the 4th Aust. D.A.C. I have seen the affected animals and the precautions taken to prevent spreading, and consider them satisfactory.

SPECIFIC DISEASE. One case of Tetanus only. This is shown in the return as evacuated, and the Veterinary Officer concerned has been instructed that no further cases of tetanus are to be evacuated; he was at Base when previous instruction was sent out.

EYE DISEASE. 112 cases of Specific Ophthalmia and a number of cases of Blindness, following this complaint.

WOUNDS - GUNSHOT. No battle casualties during the week.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED FEET. 32 cases - these are largely caused by wood stakes on roads, pieces of metal, &c., and only a proportion by picking up nails.

ADMINISTRATION. The chief difficulty in administration is the difficulty found by Administrative Officers in getting round scattered areas, which can usually only be done by motor car, and these are often difficult to arrange for when required.

WORKING OF M.V. SECTIONS & CORPS DETACHMENT. Satisfactory, the 2 Southern Divisions evacuate by Barge, and owing to floods the Barge on Tuesday was held up midway on the Canal, and there was no Barge on Friday; however, arrangements will be made to evacuate by rail in the event of any congestion, and D.A.Ds. V. S. have been instructed to notify me of their requirements. The 2 Northern Divisions evacuate by rail from the 9th Corps C.C.S. at Ouderdom, 4 men have been sent from 1st Aust. Division to assist, and four are being sent from 4th Aust. Div. On the whole, matters in connection with Veterinary Services are very satisfactory, and every effort is being made to arrange leave for Officers and other personnel, who under reduced establishments are usually working very hard and continually.

Veterinary Officers have been instructed to carefully watch the condition of animals in view of the Corps Commander's instruction that Oats may be economised where possible, and animals are not working hard, and are under good cover. I think much can be done in this direction, but do not advise making a Divisional Oat-Saving competition, which is certain to lead to loss of condition, which we must make every effort to maintain.

299

APPENDIX. 3

(2).

APPENDIX. 3

WASTAGE RETURN:-

	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>
Died	5	----
Destroyed	4	2
Evacuated	110	18
Missing	--	---
<u>Totals.</u>	<u>119.</u>	<u>20.</u>

Copy to
"Q", Aust. Corps.

[Signature]

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

4.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX 4

A.D.V.S.,
AUSTRALIAN
CORPS.No.
Date 27 JAN 1918

Headquarters

D. D. V. S.,

FOURTH ARMY.Veterinary Report - Week Ending 24.1.18.

CONDITION. Generally satisfactory. During the week I inspected the animals of several Heavy Artillery Batteries and found them in very good condition. 10 animals have been evacuated for Debility; in most cases these are animals from units where others are quite satisfactory, and probably need hospital treatment.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. No cases during the week.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES. 12 cases of Colic - no deaths. One death from Ruptured Intestine.

MANGE & OTHER SKIN DISEASES. Mange shows an increase from 169 last week to 233. This is partly due to two Heavy Batteries coming in to Corps during the week with Mange cases. These Batteries are being put through Corps Mange Dip on the 28th inst. Owing to the number of cases in the 12th Aust. A.F.A. Brigade, and Corps Dip being under repair, arrangements were made to dip these animals at IX Corps Dip. The Mange Dip of this Corps is now in working order, and arrangements have been made for a full week's work, starting on the 28th.

The outbreak of Ringworm in 4th Australian D.A.C. shows 20 new cases, but it is considered to be well in hand, and I do not anticipate any great difficulty in checking and preventing the spread of the outbreak.

SPECIFIC DISEASE. No cases.

EYE DISEASES. Ophthalmia is still a very serious consideration and the cause of much inefficiency and loss. 135 cases shown as occurring during the week, with 37 evacuations to Base.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. Only two cases.

PICKED-UP-NAILS. 32 cases - 3 evacuated. Metal Plates are being tried to prevent this, but the majority of cases of nail puncture are due to a shoe being half pulled off and horse walking on the nails; metal plates will not prevent this, and cold shoeing is to some extent responsible for badly fitting shoes, which are more easily pulled off. Corduroy roads are the usual agent in pulling off shoes.

(2).

APPENDIX. 4

ADMINISTRATION. Generally satisfactory.

WORKING OF M.V. SECTIONS & CORPS DETACHMENT. Satisfactory; arrangements have been made with Divisional Staffs for the changing over of M.V. Sections, retaining the present suitable and conveniently situated sites. One M.C.O. and 3 men of 4th Div. M.V.S. have been sent to IX Corps C.O.S. at Ouderdom, where the animals of that Division are evacuated from. Also arrangements have been made for the 5th Aust. Div. to replace the men there at present from the 1st Aust. Div.

During the week instructions have been given that the Oat ration will be reduced by 2 lbs. I do not think the Heavy Draughts will suffer, but some units with Light Draughts owing to moves, &c. have not got their animals in really good condition, and can not well afford to sacrifice this amount. Mules under present conditions should not suffer.

Control of forage rations should be influenced by conditions, situation regarding stables, &c. and work performed, and when the ration is curtailed in cold weather with no cover and hard work, condition will suffer, and loss result. Different units in one Army are often under very different conditions - our own in this area are good; in the last area, bad.

WASTAGE FOR WEEK.

	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Died	2	--	2
Destroyed	6	2	8
Evacuated	130	28	159
Missing	1	-	1
	<u>139</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>169.</u>

TOTAL ANIMALS.

Horses - 18,107,

Mules -- 6,600.Total - 24,707.

Copy to :-
"Q", Aust. Corps.

[Signature]
Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX. 5

Headquarters.

A.D.V.S.,
AUSTRALIAN
CORPS.No.
Date. 2-FEB 1918

D.D.V.S.,

FOURTH ARMY.Weekly Veterinary Report - Week Ending 31.1.18.

CONDITION. Generally satisfactory. During the week I inspected 3rd Aust. Division Artillery and the animals were in good condition, but I picked out several for evacuation as they were not satisfactory.

During the week 14 animals were evacuated for Debility.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. None.

DIGESTIVE DISEASES. 16 cases of Colic; all recovered.

MANGE & OTHER SKIN COMPLAINTS. Mange 179 cases against 233 last week; the Corps Dip has been working all the week and should result in checking the disease. Figures are much lower than last year. Ringworm - only one case during the week in 4th Aust. Divisional Artillery.

SPECIFIC DISEASE. No cases.

EYE DISEASES. 80 cases of Ophthalmia - 31 evacuated.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. 5 cases - 2 evacuated.

PICKED-UP-NAILS & PUNCTURED SOLES. 26 cases - 1 evacuated.

During the week the 5th A.M.V.S. has taken over from the 1st A.M.V.S., and the 1st A.M.V.S. from the 2nd which has moved out of Corps area, though Veterinary administration of Division is still under Corps.

Mange Dip working satisfactorily.

WASTAGE.

	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>
Died ...	1	--
Destroyed.	6	--
Evacuated	109	27
Missing	1	--
	<u>117</u>	<u>27</u>
	144.	
<u>TOTAL ANIMALS.</u>	18057	6558 - <u>24,615.</u>

Copy to "Q", Aust. Corps.

Lieut-Colonel

A.D.V.S. Aust Corps

APPENDIX. 6

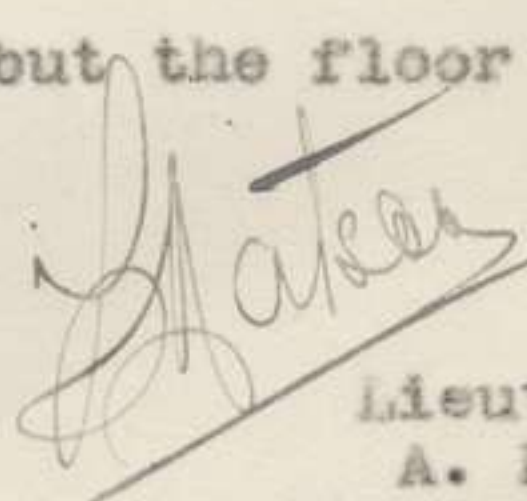
APPENDIX. 6

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.Headquarters,
8th January, 1918.Headquarters,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

On the 7th instant I inspected the 3rd Aust. A.F.A. Brigade with the C.O. and found the animals generally satisfactory, condition is good and grooming has much improved. All animals are under cover and doing very little work. The only exception to good condition was the 9th Battery, in which there were about 12 horses, not in as good condition as the others, this should not be so under present conditions ^{a few are now being clipped} most of the animals have been clipped under Veterinary instructions, there being a few cases of Mange, which is however being satisfactorily dealt with, most of the animals having been put through Corps dip.

I also noticed a number of clipped horses not rugged, and consider it advisable that these animals should be rugged during the daytime in cold weather.

Stables are clean and well kept, but the floor badly needs repairing in the 8th Battery stable.


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

APPENDIX. 7

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX 7

A.D.V.S.,

Aust Corps

No. 16/26

Date 15 JAN 1918

Headquarters.

Headquarters,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

On the 14th instant I inspected the animals of the 12th Aust. Army F.A. Brigade, and found the condition of the horses in some Batteries not as good as they should be under the present favourable conditions of practically no work, liberal feed allowance, and good cover. Animals should be now in first rate condition, and there is no excuse for anything else.

Mange was also prevalent in the Unit, and every effort should be made to disinfect stables and equipment and to deal with affected animals. Arrangements are being made to put the whole Brigade through the Mange Dip, but it is temporarily closed during repairs - animals should, however, be dressed with Calcium Sulphide which is easily procurable.

All affected animals should be isolated; in the 47th Battery lines there were a number of cases remaining in the stable. What is required is a separate stable to accommodate every mange case in the Brigade.

There is a tendency to leave the detection of, and precautions taken to prevent spread of mange, to the Veterinary Officer, but every Officer should have his attention drawn to Appendix VI issued with G.R.O. 1685 dated 13.7.16 and found in Extracts from G.R.Os., Part II, Q.M.Gs Branch, re responsibility of Regimental Officers in prevention of Mange.

Detailed report on Batteries as under:-

Headquarters - Satisfactory.

45th Battery - Many cases in unsatisfactory condition. some obviously Mangy and nearly all animals shew itchiness.

46th Battery - Condition only fair; animals shew signs of mange.

47th Battery - condition only fair, some animals poor, and some mange cases not isolated.

112th Battery - Condition fair, some unsatisfactory.

B. A. C. - Condition satisfactory. Clipped animals should be rugged in day time; some mules' feet too long.

Lieut-Colonel
A. D. V. S.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

8

APPENDIX. 8

On the 14th instant I inspected the animals of the 6th Aust. Army F.A. Brigade, and found the condition and general care satisfactory. There is a little mange, which is being satisfactorily dealt with, but all animals should be put through Corps Dip as soon as it is available.

Details of inspection :-

- Headquarters - Very good.
- 16th Battery - Condition, etc. satisfactory,
- 17th Battery - do. do.
- 18th Battery - do. do.
- 106th Battery - Very good.

B.A.C., - Condition good, mules should have been clipped some are very dirty. Mules feet left too long in shoeing.

A.D.V.S.,	
Aust corps	
No.	16/26
Date.	15 JAN 1918

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