

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

Veterinary

**Item number:** 27/4/25

**Title:** Deputy Assistant Director Veterinary  
Services, 1st Australian Division

January 1918



AWM4-27/4/25

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*D.A.D.V.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division*

FOR

*January 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*G. Heston Major*  
*D.A.D.V.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Division*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*G. Heston Major*  
*D.A.D.V.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Division*

D. A. D. V. S.,  
1st AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISION.

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.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

5  
Army Form C. 2118.

| Place      | Date           | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|----------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dranoutre  | 1918<br>Jan. 1 |      | Inspected animals at Wagon lines of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Field Coy. Engineers.<br>Inspected animals for evacuation at 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Mob. Vet. Section.<br>No 54 Sgt Bunn, A.S., A.A.V.C. att'd. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bty. A.F.A. proceeded on 8 days leave to Paris.   |                                      |
| Dranoutre  | Jan. 2.        |      | Arranged for all animals of 5 <sup>th</sup> Bty 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.F.A. Bde. to be dipped at Corps Mange Dip, Mange having occurred in that unit.<br>Inspected animals of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. Headquarters and Div. Signal Coy.<br>Return of animals evacuated <sup>from</sup> by colonial units by 1 <sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. during December 1917, forwarded to A.D.V.S. Australian Corps.   |                                      |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 3.         |      | Lectured to Medical Officers, 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Division, on "Animal Management."<br>With A.D.V.S. Australian Corps, inspected animals at 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. M.V.S.<br>Inspected animals at wagon lines of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aust. Field Ambulance.<br>Original and Duplicate War Diary for December 1917 forwarded under registered post to D.A.G. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Echelon.<br>Triplicate War Diary for October 1917 forwarded under registered post to Coy Australian War Records Section. |                                      |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 4.         |      | Inspected animals at Wagon lines of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. D.A.C. Pointed out improvements required and repairs necessary to horse standings. Animals generally in good condition.<br>1 Animal evacuated by 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. M.V.S. copy of evacuation roll forwarded to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps, and unit concerned notified.  |                                      |

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|------------|--------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dranouthe  | Jan. 5.      |      | <p>Attended conference of D.A.D.V.S. Divisions, at office of A.D.V.S. Australian Corps.<br/>Inspected animals of 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. Headquarters, Div. Signal Coy, and Div. Artillery Hd Qrs.<br/>Following returns forwarded to A.D.V.S. Australian Corps: -<br/>A.F.A 2000. Weekly Veterinary Return. Week ending 3. 1. 18.<br/>Weekly Mange State. Week ending 3. 1. 18.<br/>Horse Recovery Form No 111 " " "<br/>Nominal Roll of Conducting Parties from 1<sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. during week ending 5. 1. 18.<br/>Instructed Div. Artillery H.Q. Capt. Lucas and Capt. Paterson re dipping at Corps Mange Dip on 6<sup>th</sup> inst., of all animals of 5<sup>th</sup> Battery A.F.A. and those of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bty. A.F.A. not previously dipped.<br/>Received instructions from A.D.V.S. Australian Corps re evacuation of sick + injured animals. Only one day per week allotted for evacuations by train from Onderdonk. 1<sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. notified accordingly.</p> |                                      |
| Dranouthe. | Jan 6.       |      | <p>Inspected animals of 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. Train Hd Qrs.<br/>Attended at Corps Mange Dip for dipping of animals of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bty. 1<sup>st</sup> A.F.A. Bde. and 5<sup>th</sup> Bty. 2<sup>nd</sup> A.F.A. Bde.<br/>Capt. G. C. Mc Lennan A.A.V.C. reported back from leave in England.<br/>Arranged for all animals of 1<sup>st</sup> Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> A.F.A. Bde. to be dipped at Corps Mange dip on 7. 1. 18.</p>  |                                      |
| Dranouthe. | Jan 7.       |      | <p>Capt. C. J. Lukey A.A.V.C. reported for duty vice Capt. Bruce, returned to Australia, and is tempy. attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> A.F.A. Bde. during absence<br/>Suggested to A.D.V.S. Aust Corps that stabling formerly occupied by 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup> Batteries A.F.A. in the DOUWEV area be placed out of bounds until thoroughly disinfected and declared clean, as they are probably the origin of the Mange cases which have been found in these Btys. copy of recommendation forwarded to 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Div. and HQ. 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. Artillery.</p>  | <p>4A.</p>                           |

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| Place      | Date<br>1918 | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and<br>references to<br>Appendices |
|------------|--------------|------|---|--|
| Branoutre  | Jan 8        | .    | Capt L. L. Paterson, A. A. V. C., V. O. att'd 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. F. A. Brigade proceeded on 14 days leave to Scotland.<br>Posted Capt. G. C. McLennan, A. A. V. C. to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Divnl. Train as V. Dip. that formation, vice Capt. Bruce<br>A. A. V. C. who has returned to Australia.<br>Extracts from D. V. S. Circular Memo No 207, dated 28-12-17 re "Rendition of Weekly Return A.F. A2000"<br>forwarded to all Vety. Officers. |  |
| Branoutre  | Jan 9        |      | Inspected animals at wagon lines of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Field Coy Aust. Engineers.  |  |
| Branoutre. | Jan 10       |      | Attended at No 5 Base Remount Depot and inspected Remounts issued to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Division.<br>75 animals evacuated by 1 <sup>st</sup> A. M. V. S. Copy of evacuation roll forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps,<br>and units concerned notified.  |  |
| Branoutre. | Jan 11.      |      | No 54, Sgt. A. S. Bunn, A. A. V. C. returned from Paris leave.<br>Instructed all Vety. Officers re their powers as regards clipping of animals for Veterinary Reasons.  |  |
| Branoutre. | Jan 12       |      | Attended conference of D. A. D. V. S. at office of A. D. V. S. Australian Corps<br>Following returns forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps.<br>A. F. A. 2000. Weekly Veterinary Return. Week ending 10. 1. 18.<br>Weekly Mange State. Week ending 10. 1. 18.<br>Horse Recovery Form III " " "<br>56 Animals received from Remount Depot, Calais, and issued to units of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Division.  |  |

*[Handwritten signature]*

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|------------|--------------|------|---|--|
| Dranoutre. | Jan 13.      |      | Inspected animals at wagon lines of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. Signal Coy. and 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. M. V. S.<br>Demand for 23 animals to complete Division to Establishment forwarded to D. D. Remounts<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Army, and copy to "G" Australian Corps.<br>No 132 Sgt. Smith. G. A. A. V. C. att'd 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sec. 1 <sup>st</sup> A. D. A. C. proceeded on 8 days leave to Paris.   |  |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 14.      |      | Inspected animals at wagon lines of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. Inf. Brigade.<br>Report on changes in Personnel, A. A. V. C., 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Division for week ending 13. 1. 18. forwarded<br>to D. D. V. S. A. F. F. copy to A. D. V. S. Australian Corps.  |  |
| Dranoutre  | Jan 15.      |      | With V. O. P. inspected animals at wagon lines of 2 <sup>nd</sup> A. F. A. Bde. 10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battery require a lot of<br>improvements to standings both to floors and sides. Notified Staff Captain. Div. Artillery,<br>regarding the improvements which are necessary.   |  |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 16.      |      | Inspected animals for evacuation at 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Mob. Vety. Section.<br>Received from A. D. V. S. Australian Corps "Orders for entraining sick animals at Ouderdom B",<br>Forwarded some to O. C. 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Mob. Vety. Section.  |  |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 17.      |      | Inspected stable recently vacated by 13 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt., and arranged for it to be taken<br>over by 1 <sup>st</sup> A. M. V. S. Also arranged for malthoid, netting and timber to be drawn from Engineers<br>for repairs.<br>35 animals evacuated by 1 <sup>st</sup> A. M. V. S. Copy of evacuation roll forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps. and<br>units concerned notified.<br>Report on the efficacy of Anti-Gas Respirators for Animals forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps. | Appendix "A"                               |

*J.A.*

WAR DIARY

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|-----------|--------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Dranoutre | Jan 18 |      | Statement of amount received on account of carcasses during 4 weeks ending 17.1.18. forwarded to A. D. V. S. Australian Corps.  |                                      |
| Dranoutre | Jan 19 |      | Attended conference of D. A. D. V. S. at office of A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps. Discussed measures for the treatment of Mange and ophthalmia and also discussed routine matters.<br>Following returns forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps.<br>A. F. A 2000. Weekly Vety. Return. Week ending 17.1.18.<br>Weekly Mange State. " " "<br>Horse Recovery Form III<br>Nominal Roll of Conducting Parties from 1 <sup>st</sup> A. M. V. S. during week ending 19.1.18.   |                                      |
| Dranoutre | Jan 20 |      | Report on the efficacy of Metal Hoof Plates as Preventative of Picked-up Nail forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps.   | Appendix B                           |
| Dranoutre | Jan 21 |      | Inspected animals at Wagon lines of the following units: - 1 <sup>st</sup> + 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fld. Coy Engrs., 1 <sup>st</sup> Pioneer Btm. and 1 <sup>st</sup> Inf. Bde.<br>Changes in Personnel A. V. C. for week ending 20.1.18 forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps and D. D. V. S. A. I. F.   |                                      |
| Dranoutre | Jan 22 |      | Received from Capt. H. S. Lucas A. A. V. C. application of No 54 Sgt. Bunn, A. S. A. A. V. C. attached 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bty. A. F. A., for transfer to Aust. Vety. Hospital. Calais on account of age and ill health. Application forwarded to D. D. V. S. A. I. F.<br>Capt. H. S. Lucas, A. A. V. C. U.O. of 1 <sup>st</sup> A. F. A. Bde. proceeded on 14 days leave to England.<br>1 horse evacuated by 1 <sup>st</sup> A. M. V. S. copy of Evacuation roll forwarded to A. D. V. S. Aust. Corps and unit notified. |                                      |

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D.A.D.V.S.  
1ST AUSTRALIAN  
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 5

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|----------------------------------|------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|---|--------|----|--|
| Dranoutre                        | Jan 23.                |      | <p>Animal Wastage Chart, "Summary of A.F.A. 2000" for year 1917 forwarded to D.D.V.S., A.I.F.</p> <p>Notified A.D.V.S., Aust. Corps re requirements for sick horse train from Ouderdom on 24<sup>th</sup> Inst. as follows:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Ordinary bases.</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cellulitis.</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mange.</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ophthalmia.</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total.</td> <td>37</td> </tr> </table> <p>Received from 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. D.A.C. Application of 32242, Dr. Larcombe, J.F., for transfer to A.A.V.C. Interviewed Dr. Larcombe and forwarded application to D.D.V.S. A.I.F. for his approval.</p> | Ordinary bases.                      | 23                     | Cellulitis.         | 2       | Mange.                   | 4       | Ophthalmia. | 8 | Total. | 37 |  |
| Ordinary bases.                  | 23                     |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Cellulitis.                      | 2                      |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Mange.                           | 4                      |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Ophthalmia.                      | 8                      |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Total.                           | 37                     |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Dranoutre                        | Jan 24.                |      | <p>Attended at office of A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps. to discuss site to be taken over by 1<sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. when the Division is relieved.</p> <p>37 Animals evacuated by 1<sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. Copy of evacuation roll forwarded to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps, and units concerned notified.</p>   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Dranoutre.                       | Jan 25.                |      | <p>Inspected site at 529 B2.2, Sheet 28, where 1<sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. will move when Division is relieved. Arranged with D.A.D.V.S., 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Division to send small advance party to hold the site after 2<sup>nd</sup> A.M.V.S. has moved out.</p> <p>Attended at 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust. D. H.Q. at Merris for information concerning wagon lines in new area. 1 Animal evacuated by 1<sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. Copy of Roll forwarded to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps.</p>   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Dranoutre                        | Jan 26                 |      | <p>Capt. L.L. Paterson, A.A.V.C. returned from leave in England to duty with 2<sup>nd</sup> A.F.A. Pde.</p> <p>Following returns forwarded to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A.F.A. 2000 Weekly Vety. Return.</td> <td>Week ending 24. 1. 18.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weekly Mange State.</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weekly Recovery Form III</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> </table>  | A.F.A. 2000 Weekly Vety. Return.     | Week ending 24. 1. 18. | Weekly Mange State. | " " " " | Weekly Recovery Form III | " " " " |             |   |        |    |  |
| A.F.A. 2000 Weekly Vety. Return. | Week ending 24. 1. 18. |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Weekly Mange State.              | " " " "                |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |
| Weekly Recovery Form III         | " " " "                |      |   |                                      |                        |                     |         |                          |         |             |   |        |    |  |

*[Handwritten initials]*



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| Dranoutre. | Jan 27.<br>1918 |      | Inspected animals at Wagon lines of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Field Ambulance. Approved reclassification of 1 Riding horse of that unit as Light Draught.<br>Requested H.Q. 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. to arrange for the return to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Mill. S. of 1 M.B.D. and 3 men at present attached for duty to <u>IX</u> Corps M.V.D.<br>Instructed Capt. E. J. Lukey, A.A.V.C. to hand over Vety charge of 2 <sup>nd</sup> A. F.A. Bde to Capt. Paterson, and to report for duty as V. Ofc. 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. F.A. Bde. |                                      |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 28.         |      | Report of changes in Personnel, A.A.V.C., 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Division during week ending 27.1.18. forwarded to D.D.V.S. A.I.F. and copy to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps.  |                                      |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 29.         |      | Forwarded to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps application for leave to England commencing 4.2.18, for Major G. G. Heslop, D.A.D.V.S.   |                                      |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 30          |      | Obtained approval from A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps for leave to England, to date from 4.2.18.   |                                      |
| Dranoutre. | Jan 31          |      | Nominal Roll of Officers and Sergeants, A.A.V.C., and 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. M.V.S., forwarded to D.D.V.S., A.I.F., and copy to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps.<br>Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of Regimental Funds, A.A.V.C. Details, 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Division, for period 1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> January 1918, forwarded to "Auditor" A.I.F. HQ.<br>30 Animals evacuated by 1 <sup>st</sup> A.M.V.S. Copy of evacuation roll forwarded to A.D.V.S. Aust. Corps. and units concerned notified.                   |                                      |

G. Heslop Major  
D.A.D.V.S., 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division.

7

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*Det. D. V. S. 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Division*

FOR

*January 1918.***LIST OF APPENDICES.**

No.

Subject.

- A. *Report on the efficacy of Anti-Gas Horse Respirators.*
- B. *Report on the efficacy of Metal Plates for Horse Shoes as a preventative of Ticked-up-Nail.*
-

A.D.V.S.,

Australian Corps.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| D.A.D.V.S.,<br>1st AUSTRALIAN<br>DIVISION. |          |
| No.  | QV.328   |
| Date                                       | 17.1.18. |

Headquarters,

17/1/18.

Ref your 16/32 of 14th January, re Horse Respirators.

(a) Opportunities for testing the efficacy of Gas Respirators for animals have not been very frequent, but where respirators have been used they have been found of great protective value against gas inhalation. Instances where animals have had to pass through gas shelled areas, some wearing respirators, some without respirators, have shewn that the percentage of gas cases has been considerably greater where respirators were not used.

It was found that in some few cases the respirator was not sufficient to prevent the animal inhaling some gas, but these cases were the exception rather than the rule.

(b) Resistance to Breathing. - Animals were able to pack ammunition over very heavy shell torn ground without showing any ill affects from laboured breathing.

(c) Additional moisture.- Respirators have been used in rainy weather without any appreciable difference to the animals' breathing.

(d) Rapidity of Adjustment. - Respirators are easily and quickly adjusted with the great majority of horses. Some mules object to handling about the head and make rapid adjustment difficult. Adjustment is most easily and quickly accomplished when the respirators are carried on the nose band in the Alert position. The carrying of respirators in this position caused in a number of instances -

1. skin lesions on the nose through pressure.
2. Destruction of a number of respirators through one animal tearing with his teeth the respirator of his companion in the team. This latter practice was principally confined to mules.

(e) Improvements. - The elastic head band is not good as it does not fit all animals, mules particularly being difficult to fit. A band fastening on to a loop where it could be tied, as with nosebags, is suggested as an improvement.

*G. Heston* Major,  
D.A.D.V.S.,  
1st Aust. Division.

5  
1st Australian Division.

Appendix "B" 10

Headquarters,

20/1/18.

A.D.V.S.,

Australian Corps.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| A.D.V.S.,<br>1ST AUSTRALIAN<br>DIVISION. |            |
| No.                                      | A.V. 323   |
| Date                                     | 20. 1. 18. |

Re your 12/1 of 15/1/18 - Metal Hoof Plates.

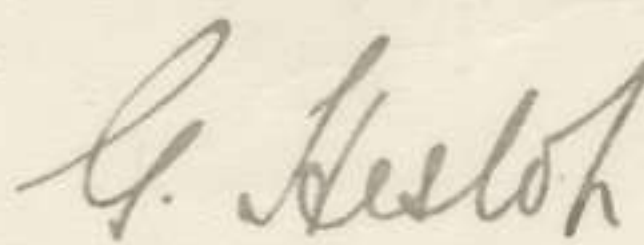
As during the past few months cases of P.U.N. have been rare in this Division, I am unable to give any reliable information regarding the efficacy of these plates as a preventative measure against P.U.N.

Where plates have been used the following disadvantages have been found :-

- (1) Difficulty in fitting the plates to the varying sizes of feet.
- (2) Pressure on the sole and bruising owing to some plates bending after they have been fitted.
- (3) Accumulation of small gravel and flints between the plate and the foot, causing bruising, sometimes puncture and lameness.
- (4) On muddy tracks a greater tendency for the shoes to be pulled off by suction.
- (5) During frosty weather following a snowfall, a greater tendency for the snow to "Ball" in the foot, and more accidents through animals slipping.
- (6) Difficulty in cleaning from under the plate, accumulations of semi liquid manure. This leads to injury to the horn and production of Thrush.

During the past two months this Division has had more animals, which have been shod with these plates, rendered ineffective by subsequently developing thrush in varying severity, than it has had of animals not shod with the plates becoming ineffective by Picked Up Nails.

From the result of trials in this Division I am of the opinion that the plates are responsible for the production of a lot of ineffective animals, and in my opinion the end achieved against P.U.N. does not justify the expence incurred in producing these plates.

 Major,  
D.A.D.V.S., 1st Aust. Division.