

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

Veterinary

**Item number:** 27/16/28

**Title:** 4th Australian Mobile Veterinary  
Section

August 1918



AWM4-27/16/28

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*4<sup>th</sup> Australian Mobile Vety Section*

FOR

*August 1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling .....

Signature of Officer Commanding .....

*R. H. Heywood - Capt.*

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A.I.F.

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.

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Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Rivery	Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>		Admitted 2 Animals. Evacuated 10 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E. Evacuated 1 Animal by Boat to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S. Capt: W.S.T. Morgan V.O. 4 <sup>th</sup> Aust Div Train Kempy att'd for Rations. No 7320 Ser J.R. Mc Gregor (26 Coy AAFC) " " " " No 5665 Ser G. Greenwood (4 <sup>th</sup> DHQ) " " " "	
Near Amiens	2		Admitted 1 Animal. Marched out from Near Rivery at 9 AM. Marched in at M. 20 d 9. 3. near Amiens at 10-45 AM. Wet trip. Good camp.	
	3		Admitted 5 Animals. Evacuated 1 Animal by Boat to XIX V.E.S. No 4193 Ser J. Owen (4 <sup>th</sup> Aust F.C.E) Kempy att'd evacuated sick.	
	4		Admitted 1 Animal. Evacuated 8 Animals to XIX V.E.S.	
	5		Admitted 6 Animals. Evacuated 7 Animals to XIX V.E.S. No 796 Pte W.G. Cooper went on leave to Paris (8 days.)	
Bussy	6		Admitted 6 Animals. Marched out from Near Amiens at 9 AM. Marched in to Camp in a small wood near Bussy at 12 Noon.	
	7		Admitted 6 Animals. No 10059 Pte G.A. Leer + No 1409 Pte G.M. Turner reported for detached duty with 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S (Advance Post)	
	8		Admitted 8 Animals. Evacuated 11 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S. (A/Post)	
	9		Admitted 24 Animals. No 447 Cpl S.B. Shaw went on leave. (France) 14 days. Evacuated 9 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S (A/Post). Marched out from Bussy at 9 AM. Marched in to Camp near La Neuville at 11 AM. Good camp.	

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G. C. 4th. Mobile Vety. Section

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
La Neuville	1918 Aug 10		Admitted 11 Animals. Evacuated 26 Animals 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES (A/Post) 1 Animal destroyed Hide removed.	
	11		3 Animals destroyed. Admitted 21 Animals. Evacuated 21 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES. including 13 enemy animals. No 299 S/Sgt A. Owens proceeded to Administrative H.Q. for return to Australia.	
	12		Admitted 18 Animals. Evacuated 16 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES. Destroyed 2 Animals. No 1409 Pte G. W. Turner returned from detached duty with 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES (A/Post).	
	13		Admitted 12 Animals. Evacuated 16 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES. No 537 Pte H. Rutherford returned from leave & admitted to 53 <sup>rd</sup> C.C.S. (YD) No 3722, Pte G. Devenport (4 <sup>th</sup> Aust SHQ) tempy att'd for duty.	
	14		No 537 Pte D. McSwain went on leave to Glasgow.	
	15		Evacuated 14 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES. No 10059. Pte G. A. Leer returned from detached duty with 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES (A/Post.)	
Ignacourt	16		Evacuated 2 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES. Marched out from camp near La Neuville at 9 AM. Marched in at (V22.C.6.4.) near Ignacourt at 12-30pm. Very rough trip for Horse transport owing to shell holes. No 796. Pte W. Cooper ret'd from leave.	
	17		Admitted 11 Animals.	
	18		Admitted 20 Animals. Evacuated 11 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES.	
	19		Admitted 13 Animals. Evacuated 20 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust VES.	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ignacourt	1918 Aug 20		Admitted 21 Animals. Evacuated 12 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S. No 3722 Pte G. Devenport (4 <sup>th</sup> Aust DHQ) went to 10 <sup>th</sup> Aust F.A. Bde HQ for duty.	
	21		Admitted 4 Animals. Evacuated 20 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S.	
	22		Admitted 18 Animals.	
	23		Admitted 2 Animals. Evacuated 21 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S. No 557 Pte G. Austin went on leave to Paris in lieu of V.K. leave.	
	24		Admitted 7 Animals.	
	25		Marched out from near Ignacourt at 8-30 AM. Marched in near Rivery at 1-30 PM. Evacuated 9 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S. No 796 Pte W.G. Cooper reported for temp duty with 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S.	
	26		Admitted 1 Animal. No 1756 Pte S.R. Vance transferred from 4 <sup>th</sup> Aust DHQ & taken on strength vice Rutherford evacuated.	
	27		Admitted 8 Animals. No 447. Cpl S.B. Shaw ret <sup>d</sup> from leave.	
	28		Admitted 4 Animals.	
	29		Admitted 11 Animals. Evacuated 15 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S.	
	30		Admitted 6 Animals.	
	31		Admitted 7 Animals. Evacuated 17 Animals to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust V.E.S. No 573 Pte D. No Swain returned from leave.	

R.H. Heywood: Capt  
C. 4th Mobile Vets Section  
A.F.

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# WAR DIARY

OF

4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Mob Vet. Section

FOR

August 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓ I	Animals Treated Etc
✓ II	Hides sent to Lofb.
✓ III	Colonial Animals evacuated
✓ IV	Animals of units. (Not Australian <sup>to Lofb</sup> )
✓ V	General Remarks. <sup>Evacuated to Lofb</sup>



Appendix. I.

WAR DIARY

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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.)

*Animals Treated Etc*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Aug		<i>Admitted 287 Animals.</i> <i>Evacuated 267 Animals.</i> <i>1 Animals Died</i> <i>7 Animals Destroyed.</i> <i>* 16 Animals Ret<sup>d</sup> to Units.</i> <i>* Including 15 Enemy Animals issued within Div.</i>	

*R. H. Heywood*      *Capt*

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Appendix II.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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*Hides sent to 2 of 6* (Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information				Remarks and references to Appendices
			Unit	Hides	How disposed of	Date of Disposal	
	1918 Aug						
	7		13 <sup>th</sup> Batta 4 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde		To 1 <sup>st</sup> Austn V.E.S.	10-8-18.	
	9		110 <sup>th</sup> Bty 10 <sup>th</sup> F.A.B.		do	10-8-18.	
	12		38 <sup>th</sup> Bty 10 <sup>th</sup> F.A.B.	1	do	15-8-18.	
	11		1 <sup>st</sup> Austn Corps Hq Art: HQ <sup>s</sup>	1	do	15-8-18	
	12		13 <sup>th</sup> Aust L. H. Reg	1	do	15-8-18	
	19		11 <sup>th</sup> F.A. Bde. HQ <sup>s</sup> AIF	1	do	23-8-18	

R. H. Heywood. Capt

C. 4th. Mobile Vety Section  
A.I.F.

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Appendix III.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

*Colonial Animals Evacuated to L of B.*  
(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Aug		Australian Units. 179.	
			Canadian Units. 3.	

R. H. Heywood Capt:  
J. C. 4th Mobile Vety Section  
A. I. F.

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Appendix IV

WAR DIARY

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

*Animals of Units (Not Colonial) Evacuated to Log C.*  
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Aug		British Animals. 29.	
			Stray Animals. 14	
			Enemy Animals. 42.	

R. H. Heywood. Capt

C. O. 4th. Mobile Vety Section  
A. I. F.

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Appendix V

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

*General Remarks* (Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 <u>August</u>		<p>This month shows a marked increase in evacuations - a total of 267 against last month's 88 and of which <del>174</del><sup>182</sup> were colonial animals (compared with 444 for the previous month) By far the greater proportion consisted in battle casualties as could only have been expected from the nature of the fighting. Only the very slightest of wounds could be retained on the lines.</p> <p>With reference to the formation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Vet. Evacuation Station. For about two months this section had some 14 or 15 kilos to evacuate. Then on providing another two men who could be ill-spared by the Mobile the formation of an advanced post at Poulainville the distance was materially reduced for a few days. On the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. 1<sup>st</sup> A.V.E.S. moved up to Corbie, and since the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. the distance to evacuate has been on an average about 14 kilos. The two men who went to form the advanced post were sent back when the A.V.E.S. moved to Corbie, but another man had to be detached to that unit on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. + he has not been returned yet. The establishment of the M.V.S. was cut down on the formation of the 1<sup>st</sup> A.V.E.S. by 6 men, and 1 Staff Sgt. + with these further calls on the strength the question of picquets especially becomes acute.</p> <p>It was understood that the M.V.S. Staff Sgt. was appointed originally on the reduction of V.O.'s per Division, to enable the O.C. of the M.V.S. to perform regimental veterinary duties. The work of the O.C. has not been lightened <del>any way</del> lately but the Staff Sgt. has been absorbed</p>	

*R. J. [unclear]*  
*1918 Mobile Vet. Section*

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Appendix V

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

General Remarks

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 August		<p>A new experience was the handling of captured German animals. 62 of which passed through the section. Of these 26 were evacuated for veterinary reasons, 16 as being unsuitable for work in the forward area (too small). 15 were issued within the Division &amp; 5 are still on the lines. All were tested but showed no signs of influenza nor glanders - though it may be of interest to note that one horse was suffering from acute ophthalmia (specific). They were on the whole a very poor class of animals, indeed mostly weedy ponies. The only ones that were any good were undoubtedly of French or Belgian breed.</p> <p>Ref Discipline.</p> <p>It has to be pointed out that the A.V.C. is more or less a specialist corps. &amp; that no amount of discipline will enable a man to become a good dresser nor accustom him to the vagaries of the army mule. Accordingly tact and discipline have to become closely related - more especially is this so as to day 15 men may have 25 horses to look after. &amp; tomorrow 6 or 7 men <del>may</del> may have to dress, water &amp; feed 100 or more, out in the open perhaps &amp; with the mud knee deep. Also there will probably be inquiries from Hqs. as to why they have not been groomed.</p> <p>At the same time it may be added that the men of this section are a temperate willing &amp; competent lot, of whom it seems nothing is too much to ask.</p> <p>The same may be said of the N.C.O.s especially Sgt. Brown (orderly room Sgt) &amp; Cpl. Kelly M.S.M. Sgt. W. Fawcett has only recently taken charge of the section &amp; Cpl Shaw has not long been on the strength.</p>	

R.H. Hayward. Capt.  
O.C. 4th Mobile Vet. Section  
A.I.F.

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APPENDIX V