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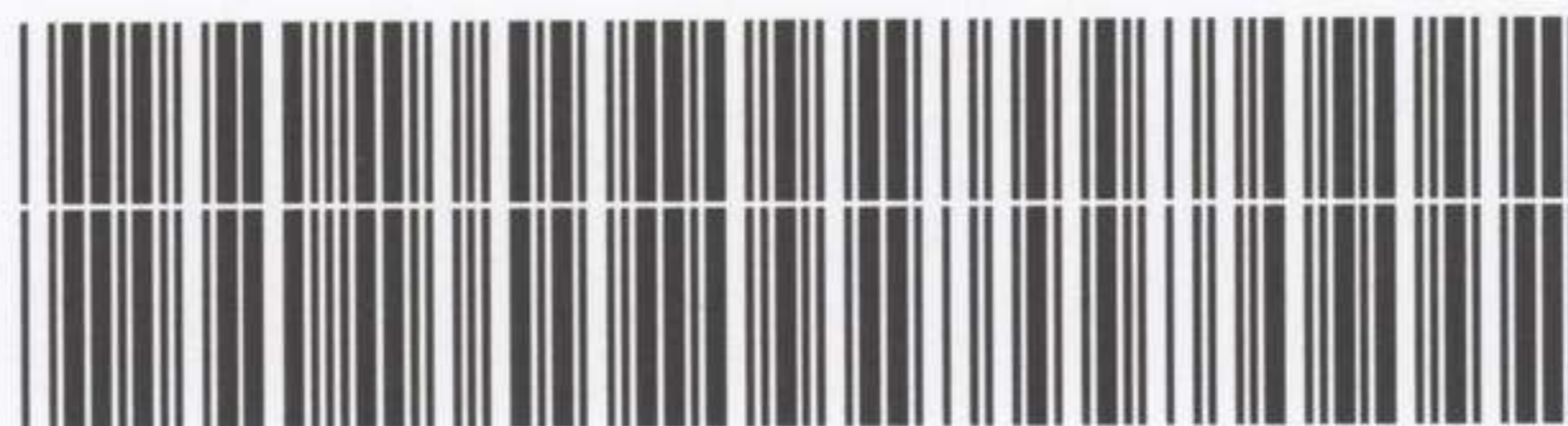
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Veterinary

**Item number:** 27/8/22

**Title:** Deputy Assistant Director Veterinary  
Services, 5th Australian Division

April 1918



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ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

147

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF  
*D A D P S 5 Australian Division*

FOR  
*April* 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Frank Henry Major*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Frank Henry Major*







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18,000-12/17-8723

APPENDIX

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# WAR DIARY

OF

D.A.D.V.S. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

FOR

APRIL 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I	Condition and Wastage.
II	Mange.
III	Gas.
IV	Grooming.
V	Personnel.
VI	Unit Inspections.



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CONDITIONAL WASTAGE

Appendix I

During this month the Division has had several moves; The first one taking place on the 4th. from VAUCHELLES to the neighbourhood of CORBIE and AMIENS, and on the 11th. Divisional Headquarters and attached Units moved from BLANGY-TRONVILLY to BUSSY-les-DAOURS.

Taking the Division right through, the extra work and movement has not reduced the condition of the animals, some units being in better condition than when they left the Northern Area.

The feed has been plentiful; a considerable amount being salvaged.

The wastage would have been much lower than the previous month but for the heavy bombardment on the 23rd. and 24th. inst., with H.E. and Gas (mustard) Shells. The mortality was heavy, and many were wounded and gassed; the position of the wagon lines was partly responsible for this, as at the time they were well forward and in or near villages. This congestion round villages has since been altered and nearly all of the horse lines are well out of the villages, and in positions with a good clear get-away.

The animal wastage for the month was :-

Evacuated	63.
Died	81
Destoyd	72
Missing	6.

*Man Henry*  
Major.





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M A N G E .

Appendix 11

Mange appears to be at last under control. The change to open air life, the re-clipping of the affected Units, and the continual dressing must be held responsible. Rugs were done away with, to a great extent during the month; this and the animals getting rid of their long coats considerably helped to lessen the danger.

Stuart Henry  
Major.





G A S.Appendix. 111

This was the first time that the horses of this Division were seriously gassed. In the majority of cases the symptoms are intense lacrymation and conjunctivitis with a purulent discharge. Later the lips and tongues have swollen. In some the eye conditions cleared up quickly, but the lip and tongue condition became worse. In a few cases the lungs appear affected and one or two animals were destroyed owing to their distressed condition. In these cases respiration is pneumonic. Appetite has failed only in those cases showing mouth and lung lesions. Blisters appeared on the skin in a few instances. The bombardment was so sudden that gas masks were not used but the horses were got away as soon as possible. It ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~much more~~ advisable in all forward areas that no horses are placed in stables or buildings, as this intensifies the results of gas. Unless gas shells burst very close, the horses appear to be very little affected by a general bombardment of gas shell (mustard) when in the open.

*John Henry*  
Major,





G R O O M I N G .Appendix IV

At this time of the year owing to the change of coat etc. grooming is very necessary, and in some Units this might be improved a great deal. Much time is still being spent by Transport Personnel in polishing steel chains which might be better be utilised in polishing the horses. The grooming of Units would be much better if, when under Active Service conditions such as the present, steel work could be blacked over; this could be done without spoiling the metal and without allowing it to become rusty. Getting rid of the long coats quickly and thorough grooming will do a great deal to prevent a recurrence of Mange.

*John Henry*

Major.





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APPENDIX

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PERSONNEL.

Appendix V

A Sergeant A.A.V.C. has now been appointed to the M.G. Battn. This will greatly improve the Veterinary Services for the M.G.Coys, and will ensure a continuity of services.

During the bombardement one Sergeant A.A.V.C. was wounded and one evacuated gassed. Several appear to have shown great devotion to duty.

The M.V.S. worked at a high pressure owing to the number of casualties, the number of Artillery Brigades attached to the Division, and the length of time conducting parties were away with convoys of ~~six~~ six horses.

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*Frank Henry*  
Major,





UNIT INSPECTIONS.

APPENDIX  
Appendix... 8

- 1.4.1918. S.A.A. Section - Condition Good.  
14th. M.G.Coy, 8th.Fld.Ambulance, 15th.Fld.Ambulance, 5th.Pioneer  
8th., 14th., and 15th. Engineers. - Condition Satisfactory -  
Feed reported good and water supplies efficient, but in the case  
of the Engineers the water supply is some distance.  
At the present all units have a good supply of shoes, but the  
question of keep ing this supply up will require a great deal  
of attention.
- 2.4.1918. 30th., 32nd., and 56th.Battalions. 14th. Aust.F.A. - All in good  
condition and no casualties occurred on the route down.  
The 14th. Aust. F.A. have an excellent water supply and feed is  
plentiful.
- 3.4.1918. 14th. Aust. F.A. - The whole Brigade was seen this day .  
53rd. and 54th. Batteries were in fair condition.  
Nos.1 & 2 Section 5th. D.A.C. - Condition good, but the 2nd.  
Section 5th. D.A.C. were short of hay nets.  
All the Brigade is under cover with the exception of 54th.Bty.  
It is very unfortunate, considering the weather, that the rugs  
for the Batteries were left behind.  
Feed supply in all Units is satisfactory.  
10th. A.A.S.C. - Condition good.
- 4.5.6th. Division moving from Area.
- 7.4.1918. Inspected 176 Remounts at PUCHEVILLERS.
- 9.4.1918. 49th. 50th. and 114th. Batteries. - Condition good. These  
batteries with the exception of the 49th. are in good hard  
standings. All report feed plentiful and mange appears to have  
been eradicated.  
The clipping of the 51st Bty has been followed by excellent  
results both in the condition of the skin and of the animals.  
5th. Aust.Div.Sig.Co. - Condition very good.  
It was noticed in all units visited this day that a number of  
pustular eruptions and some cases of definite galling have  
resulted from the necessity of the harness remaining on the  
animals for long periods in the rain and mud.  
5th. Aust. Pioneers - Condition good.
- 10.4.1918. 10th. A.A.S.C. - Condition good.  
At Australian Corps.
- 11.4.1918. 59th.Battalion. Horses fallen off a little in condition, but  
work has been very heavy lately.  
60th. Battalion - Condition good.  
53rd., 54th. 55th., 56th. Battalions - Condition good - Feed  
supply plentiful; also an ample supply of shoes.  
25th. M.G.Coy. - Condition good.  
14th. M.G.Coy. - Considerably improved.  
8th. M.G.Coy. - Very fair; but not up to its old reputation  
which was very good.  
28th. A.A.S.C. - Condition good - Stabling excellent.  
5th. Aust. Mob. Vet. Section. - Condition Good - Stabling Good.
- 12.4.1918. 53rd & 54th.Batteries. - These two Units are not quite  
suitable as regards condition. The fact that they were with-  
out rugs during the recent cool spell evidently threw them  
a little back in condition, but they are now commencing to  
recover.  
55th. Battery. - Condition very good. This battery has now for  
some months maintained a high standard of condition.  
114th.Battery and 14th.F.A.Bde.H.Q. - Condition very good.  
All units visited this day report plentiful supply of feed.
- 13.4.1918. S.A.A.Section 5th. D.A.C. - Condition good.  
567th. 568th. 284th. A.T.R.E.(Temporarily administered by this  
Division) Condition very fair, but a number of casualties recentl  
from bombs.  
5th.D.H.Q., 5th.D.A.H.Q. 5th.Div.Train H.Q. 28th.A.A.S.C. 18th.  
A.A.S.C., 5th.Div.Sig. . . All in good condition.



- 14.4.1918. 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd Battalions. - Condition satisfactory all through. The position of the 30th, and 32nd Battalions were unnecessarily close to a railway station and crossing. D.H.Q. advised accordingly.
- 15.4.1918. 5th, M.V.S. with A.A.&Q.M.G. - Condition good Shelter good.  
14th, Fld.Amb. - Condition good and in a situation very well selected.  
15th, Fld.Amb. - Condition good, but the shoeing of the hacks very backward. The attention of the O.C. was drawn to the necessity of keeping the shoeing up-to-date.  
58th, Battalion. - Condition good; with the exception of certain animals recently received to supply Divisional emergencies, but these are improving.  
14th, Fld.Coy. Engineers - Condition good.  
Nos. 1 & 2 Sections D.A.C. - Condition very good.  
All the units visited this day are on standings sufficiently good to diminish the likelihood of Dermatitis etc., occurring.  
H.Q. 5th, D.A.C. - Condition good, but nothing done to improve standings in any way.
- 16.4.1918. 49th, 50th, 51st, & 113th, Batteries. - Condition good.  
13th, P.A. Bde. H.Q. - Condition good.
- 17.4.1918. With D.A.Q.M.G. inspecting Hay supplies available.  
Visited 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 53rd, 54th, 56th, 57th, 58th, Battalions, 8th, and 15th, Field Ambulances 14th, and 15th, Engineers, 13th, and 14th, A.F.A. Bdes.
- 18.4.1918. S.A.A. Section - Condition good.  
90th, Labour Coy, 4th, Army Auxiliary Horse Coy, 567th, A.T.R.E. 8th, Field Engineers. The animals of 8th, Fld. Engrs., are not maintaining their condition. Work appears to have been heavy. All the other units mentioned this day are in good condition, with the exception of the Aux. Horse Coy, which are very backward. The shoeing of the 90th, Labour Coy was very backward, and it was necessary to ask several units to assist in shoeing, as they did not appear to have any shoe supply.
- 19.4.1918. 8th, Field Engrs, 57th, 59th, & 60th, Battalions - Condition good. All these units have moved to a new location where there is plenty of grazing.  
14th, Fld.Amb, 5th, D.A.H.Q. 5th, D.H.Q. 5th, M.V.S. 5th, Div. Sigs. - Condition good.
- 20.4.1918. 53rd, Battery. Condition improving  
54th, Battery Condition good.  
55th, Battery It is noticed that the animals were falling off in condition slightly; this is probably due to the cold spell.  
114th, Battery - Condition good.  
113th, Battery - Condition good - This unit has moved to a good position.  
No. 1 Section 5th, D.A.C. - The condition was very good, but it was noticed that 4 animals had broken shoes.
- 21.4.1918. 14th, M.G. Coy. - Some of the animals of this Company have fallen off in condition, and it is considered that more grooming and stricter supervision is required.  
54th, Battalion - Condition good. Have moved to a well protected stable out of the village.  
53rd, Battalion, 55th, Battalion, 8th, M.G. Coy, 15th, Fld.Amb. - Condition good. The 15th, Fld.Amb. have a good grazing position.
- 22.4.1918. 5th, D.H.Q., 5th, D.A.H.Q. 5th, Div. Train H.Q. 28th, A.A.S.C. 5th, Div. Sig. Co. - Condition satisfactory.
- 23.4.1918. Examined 141 Remounts at PICQUIGNY and found them all apparently free from contagious diseases.  
10th, A.A.S.C. 18th, A.A.S.C. No. 2, Sec. 5th, D.A.C. 30th, Battn. Condition Good.



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237 24.4.1918.

13th. and 14th. F.A.Brigades. - Condition good. The Batteries have suffered heavy casualties from a recent bombardment. In their new position water is likely to be difficult, as they have been forced to move from the neighbourhood of a canal and are mostly on high ground. It has been suggested that the water supply between LA NEUVILLE LA HOUSSE and PONT NOYELLES should be improved, if this is done it will greatly facilitate the keeping of the animals in condition.  
8th. & 25th. M.G.Coys. 15th. Fld.Engrs. 28th. A.A.S.C. 14th. Inf.Bde H.Q. - All in good condition especially 14th. Inf. Bde H.Q.

26.4.1918

15th M.G.Coy. Animals in very good condition. Well dug in in a well selected site.  
56th Battn Condition good.  
5th Pioneers, 14th and 25th M.G.Coys, 14th Bde.H.Q. Good.  
Collected 50 remounts at Picquigny.  
Visited V.E.S. at Ilincourt.

27.4.1918

Inspecting new M.V.S. position.  
10th A.A.S.C. 15th Fld.Amb. Condition good.

28.4.1918

Inspected Water Points and Unit locations with the A.A.&Q.M.G. 114th, 49th, 53rd, 54th, Btys. 13th A.F.A.B. H.Q. 5th D.A.C. 25th and 14th M.G.Coys. 14th Bde.H.Q. 56th Battn. 28th A.A.S.C. Condition satisfactory.

29.4.1918.

Inspected 50 remounts at Picquigny.  
58th Battn Condition good.

30.4.1918.

55th Battery condition good. Site well selected and well protected.  
S.A.A. Section 5th D.A.C. Condition good. Lines good. Bomb protecting walls in the course of erection.  
15th Field Ambulance Condition Good. Lines good. Well protected against bombs by brick walls.  
10th A.A.S.C. Condition good. Some protection against bombs.  
29 A.A.S.C. Condition good. All animals in stables, but in a very bad position at the junction of two important roads at PONT NOYELLES.  
32nd Battn. Some protection from Trees. Animals in good condition and well scattered.  
31st Battn. ditto.  
53rd Battn. Condition good. Some Bomb protection from ~~xxxx~~ buildings ~~xxxx~~ but very close to several heavy guns and important road junction.  
60th Battn. Condition good. Complete protection from bombs on one side by the bank, and some on the other side by the Canal.  
57th and 59th Battns. Condition good.

*Stan Henry*  
MAJOR.