

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/8/25

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

August 1918



AWM4-27/8/25

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

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

L A D 78 5th Australian Division

FOR

August 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

Wan Henry L Colonel.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Wan Henry L Colonel.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>St. Gatien</i>	<i>1/8/1918</i>		<i>Lt. D. V. S. moved from St. Gatien to Allonville Chateau</i>	
	<i>4/8/18</i>		<i>Lt. D. V. S. moved from Allonville Chateau to Blangy Honville</i>	
	<i>10/8/18</i>		<i>Lt. D. V. S. moved from Blangy Honville to 025 c1.1 (62°)</i>	
	<i>17/8/18</i>		<i>Lt. D. V. S. moved from 025 c1.1 (62°) to P7 c2.8 (62°)</i>	
	<i>28/8/18</i>		<i>Lt. D. V. S. moved from P7 c2.8 (62°) to Q30 c3.3 (62°)</i>	
	<i>31/8/18</i>		<i>Lt. D. V. S. moved from Q30 c3.3 to Fontaine-lez-Cappy</i>	

Man Henry
Colonel.

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List of Appendices

Original. 2.

APPENDIX

War Diary

of

1st AID 5 Australian Division

August 1918

I General Condition

II Distribution of Veterinary Officers

and Subordinate Veterinary
Personnel.

Frank Henry Lt Colonel.

APPENDIX

General Condition.

Appendix.....

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237 Speaking generally the condition of the animals of the Division has been good. One or two Units were not up to the usual standard but improved in the latter part of the month.

MANGE. Mange reappeared during the month - three cases appearing in three separate Units - One was a remount which was never on the lines. The other two were both connected with the same Unit although actually found on different lines. The source of infection of the animals remains obscure. The Transport Officer suggests that the infection must have occurred indirectly through the horses being away from the direct control at schools etc., and this is quite possible and is a difficult matter to control.

The Unit is being clipped and arrangements made for a constant supply of Mange dressing to all Units.

The probability of infection is always increased when horses are away from Units and are placed in old stables, barns etc.

In connection with the above the following instructions were issued -

1. All head-collars should be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected weekly.
2. The head bands of nose-bags should be disinfected weekly.
3. All grooming gear should be disinfected weekly in Mange dressing if available if not in creasol.
4. The polls, cheeks, and upper parts of the neck should be washed twice with Mange dressing.
5. All Units to have a supply of Mange dressing on hand as soon as possible.

(Sgd) Ross Grant Capt.
for D.A.D.V.S. 5th Australian Division;

Ross Grant
Lt. Colonel

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Distribution of Veterinary Officers and subordinate Veterinary Personnel.

Appendix.....
APPENDIX

The distribution of the three Veterinary Officers now allowed to a Division - allotting one to each Artillery Brigade and one to the Divisional Train works satisfactorily so long as the D.A.D.V.S. is allowed to change ~~as long~~ as circumstances alter - if that power is taken from him the scheme would be unworkable.

In the ordinary circumstances it is possible to allow the V.O.'s to live with the Units to which they are attached but it often happens that to do so would involve them in travelling such distances as to render their work very difficult and sketchy. At the present moment, owing to the disposition of the Units of the Division, one V.O. is with an Artillery Brigade, one at the D.A.C.H.Q., and one with the S.A.A. Section 5th D.A.C.. Only so can Veterinary supervision be arranged. Incidentally it may be pointed out that it is a very good thing for Units, not ordinarily supplied with to have a Veterinary Officer living with them for a time - The Officers get a lot of unofficial instruction from him, and the Sergeants A.V.C. and Farrier Sergeants get more closely supervised.

The addition of another Veterinary Officer is greatly to be desired. He should be as it were a free lance ready to proceed to and reside in any location as desired by the D.A.D.V.S..

The distribution of the subordinate personnel is very arbitrary and the work unevenly divided - There seems no reason why the Farrier Sergeants of the Engineers and the Train should be considered more capable of doing the work than the Farriers Sergeants of the Artillery yet such is the practical result. It would of course be desirable that all sickness in horses should be dealt with by Veterinary Personnel and with a few extra men this could be arranged.

The case of the Engineers might be taken first - The C.R.E. is provided with a Medical Officer who looks after all three Companies. If a Company gets much detached the nearest M.O. takes emergency cases - Why should the C.R.E. not have a Sergeant A.V.C. attached and working on the same plan. Generally speaking the Engineer Transport lines are seldom far apart and if one was detached the nearest Sergeant A.V.C. could be detailed to look after it. To do so at present would lead to trouble because of the constant changes, and returns would be impossibly mixed.

The same thing applies to the Divisional Train - In moving warfare it might not work but ordinarily the Companies are bunched and the Sergeant could do the work. The Company most often detached is the one supplying the Artillery but here again if an A.V.C. man were doing the work the nearest Battery Sergeant could be detailed - If a third Sergeant were placed at D.H.Q. he could deal with D.H.Q., M.M.P., Divisional Signals and could be utilised with the numerous Labour Coys. and other scattered Units in the neighbourhood of D.H.Q. which are nominally handed over to the D.A.D.V.S. - This leaves only the Pioneers and the Ambulances - The Pioneer Transport generally appears to be within reasonable distance of D.H.Q. but the Ambulances are a difficulty.

If no better scheme could be thought of to bring them in, a Sergeant A.V.C. might be available to take up duty at the central one and work the three. If the question of providing the personnel is raised this could, to some extent, be provided by cutting down the strength of the Train and D.A.S. to two - one being with the S.A.A. Sec - instead of three.

Financially it could be arranged partially, by reducing the Staff Farrier Sergeants of the Train to Farrier Sergeants. There is no reason why they should have higher rank as they do not do as much as the Farrier Sergeants of the Batteries and the fiction that the Train carried out the shoeing for the Infantry has long ago been discarded.

(Sgd) Ross Grant Captain
 for D.A.D.V.S. 5th Australian Division

Ross Grant
 Lt. Colonel.
 D.A.D.V.S. 5th Australian Division.