

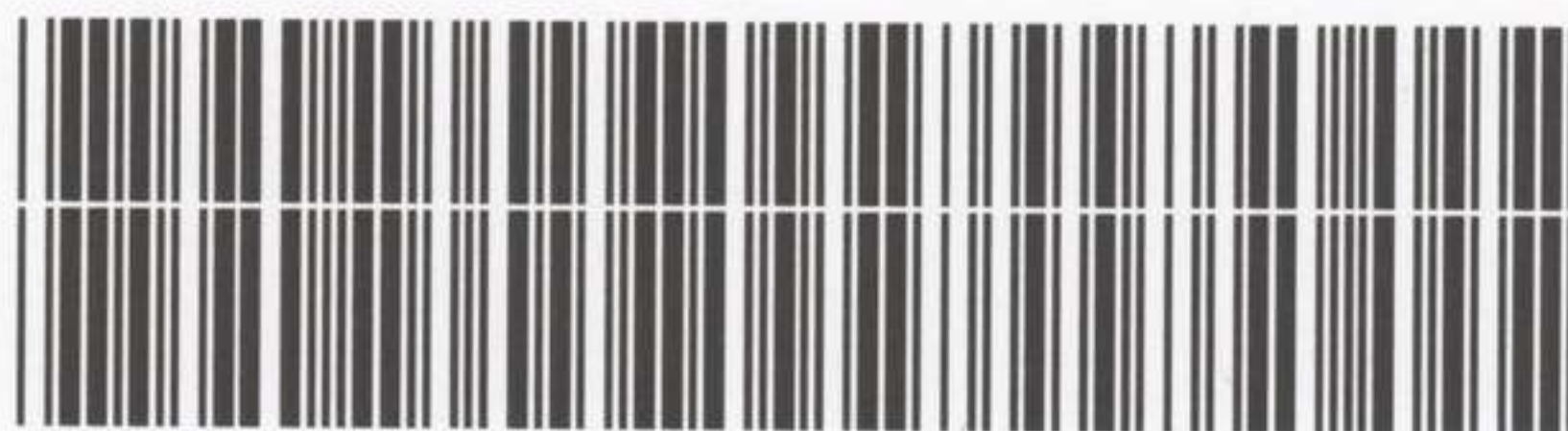
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Veterinary

Item number: 27/8/32

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

March 1919



AWM4-27/8/32

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

M A R C H

1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

Max Henry

Lieut-Colonel.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Max Henry

Lieut-Colonel.

(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.

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Franklin 202

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WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

MARCH.

1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I.	Weekly Report 7.3.19.
II.	" " 14.3.19.
III.	" " 21.3.19.
IV.	" " 28.3.19.
V.	Sickness.
VI.	Personnel (Changes in)
VII.	Animal wastage for Month.
VIII.	Sales (To Inhabitants and Horse Butcher)

Max Henry
7/21

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MONTHLY REPORT.

7.3.19.

INSPECTIONS. Visits were paid to 5th. Div; animal Concentration Camp at
MAGNIEN, 24th. A.I. Div., at RIVY and RANCE, 25th. A.I. Div.,
at LIGNIER, and 5th/10th. 212. Coy., A.I. Div., at LES-FOURTEINS.

SALE OF ANIMALS.
From the 1st March sales of "A" class animals to inhabitants
were held by the Veterinary Service in accordance with
Aust. Corps. Admin. Memo. No. 21.
On 5th. and 6th. March sales were held at POMERIEU. On 5th. inst.
60 horses were sold at an average price of 11'0 and 15'00
at an average of 736 francs.
Total amount realised 7360 francs.
On 6th. inst. 48 horses were sold at an average of 11'0 francs
and 6'00 at an average of 775 francs. Total amount of days
sale was 4800 francs.

CONDITION. The condition of the animals in some units is not being kept
up satisfactorily. This is largely due to the fact that the
men looking after them do not appear to have been trained
in the care of animals.

FEED. Is sufficient.

SHOES. Is satisfactory.

PERSONNEL. Lt-Colonel HARRY W. D.S.O. D.A.D.V.S. returned from F.R.
on the 5th. inst.
Capt. PHILLIPS A.A.V.S. joined the Division from 10th. Army
Div. A.F.A. on the 5th. inst.

Lt-Colonel Harry W. D.S.O. D.A.D.V.S.
Lt-Colonel.
D.A.D.V.S. 5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

7.3.19.

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5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

WEEKLY REPORT.

14.3.19.

PERSONNEL.

Major S. L. SYMONDS R.A.V.C. proceeded on 10 days ^{leave} to PARIS on 9th. inst.
No. 1246 Sgt. CAREY P. J. A.A.V.C. 12th. Aust. Army F.A. Bde. was transferred to this Division on 12th. inst. and is posted to 14th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

SALES.

The following sale was attended.
SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU 8th. inst. No. sold. 58 horses and 17 mules, total amount received 85875 francs.

MOVE.

The Division moved to WILCOURT on 11th. inst. and M.V.S. to the same place. Good quarters have been obtained for the M.V.S.

SALES TO LOCAL BUTCHER.

During the week the undermentioned animals were sold to Horse Butcher.

1 L.D. Cellulitis	450 francs.
1 H.D. "	450 "
1 H.D. CZ Surplus	600 "
1 H.D. Sanderack.	600 £

Every effort will be made to increase the number sold locally.

Max Henry
Lieut-Colonel.
D. A. D. V. S. 5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

WEEKLY REPORT.

PERSONNEL. Major S.L. SYMONDS A.A.V.C. returned from leave in France on 18.3.19.

SALES.

Sales were attended at the following places during the week:-
49 Horses for 64932.50 frs. 51 Mules for
17th. and 18th. JEUMONT. 33582.50 francs.
19th. and 20th. CHIMAY. 19th. 53 horses for 60135 frs. 60 mules
for 32062.50 francs.

ANIMALS TO BASE. 20th. 25 horses for 20496.25 francs.

A number of animals were despatched from CHARLEROI to the Base and FORGES during the week, on dates shown below.

17.3.19.	To.	FORGES	134 Mules.
18.3.19.	"	HAVRE	46 Horses.
20.3.19.	"	HAVRE	150 "
21.3.19.	"	FORGES	155 Mules.

Sales to Horse Butcher.

During the week the undermentioned animals were sold to Horse Butcher.

5 animals	Wange.
1 "	Lacerated wd.

Total amount realized 2000 Francs.

Phaurem Edwards

Capt.

for Lieut-Colonel.

21.3.19.

D.A.D.V.S. 5th. Australian Division.

WEEKLY REPORT.

SALES.

The following sales were attended during the week.

COUVIN 22nd. inst. Sold 10 Horses and 50 Mules.

CLERMONT 24th. inst. " 19 Horse and 26 Mules.

CERFONTAINE 26th. inst. 26 Horses and 29 Mules.

EVACUATIONS.

The following animals were evacuated during the week.

Total 101 (86 Mules Mange and 5 Horses)

The majority of these mules were sent away with a very mild type of mange, the infection probably occurred from stables.

CONDITION.

The condition of most of the animals of the Division is good, as they are largely heavy draughts with the Divisional Train.

Frank Henry

Lieut-Colonel. .

D.A.D.V.S. 5th. Australian Division.

5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

S I C K N E S S.

The following notes are taken from records of sickness in the 5th. Ausr. Division, throughout the period of active service.

CLASS 1. (General Diseases)

Apart from Debility very few cases occurred which could be included in this class.

The PURPURA HAEMORRAGICA which caused such heavy loss in EGYPT was practically never seen in the field, probably because no serious epidemic of influenza or strangles occurred, and although so many cases of septic wounds were met with PYAEMIA & SEPTICAEMIA were hardly ever seen.

Although horses were exposed to long periods of very severe weather, to intense cold and lack of shelter, especially the winter of 1916-17 RHEUMATISM was conspicuous by its absence, and it would almost appear that as a disease of horses this is of very little importance.

CLASS 2 (Respiratory Diseases)

In spite of the severe conditions as noted above the animals showed remarkable freedom from all types of Respiratory disease thus in the period from the 1st. March 1917 to 12th. July the same year 2 animals were destroyed with PNEUMONIA.

From the 1st. November 1917 to the end of March 1918 one animal died and one destroyed by the same cause.

⁴⁵⁰⁰ The strength of the Division both periods being from 4000 to 5000. In October 1917 not a single case died or was destroyed by this cause, although that month shows the heaviest total of loss i.e. 211 animals died and destroyed. This however was mainly due to enemy action.

As it may ~~always~~ be said that no cases of PNEUMONIA in the field recover it is evident that exposure alone even in the worst conditions has little or no influence on the incidence of PNEUMONIA, and although the Horse Management was of a good standard ^{up to} the middle of 1917 the exigencies of the service prevented that care in working in bringing in horses cool and general hygienic measures which are considered as preventing such cases. It is fairly evident that close confinement must be considered as predisposing to Respiratory disease rather than exposure in the open.

CLASS 3. (Diseases of Circulatory System)

No practical importance on active service.

CLASS 4. (Diseases of Urinary System)

Beyond one or two cases of HAEMAGLO^{BINURIA} this class of disease is also negligible.

CLASS 5. (Generative System)

One case of MASTITIS is noted otherwise of no importance.

CLASS 6. (Digestive System)

STOMATITIS.

One outbreak occurred during service in France during the winter 1916-17 when it was so very prevalent in other units and was probably contracted from French horses. Fortunately in this Division most cases were mild and by regular inspection and strict isolation the outbreak was controlled. The treatment supplied was the use of a Mouth wash of Alum Boric Acid.

ABNORMALITIES OF THE TEETH.

As might be expected the commonest lesion was a laceration of the cheeks, by unevenly worn teeth on the upper row of molars, reduction of these sharp points in some cases ^{caused} an improvement in the condition but frequency with which this condition leads to poverty is much exaggerated ~~but~~ of Officers and men in charge of horses.

both by

COLIC. The commonest of types of COLIC seen are spasmodic, due probably to chill and exhaustion, and usually mild and transient, and impaction of large intestines, long drawn out cases with dull pain and often fatal.

The figures for COLIC are not reliable as many cases are so mild as not to be recorded but from 1st. March 1917 to 12th. July 1917 16 animals died from COLIC and from 2nd. August to end of that year 5 cases occurred under all conditions and amongst all classes though mules seem to be extremely free. ; Calculus of the intestines was found very commonly. Rupture of stomach was seen several times.

CLASS 7. (Diseases of LYMPHATIC SYSTEM)

Beyond Ulc. Cellulitis and a few cases of SPORADIC LYMPHANGITIS nothing noteworthy was seen.

CLASS 8. (Nervous System)

STRINGHALL was seen to about the same extent as horses in civil life. 2 Cases of PARAPLEGIA were noted in the winter of 1917-18 causes unknown.

CLASS 9 (Skin Diseases)

DERMATITIS.

A form of this obviously due to mud, dirt, impossibility of grooming and continual wet state of the skin accompanied with a good deal of loss of hair was ~~being~~ ^{very} common during the winter months about the legs.

MANGE.

Continual watch has ~~been~~ ^{to be} made for mange especially during the late winter and autumn. Its incidence may be seen in the graph last ^{supplied} November, and special attention is drawn to the extra-ordinary drop from 75 cases in March to 1 in April. Apart from the fact that repressive measures were being more and more severely adopted during the 3 preceding months, the only change was that the animals were brought out of their stables in the BESSINES area and were taken down in to the open in front of AMIENS. In any case the drop would probably have occurred owing to the falling out of the coats but nothing like this could have been expected and points strongly to the value of the open air treatment and grass feeding advocated by certain French Authorities. The use of the dip as a prophylactic measure is held to be valuable, but nothing is of any use against mange without strict supervision and constant watchfulness, on the part of the Veterinary Staff. The appalling state of inefficiency which can result from mange if ~~prevented~~ ^{suggested} was seen recently when 200 or 300 animals of another army ~~temporarily~~ ^{were temporarily} under our care.

LICE.

Were always to be looked for towards the end of winter, but clipping and the use of tobacco wash was generally sufficient to deal with it.

Severe infestation can reduce the condition of a horse very greatly.

RINGWORM.

Seldom seen and easily dealt with with tincture of iodine.

CLASS 10. (LOCOMOTORY DISEASES)

ARTHRITIS. Septic Arthritis especially at the hock joint is a common occurrence and usually leads to destruction.

LAMINITIS; Fairly frequent amongst the heavy horses, treatment in practically all cases is rest without shoes, light diet, and standing in cold water or mud. Many Laminitic animals were worked for very long periods.

THRUSH. During the winter this was very common and may cause very severe lameness, often the outward sign is very slight but careful searching will reveal one or two small openings in the horn which ~~are~~ ^{when} followed up revealed large areas of degenerative material, it is the cause of lameness that the ~~animal~~ ^{hoof} is unable to grasp. The use of copper sulphate has been found valuable.

CLASS 11 (Specific Diseases)

Specific Ophthalmia has caused heavy loss.

ANTHRAX 2 outbreaks have occurred in the Division 4 animals dying.

GLANDERS. The Division brought Glanders from EGYPT but after a retesting it was stamped out. The introduction of the Ophthalmic test has been one of the most useful things brought out in war.

TETANUS. It would be expected that TETANUS would have been common this has not been the case. From 1st. March 1917 to 1st. March 1918 16 animals were destroyed from TETANUS.

CLASS 12 (Visual) Apart from Specific Ophthalmia and odd case of CONJUNCTIVITIS was the only visual case seen.

5th. Australian Division.

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S A L E S.

The following animals were sold to Inhabitants by Public Auction, during the month.

March 5 & 6th. at FOURMIES 102 Horses 21 Mules, Units whose animals were represented were Divisional Artillery.

March 8th. at SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU 58 Horses and 17 Mules sent by Div. Train, 5th. Aust. Div. Signal Coy., A.D.M.S., and 5th. Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

March 10th. at ETROEUNGT 27 Horses and 40 Mules sent by Artillery, 5th. Aust. Machine Gun Battalion, and 15th. A.I. Bde.

March 18th. at JEUMONT 49 Horses and 51 Mules by D.A., Div. Engrs., M.G. Battalion, 14th. A.I. Bde. 5th. Aust. M.V.S. and Divisional Train.

March 19&20th. at CHIMAY 78 Horses and 60 Mules by D.A., M.G. Battalion, and Div. Engineers.

March 22nd. at COUVIN 10 Horses and 50 Mules by D.A., Sigs,

ANIMALS SOLD TO HORSE BUTCHER.

The following animals were sold to Horse Butcher during the month.

March 9th. 3 animals sold for 1500 francs.

"	10th. 1 animal	"	"	600	"
"	14th. 6	"	"	2000	"
"	25th. 10	"	"	5000	"

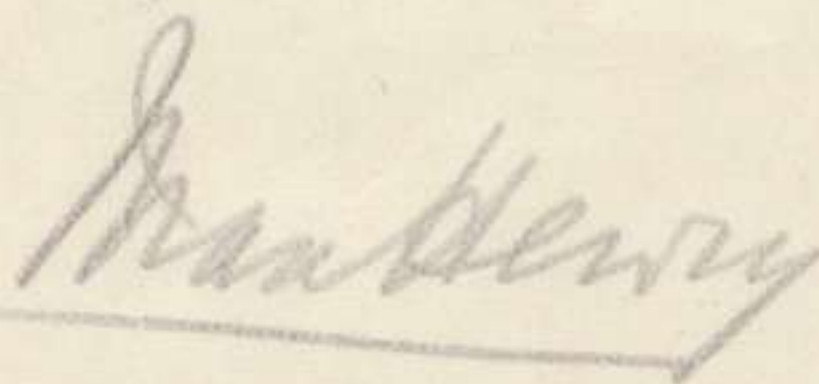
Total amount realized.

20 animals sold to Horse Butcher for 9100 Francs.

ANIMALS DESPATCHED TO THE BASE AND FORGES.

The following animals were despatched to the Base during the month as on dates shewn.

199	"X&Y" Class Horses	to HAVRE	on 5.3.19.
100	"Y"	"	" 6.3.19.
200	"X&Y"	"	" 8.3.19.
100	"	"	" 10.3.19.
247	"	"	"
200	"Z" Mules	"	" 13.3.19.
134	"	FORGES	" 17.3.19.
50	"X&Y" Horses	HAVRE	" 18.3.19.
175	22" Mules	FORGES	" 21.3.19.
150	2X&Y" Class Horses	H VRE	" 22.3.19.



Lieut-Colonel.

D.A.D.V.S. 5th. Australian Division.

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ANIMAL WASTAGE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1919.

Class.	Evacuated.	Died.	Destroyed.
1	--	--	--
2	--	--	--
3	---	--	--
4	--	--	--
5	--	--	--
6	1	--	--
7	2	--	--
8	--	--	--
9	111	--	--
10	4	--	--1.
11	7	--	--
12	1	--	--
13	23	--	--
<hr/>			
Totals.	149.	nil.	1.
<hr/>			

Max Henry

Lieut-Colonel.
D.A.D.V.S. 5th. Australian Division.