

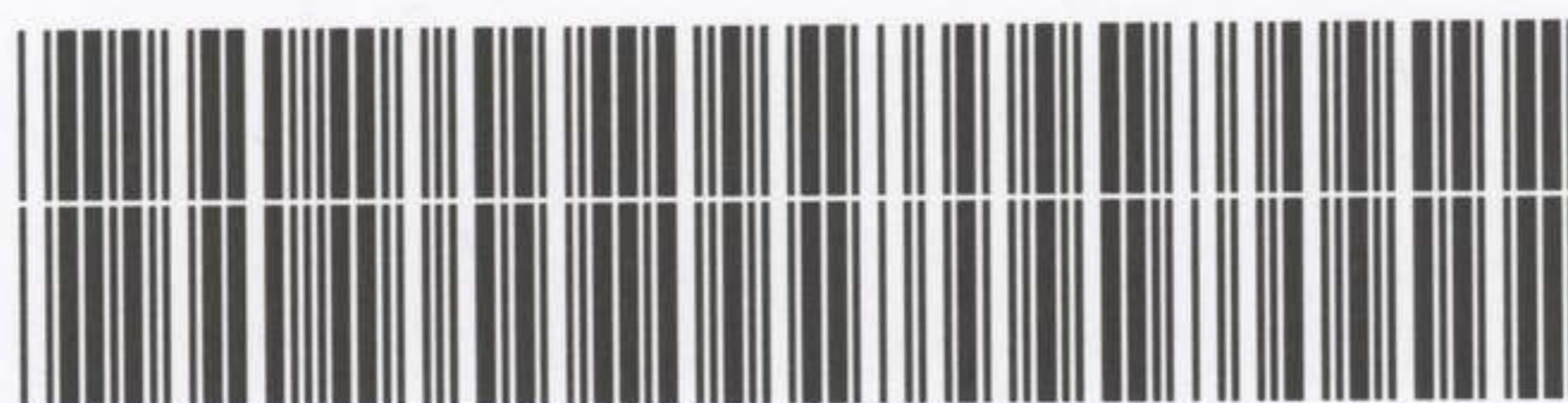
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Veterinary

**Item number:** 27/10/24

**Title:** Assistant Director Veterinary  
Services, ANZAC Mounted Division

February 1918



AWM4-27/10/24

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*A.D.P. S. A + K3 Mid Divn*

FOR

*February.*

*1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*[Handwritten signature]*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Handwritten signature: J. M. Major]*

- FEB 1918

*[Handwritten initials]*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Volume No 2  
Page 1

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

CONFIDENTIAL.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>VETERINARY SERVICES. <span style="float: right;">A.&amp;.N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.</span></p>	
RICHON.	FEB. 1st.	<i>JA</i>	A.D.V.S. visits Australian Training Centre Moascar and consults with Col Arnott Commandant with reference to the formation of a Farrier Training School. Authority is requested for the formation of a school as per copy of suggestions, attached.	No 1. Appendix
	7th.	<i>JA</i>	Capt. A.A. Johnson N.Z.V.C. proceeds to Moascar prior to returning to New Zealand.	
	9th.	<i>JA</i>	New Zealand Mtd Bde Hdqtrs and Wellington Mtd Rifles move to Bethlehem. The remainder of the brigade are under orders to move at 8 hours notice. 1 Sgt and 3 men from the 2nd N.Z. Mob Vet accompany the Regiment. At this period very heavy rains and cold weather are experienced.	Section
	11th.	<i>JA</i>	D.V.S. & A.D.V.S. inspects the Mobile Veterinary Sections which are found to be doing good work and have been for the past few weeks <del>been</del> used as hospitals for their respective brigades.	
	12th.	<i>JA</i>	D.V.S. & A.D.V.S. inspects the 18th R.H.A. Bde and find that although the replacements of unfit animals have been large, there are still many animals that have not improved sufficiently to be considered fit for any severe work. It is considered that this is due to the continual changing of young Officers who are not long enough with their units to get accustomed to the routine work and the want of knowledge in general stable management.	
	14th.	<i>JA</i>	D.V.S. & A.D.V.S. inspect the horses of the 1st A.L.H. Bde and find there are about 100 aged horses that have not recovered from the recent operations so that arrangements are made to have these evacuated to hospital, classified a B class animals only suitable for base work and replaced by younger animals. Capt D. McNicol A.A.V.C. arrives from Moascar and reports for duty. He is temporarily posted with the 2nd New Zealand Mobile Vet Section vice Capt Johnson sailed to New Zealand.	
	15th.	<i>JA</i>	D.H.Q. move to Latroun and N.Z. bde less one Regt move to Junction Station and bivouac over night.	
	16th.	<i>JA</i>	1st A.L.H. Bde move to junction station and N.Z. Bde to Bethlehem and bivouac over night.	
	17th.	<i>JA</i>	D.H.Q. reach Jerusalem and 1st A.L.H. Bde Bethlehem where all rested till operations commenced. One N.C.O. and eight men of each Mob Vet Section accompany their Bdes whilst 1 N.C.O. & 4 men from the 7th Mob Vet Section accompany the Veterinary Officer of Divisional troops.	

*Mendall Major ADVS*

- FEB 1918

*688/14*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

FEBRUARY 1918.

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or VOLUME No 2.  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. PAGE 2.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RICHON.	Feb.		VETERINARY SERVICES. <span style="float: right;">A. &amp; N. Z. MTD DIVN.</span>	
		18th.	At Bethlehem the D.H.Q. and two Bdes come under the order of the 20th Army Corps and arrangements are made with the D.D.V.S. of the Corps for the Mobile Veterinary sections parties to evacuate animals through the Corps Advanced Veterinary Station situated three quarters of a mile South of Jerusalem on the Jaffa road.	
		19th.	A.D.V.S. joins D.H.Q. at Jerusalem. The animals receive full ration up till operations commenced on the 20th when the emergency ration of 12 lbs of grain are used. Up to this period the casualties are only 1 died & 2 destroyed and 7 sent to the Veterinary Sections. Operations commenced towards Nebi Mussa where the country is very hilly and difficult for horses to travel. No wheel transport was able to proceed further than Tabet ed Durum so camels were used. The casualties so far are slight but the animals suffer from the cold and want of water, the animals being without water. The Advanced Veterinary Station moved to Shallat near Jerusalem.	
		20th.	A.&N.Z.Divsl troops entered Jericho at 1030 after experiencing severe opposition at various points, the weather being very cold and showery and the country difficult being very mountainous with narrow stoney tracks and valleys affected the horses greatly. The former in regard to their condition and the latter caused a great number of bruised feet as the animals have been used to sandy and soft country for some time. The country had the effect of causing a great many shoes to be broken and torn off, consequently the animals were soon lame. It is recommended that each unit carries sufficient leather for the purpose of relieving this condition when possible.	
		21st.	The brigades remain in their positions at Jericho where animals are watered twice per day until they leave at 1830 on the 22nd inst for Jerusalem. New Zealand Bde take canvas rugs whilst 1st A.L.H.Bde only have one horse blanket, the result being that even although the 1st A.L.H.Bde horses were not in as good condition as the New Zealand Bde horses there is a very marked difference in the result on the animals which goes to prove conclusively that mounted brigades should be equipped with good strong canvas rugs during winter months, which they can carry round the horses necks till going into action. Even if the animals are compelled to only have the saddle for this period whilst an operation is on the benefit gained by the general use of the canvas rugs decreases the wastage of animals enormously.	
22nd.	The Brigades less the Auckland Mtd Rifles return to Jerusalem at 0155. Cold rains and wind are experienced. Owing to the heavy going over rough country, the animals for the most part had to be led. Many cases of bruised feet were observed. On one occasion the animals were 49 hours without water. Single file formation was resorted to in several difficult and narrow passes.			

*J. Kennedy Major*

- FEB 1918

*688/5*

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	VETERINARY SERVICES	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RICHON.	Feb	24th.	<p>The brigades return from Jerusalem to Richon le Sion, when it is found that from 100 to 150 horses of the 1st A.L.H. Bde that were about to be evacuated previous to the operations, but were not, owing to the sudden move have suffered so severely that they are found to be unfit for further service with field units. These animals suffered mainly from Debility, Senility and bruised feet. The donkeys that have been on issue to Officers batmen to save remounts, are found to be of little use during operations, consequently they are not attended to properly so ten are evacuated from D.H.Q. These animals are being used as packs by the infantry in the mountains and although many die from the cold, they have been found to be very useful. The camels also have suffered from the cold but as wheeled transport is impossible in some parts, packing as to be resorted to and these animals have been very successful.</p> <p>A.D.V.S. proceeds to Cairo in connection of Officers of War Diary and History Section.</p>	<p>A.&amp;.N.Z.MOUNTED DIVISION.</p>	
		26th.	All brigades are now in respective camping areas at Richon le Sion and Wadi Hanein.		
		28th.	<p>Forage ration for today is as follows. Barley 10 lbs, Bran 2 lbs. Tibben 6 lbs. Hay 4 lbs. Sucraphaille 2 lbs.</p> <p>The total animal casualties for the recent operations were 20 deaths i.e, died, killed, and destroyed.</p> <p>The total animal casualties for the month are Deaths 48. Evacuated to L of C. 113.</p>		

*Mendall* Major. A.D.V.S.  
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

*28/2/18*

# WAR DIARY

OF

A . D . V . S . A . & . N . Z . M T D <sup>?</sup> D I V N .

FOR

F E B R U A R Y

191 <sup>8</sup>

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1. Proposed formation of School of Farriery at Australian Training Depot.

*J. Applegate* Major. A.D.V.S.  
A.&.N.Z.MTD DIVN.

- FEB 1918

*688/2*

Copy.

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING DEPOT.  
MOASCAR.  
31st January. 1918.

To/

A.A.G. A.I.F. in Egypt.  
Headquarters.  
Desert Mounted Corps.

Ref:- School of farriery - Australian Training Depot.

- (1) In pursuance of a conference held to-day with the Senior A.D.V.S. A.I.F.(EGYPT) , it is submitted that a school of Farriery be established at the Australian training Depot Moascar .
- (2) The establishment of the school to consist of :- One farrier  
M.S. one corporal and eight shoeing-smiths .
- (3) The following stores to be sanctioned for issue to the school :-
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Field forges complete                       | 4 |
| Anvils                                      | 4 |
| Bags tools Farriers filled                  | 8 |
| 120 feet of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch cotton rope. |   |
- (4) Authority is requested to draw for the school all necessary materials such as iron , nails, shoes, fuel etc.
- (5) May authority be obtained from the D.O.S. for the issue of the above mentioned supplies .
- (6) The number of pupils in each course not to exceed 16 .  
The Senior A.V.C. Officer in the Australian training Depot to be in command of the school of farriery , and to give lectures and general instruction on anatomy of horse's foot , horse shoeing , and cognate subjects , and further instruction as indicated in Army Veterinary Services Manual , 1906.
- (7) The duration of the course of instruction not to be not less than six weeks , at the end of which period an examination will be conducted in practical and theory by the Senior V.O. assisted by the F.Q.M.S. Certificates to be issued to successful candidates , such certificates to be signed by the chief instructor of the school and the senior A.D.V.S. A.I.F. Egypt.  
Unsuccessful candidates will remain at the school for instruction during a further course of six weeks. The senior V.O. will then decide as to whether such soldiers should continue to receive instruction or be returned to their respective units.

(Sgd) J.M. ARNOTT, Colonel,  
Commandant .  
AUSTRALIAN TRAINING DEPOT.

*J. M. Arnett Major*