

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/10/34

Title: Assistant Director Veterinary
Services, ANZAC Mounted Division

December 1918



AWM4-27/10/34

Copy

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

D. A. D. V. S. A. & N. Z. Z. M T D D IVN.

FOR

DECEMBER 191.

Signature of Officer compiling J. Kendall Lt Col. DADO Signature of Officer Commanding _____

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.

XX
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ayun Kara.	Dec 1st.	JHC	D.A.D.V.S. accompanies the G. O.C. Desert Mounted Corps and G.O.C. A.N.Z.Mtd Division and Staff Officers on an inspection of the Division .	
	2nd.	JHC	D. A.D.V.S. accompanies G.O.C.Division on an inspection of Divisional troops .	
	3rd.	JHC	D.A.D.V.S. accompanies G.O.C.Division on an inspection of Divisional Train and afterwards reports on condition of horses and shoeing. <i>APPENDIX I</i>	
	6th.	JHC	Notification received from Stralis (A.I.F.Hdqtrs Cairo) that Capt R.M.Spence.A.A.V.C. has embarked for France..	
	7th.	JHC	The forage ration averages as follows ,Barley 4, gram 2, maize 1, bran 2, tibben 10, and sucraphaille 2 lbs. Animals over 16 hands high receive 2 lbs extra grain(barley and gram).	
	7th.	JHC	The weather is very windy and cold causing the animals to become tucked up, yet not so badly as at the same time last year,being not clipped this year and working.	
	9th.	JHC	D.A.D.V.S. inspects the Mobile Veterinary Sections of the Division and finds them practically empty of sick and debilitated animals .Their personnel is very much below strength(31 men).	
	10th.	JHC	Mallein testing is progressing rapidly .	
	10th.	JHC	Para from A.I.F. Egypt Order No 25 dated 6/12/18 reads :- Major Temp/colonel J.Kendall performed the duties of D.D.V.S. Desert Mtd Corps from 5/6/18 to 22/8/18 in addition to A.D.V.S. A.I.F. in Egypt.	
	10th.	JHC	Report from Capt F.Collins.A.A.V.C. received that he had arrived at Tripoli on the 2-12-18 and was posted to Divisional Troops Australian Mounted Division by D.A.D.V.S.	
	12th.	JHC	Aust Mtd Division.	
	12th.	JHC	O.C. A.A.V.C.Details Moascar is instructed to send forward every available A.A.V.C."other rank" when demanded for as they are urgently required to replace casualties in the field.	
	12th.	JHC	Memo sent to A.A.&.Q.M.G. of Divisionasking for a para to be inserted in Divisional Routine Orders, prohibiting the galloping of horses except those in training for the pending Divisional Races to be held on the 14th Dec.	
	13th.	JHC	D.A.D.V.S. Proceeds to Jerusalem and inspected the animals of the 2nd A.L.H.Regt . They are looking particularly well and although rough in their coats owing to the cold and wet.	
	14th.	JHC	Divisional race meeting held today. Dull weather but a very successful meeting which was attended by many Officers from General Staff ,Headquarters and the surrounding units awaiting entraining.	
	14th.	JHC	There were large entries and fields..	
	15th.	JHC	Forage ration averages barley 4, gram 2, tibben 10, bran 2, & sucraphaille 2 lbs.	
	17th.	JHC	All mallein testing is completed and certificate sent to Director of Veterinary Services that that the result was, Reactionsnil.	
	17th.	JHC	In reply to memo from Hdqtrs Anzacs the following names were submitted for honour of award or mention in the Peace Despatch. Sgt H.Jones 7th A.M.V.S. Sgt J.H.Gully 6th A.M.V.S. Sgt R.D.Munro N.Z.VG	
	17th.	JHC	Orders received from General Staff Divn for the moving of the Division from the Ayun Kara to the Rafa district which takes place in the following stages.	
	17th.	JHC	(A7092). Wt. 4V 12839/M 1293 75 1060-1477 D. B. & L. Ltd. Forms/C. 2118/14	

J. H. Jones

WAR DIARY

or
DECEMBER 1918.

(2)

D.A.D.V.S. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION
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.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ayun kara.	Dec 18th.		Left Ayun Kara (Richon le Sioh) 0900, arrive at Wadi Sukerier 1515, Distance 13 miles. Left Wadi Sukerier 0800, arrived at Mejdal 1545, Distance 12 miles. Left Mejdal 0800, arrived Gaza 1550 distance 16 miles. Left Gaza 0830 arrived Belah 1415, Distance 10 miles. Left Belah 0800, arrived Rafa 1500 distance 14 miles. Total distance 65 miles.	
Rafa.	23rd.		The majority of the donkeys of the Division were returned to Remouhts prior to the move. As the animals are not being clipped it has been found difficult under the prevailing conditions to counteract the Ticks which are very prevalent and causing very great irritation particularly among the horses. It has been too cold to use Tick destroying solutions and biliary fever is plentiful. All heavy baggage has now been removed from the railway station at Rafa, which was transported for the Division by rail. The Divisional Train preceded the Division by one day. At Yebnah and Esdud the roads were very bad and heavy and great difficulty was experienced in getting through some of the Bogs. Towards the end of the journey the roads were sandy and good, the weather being fine. The horses came through very well.	
	24th.		The animals are somewhat tucked up owing to the weather being extremely wet and cold. Forage ration barley 6, gram 3, bran 1, tibben 10, Sucraphaille 2, lbs. Horses over 16 hands 2 lbs extra grain. Return of ages of animals of the New Zealand Mtd Bde sent to D.V.S. G.H.Q. E.E.F.	APPEN. II
	27th.		Lt-General Sir Harry Chauvel K.C.B. K.C. Addressed all ranks of the Division and expressed his appreciation of the good work done by all ranks. Circular by Director General Veterinary Services received from D.V.S. E.E.F. stating that for the good work done by the A.V.C. the Corps has been raised to a "Royal Corps". The D.V.S. E.E.F. in a memo states that although the "Royal" does not apply to the A.A.V.C. & N.Z.V.C. yet he considers they are integral parts and appreciates the work they have done. D.A.D.V.S. Divn is asked to have all ranks concerned informed.	
	28th.		General Staff Anzacs issue instructions in reference to Educational facilities during the armistice and pending demobilization. Veterinary Officers of the Divn are instructed by the D.A.D.V.S. to assist by giving lectures on elementary Veterinary Science and Farrifery under arrangements with Adjutants or Bde Majors to troops. The subjects most advised are as follows. Disease of bones, Disease of the foot, Wounds and their treatment, Lameness, Diseases of the head, chest, and abdomen, Points to be observed when purchasing animals, Diseases of cattle after calving (genital organs), Impaction in cattle, sheep etc.	APPENDIX III
	29th.		Suggestions for improvement in army equipment, organisation, etc sent to General Staff Anzacs in reply to their memo G/29/25, Appendix, IV .	
	31st.		Animal casualties for the month Deaths 31. Evacuated 79. New A.F.A. 2000 now being used by Veterinary Officers, Appendix, V .	

Stewart Lt Col DAVOS

WAR DIARY

OF

D.A.D.V.S. A.&N.Z.MTD DIVN.

FOR

DECEMBER

191⁸.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Report on condition of horses of Division.
2.	Return of ages oh horses of New Zealand Mtd Bde.
3.	Veterinary Officers to give lectutes on elementary veterinary science in connection to Educational scheme.
4.	Suggestion for improvement in equipment and organisation.
5.	New form being used reference animals casualties.

A.A.&Q.M.G.

Anzac Mtd Divn.

Reference the inspection of the A.&N.Z.Mtd Divn by the Desert Coprs Commander on the 1st inst.

As instructed I have to report that I noticed the following when riding through the lines of the following-units, various units.

1. That the 2nd A.L.H.Bde horses less those of the 5th and 7th Regts were in good general condition with the exception of a small number of low conditioned animals. The animals as a whole are in good condition but are rough in their coats owing to the season and not being clipped. The horses of the 6th Regt and 2nd Machine Gun Squadron are looking particularly well.

2. The horses of the 1st A. L.H.Bde less the 2nd Regt are in low condition. These animals were low in condition previous to the recent operations particularly those of the Machine Gun Sqdron. The latter have improved but the remainder have lost condition since their arrival in the Richon le Sion area. I attribute this to the shortage of personnel to attend to them properly, also a certain extent to sand-eating and I strongly recommend that muzzles be used when animals are not feeding or drinking. The grazing is not good enough at the present time as there is nothing but coarse pampas grass which is generally pulled up and eaten with a quantity of sand on the roots. More attention should be paid to the making the best of the forage ration by giving more tibben at night time. More grooming should be carried out and the blanketing of all animals should be particularly attended to as the nights are cold.

3. The horses of the 18th R.H.A.Bde have with few exceptions greatly improved, although there are still many in low condition. The evacuations of these animals has decreased the strength of the brigade but those remaining are in fair working order.

4. The horses of the N.Z. M.R.Bde were not seen owing to the lateness of the hour but I know that they are as a whole in good serviceable condition, with the exception of a few low conditioned animals.

5. On the 2nd inst, when riding through the lines of the 1st Field Squadron and the 1st Signal Squadron, I noticed that with few exceptions the horses, although rough in their coats, are in good condition.

6. On the 3rd inst I found the horses and mules of the Divisional train in very good condition, particularly the latter with but few exceptions.

The shoeing of all units could be improved by having the shoes removed more frequently, but considering that many of the farriers have gone on 1914 leave, the shoeing generally is good. In almost every unit it was noticed that animals have been clipped contrary to orders. This should immediately cease as the animals may have to stand severe climates. It should be impressed on all units that grooming and blanketing is as important as good feeding, in bringing animals into a fit condition.

(Sgd) J.Kenda 11
D.A.D.V.S.
A.&N.Z.MTD DIVN.

3/12/18.

6 of 46.

Age return of horses of the N.Z.M.R.Bde.

24/12/18.

APPENDIX II

Ages	Number.
5-6	45
7-8	324,
8-10.	448.
11-12	255.
13-14,	282.
Over 14.	294.
total.	----- 1648. -----

Sgd J.Kendall.
D.A.D.V.S.

Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division.

Appendix III

General staff.
Anzac Mtd Division.

Reference your G/89/115 of even date.

I have instructed the Veterinary Officers of this Division to make the necessary arrangements with the Bde Majors or Adjutants as the case may be, to give the necessary lectures.

Capt McNicol 1st A.L.H.Bde & Inverness Battery
" Wood.M.C. 2nd A. L.H.Bde & Ayrshire Battery.
Major Stafford and Capt Meade N.Z. M.R.Bde & Somerset Battery.
Capt. Page. Divisional troops.
Capt Stuchbery Divisional train.

Spindall

Lieut Colonel.

D.A. D.V.S.

Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division.

28/12/18.

Appendix IV

General Staff

A.&N.Z.Mtd Divn.



Reference your G/29/25 of 28/12/18.

I have the following suggestions to make.

- (1) Pack saddlery. The arches should be made adjustable or several different sizes made so that they can be made to fit any type of animal. The front arch must be high and wide.
- (2). The establishment of draught horses and mules for "G.S." wagons limbered should be 4 driven from the seat and that for G.S. wagon 5 also driven with long reins from a seat.
- (3) Organisation of Veterinary Services. The personnel of Mobile Veterinary Sections of Mounted Brigades should be doubled also their equipment as per Mobilisation Store Table, so that when a Mounted Division is advancing over a large area the section can be divided into two parties:-- One party Mobile to move with the brigade. The other party temporarily immobile, to remain behind at certain places and in the case of a Division, the three immobile parties may be amalgamated under the instructions of the D.A.D.V.S. to form temporary casualty clearing stations. During the present campaign the distances that Mobile Veterinary Sections have been called upon to convey sick and lame animals to Veterinary detachments and hospitals has been too great and it is considered that the D.A.D.V.S. of a Division is in close contact with his Division and can thus form these clearing stations and place them in position so that the chain of resting places for these patients, to the Veterinary Detachments at railheads will lead to less wear and tear on both men and animals also less wastage. It is also considered that the personnel of the present Mobile Veterinary sections are too small to handle the sick and lame animals of a Mounted Brigade:- 17 privates (or working party) to approximately 2500 animals. As a rule the roads do not allow of a man leading more than two animals without causing a blockage in the general traffic. This means that during operations a Section can at the most only convey 34 animals at one time, and may very often take two or three days to get back to its brigade. I would also suggest that each Mobile Veterinary Section carries equipment such as light angle iron posts and light fencing wire (which can be conveniently packed and rolled up) for putting up small kraals. These kraals have proved very useful in this campaign but have mostly been made with heavy timber which has had to be left behind. Sections may then handle more animals during operations where large casualties take place without the continual breaking away of animals that often takes place.
- (4) I would suggest that all animals of a Mounted Division be provided with a strong canvas rug besides the saddle blanket during winter months. It has been proved that they can be carried around the necks of the animals during a march as in this campaign where mounted troops have played such an important part. Just before going into action the rugs can be dumped and even if they have to be left behind for two or three days, the benefit the animals gain counteracts any ill effects that a few days without them may have had. Animals as a rule are standing on the lines many more days than they are marching.
- (5) For carrying emergency or mobile ration over and above that which is carried in the nosebags, a strong canvas bag about two feet in length and 6 to 8 inches in diameter should be provided. This may be strapped over the great coat and wallets.
- (6) With cold shoeing it has been found impossible to keep all animals of a Mounted Division well shod up so it is suggested that all Units with a strength of \geq 500 animals or over be issued with a small portable forge.

J. Spindall

Lieut-Colonel.

D.A.D.V.S.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

29/12/18.

Appendix V **FIELD SERVICE.**

Corps, etc.

RETURN of Sick and Injured Animals during the week ending

	Station										Date	
	In last Return	Admitted Since	TOTAL	*Cured	Transferred Sick	Transferred to Convalescent Horse Depot	Died	Destroyed	Cast and So d	Remaining under Treatment	TOTAL	REMARKS (Nature of Cases to be stated)
1. General Diseases												
2. Respiratory ..												
3. Circulatory ..												
4. Uninary ..												
5. Generative ..												
6. Digestive ..												
7. Lymphatic ..												
8. Nervous ..												
9. Skin ..												
10. Locomotory ..												
11. Specific ..												
12. Visual ..												
13. Injuries ..												
TOTAL												

*Number transferred cured to Remount Depots to be also noted in column of Remarks

Present Strength of Animals :-

Detail of Sick, &c.	Horses.	Mules.	Donkeys.	Camels.
Admitted... ..				
Cured				
Transferred ...				
Died... ..				
Destroyed ...				
Missing				
Remaining ...				
Totals ...				

Horses

Mules

Donkeys

Camels

Total

Veterinary Officer.

PERSONNEL OF A.V.C. UNITS
AND A.V.C. PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO UNITS.

STAFF.	Effective.	Non-Effective	Veterinary Officers of Formations or Hospitals.		
			Rank.	Name.	Charge.
BRITISH.			BRITISH.		
	Officers				
	W. Officers				
	S. Sergts.				
	Sergeants				
	Corporals				
	Privates				
	Farr. Q. M. S.				
	Farr. S. Sgts.				
	Farr. Sgts.				
	S. S. Corpls.				
	S. Smiths.				
	Saddl. Sgts.				
	Saddl. Cpls.				
Saddlers.					
INDIAN.			INDIAN.		
	Vet. Assist'ts.				
	Vet. Duffadars.				
	Salutries				
	Clerks				
	Sowars				
	Pub. Followers				
Nalbands					
EGYPTIAN.			EGYPTIAN.		
	Officers				
	Jemadars				
	Clerks				
	Saddlers				
	Clippers				
	Temurgies				
	Bash Reis				
	Reis				
Syces					
ATTACHED.					
			<u>CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.</u> Remarks as to action taken.		

Veterinary Officers.