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Remount

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Title: Australian Remount Depot

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1st AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT. A. I. F.

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The 1st AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT was formed in the first instance for the purpose of taking charge of the horses of the Light Horse Regiments, that were acting as Infantry at Gallipoli thereby releasing for the firing line the trained Officers, N.C.O's and men who had been left in Egypt in charge of horses of their respective Regiments.

The Establishment of the Unit consisted of H.Qrs and 4 Squadrons ; Total 21 Officers 816 O/Ranks, including 3 Veterinary Officers attached and one Medical Officer.

The Unit was formed from men selected for their knowledge of horses, and for trades, as a proportion of blacksmiths, saddlers and wagon drivers were required. In this connection the Unit was most fortunate in securing the services of so many first class men. They were drawn from the following states; viz;- Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia in the following proportion; 2 Squadrons Victoria., 1 Squadron South Australia and one Squadron equally divided between Tasmania and Western Australia.

The Officers were selected from a very large number of applicants partly for knowledge of horses and their ability to handle men.

Several had previous military experience viz;- Colonel D. McLEISH, C.B. V.D., Captain H.A. REID., D.S.O., Captain W.F. LONGSTAFF., Lieutenant A.J. WATT., and J. B. BLAKE. (all of whom served in the South African War) Major D.P. YOUNG, 2nd in command to Colonel Mc LEISH was a member of the 1st Division. A.I.F., was at the landing at Gallipoli, afterwards being wounded and invalided home to Australia.

Other officers had had service in the Commonwealth Military Forces. Each of the 4 Squadrons comprising the Unit contained 40 Rough Riders all young men and specially selected for their horsemanship.

A commencement was made to enlist the men in September 1915. It was then thought that the work of the Unit would be comparatively easy so the limit of age was fixed at 50 years. It was found by experience however that in many cases this was too high 45 years at the most would have been better as the work was found to be more severe than was anticipated and a number of the older men could not

stand the work and climate. The enrolment of the men, and the selection and appointment of Officers was completed early in November 1915. The following officers were appointed :-

HEADQUARTERS.

Colonel	D. McLEISH. C.M.G., V.D.	Commandant.
Major.	D.P. YOUNG.	2nd in Command.
Capt.	W.F. LONGSTAFF.	Adjutant.
Lieut.	M.T. KEARNEY.	Quartermaster.
Lieut.	H.C. FERGUSON.	Orderly Officer.
Major.	H.A. WOODRUFF.	Veterinary Officer.
Capt.	W.B. WAKEHAM.	" "
Capt.	J.M. DAVIDSON.	" "

SQUADRON LEADERS.

Capt	H.A. REID. D.S.O.
Capt.	J.S. FERHAN.
Capt	J.W. CHANTER.
Capt	J.W. BOYES.

SQUADRON OFFICERS.

Lieut.	H.V.B. NEWBIGGIN.
Lieut	W.B.P. FELL.
Lieut.	P.D. BRIGHT.
Lieut.	L.E. STIRLING.
Lieut.	A.J. WATT.
Lieut.	J.B. BLAKE
Lieut.	R.A. HENTY.
Lieut.	H.S. TYNDALL.

The following N.C.O's were appointed:-

HEADQUARTERS.

Reg.	1.	Warrant Officer.	A.E. BURMAN.
"	479	Reg Qstr Sergt.	J. YOUNG.
"	487.	Farr Q.M. Sergt.	A. AINLEY.
"	96.	Staff Sergt.	T.F. LITTLE.
"	951.	Saddler Sergt.	J.S. LEEHANE
"	12.	Corpl.	E.W.S. BERRYMAN.
"	161.	Corpl.	C.H. SINCLAIR.

SQUADRON SERGEANT MAJORS.

Regt.	132.	Sqd Sgt Mjr.	G. PRIOR.
"	391	" " "	E.W. LYNE.
"	665	" " "	A.L. CAMPBELL.
"	932	" " "	J.H.E. LEWIS.

SQUADRON QUARTERMASTER SERGEANTS.

Regt.	78.	Sqd Q'str Sergt.	J.R. HUNTER.
"	69	" " "	T. HOGG.
"	616	" " "	A. WILLIAMS.
"	1061	" " "	R.L. LAWSON.

SQUADRON FARRIER SERGEANTS.

Regt.	489	Farrier Sergt.	W. WILSON.
"	453	" "	S. STEEL.
"	107	" "	R.K. MILLS.
"	488	" "	J.E. QUILL.

SQUADRON SERGEANTS. (4 SQUADRONS.)

Regtl. No.	21.	Sergt.	
"	"	157.	"
"	"	122.	"
"	"	60.	"
"	"	61	"
"	"	451	"
"	"	460	"
"	"	364	"
"	"	411	"
"	"	463	"
"	"	641	"
"	"	657	"
"	"	627	"
"	"	486	"
"	"	829	"
"	"	1063	"
"	"	943	"
"	"	965	"
"	"	1011	"
"	"	1094	"
			P.P. BROWN.
			H.E. STYLES.
			J.W. NEYLAND.
			J. GLOVER.
			E.J. GODING.
			A.A.H. SNODGRASS.
			G.R. TAYLOR.
			H. GIPPS.
			J.L. MORRISON.
			T. VINES.
			D. GILBERT
			A.H. JARVIS.
			J. HAWLEY.
			F. RODGERS.
			T.W. PEACOCK.
			T.W. WILKINSON.
			J.J. BLYTH.
			H.L. STUBER
			R. PADGET
			J.E. FOLEY

SQUADRON CORPORALS. (4 SQUADRONS.)

Regtl.No.	323	Corpl.	
"	"	46	"
"	"	473	"
"	"	59	"
"	"	140	"
"	"	403	"
"	"	448	"
"	"	310	"
"	"	377	"
"	"	418	"
"	"	684	"
"	"	651	"
"	"	791	"
"	"	671	"
"	"	650	"
"	"	1133	"
"	"	960	"
"	"	1146	"
"	"	942	"
"	"	959	"
			E.L. BURGESS.
			E.L. DEVINE.
			J.T. WHITE.
			J.V. GREEN
			C. ROBERTSON.
			C. MEADWAY.
			R.J. SEMMENS.
			G. BAMBROOK.
			W. HENDERSON.
			J. MCKINNON.
			L.M. GORDON.
			W.H. GLENNY.
			B.W. ALTSCHWAGER.
			W.V. VIRGO.
			A.G. BARWIS.
			A.P. ROBINSON.
			W.H. OTTY
			G.F. UMFREVILLE.
			S.A. WILSON.
			W.J. OGILVIE.

SQUADRON FARRIER CORPORALS. (4SQUADRONS.)

Regtl.No.	131	Farrier Corpl.	
"	"	998	"
"	"	350	"
"	"	389	"
"	"	694	"
"	"	442	"
"	"	1142	"
"	"	989	"
			J. O'SHEA.
			R.E. TURNBULL.
			W.A. EARL.
			A.E. KNAPMAN.
			E. BOQUET.
			H. RELF.
			H.D. WATERS.
			W. BAYNES.

The personnel of the Unit assembled at Marybyrnong for training and equipment on 21st September 1915. A part of the equipment including G.S. Wagons these were not available, though the harness for the same was drawn.

Colonel J. STANLEY inspected the Unit at Marybyrnong fifteen days Before it embarked, and expressed himself as satisfied with the appearance of the men as well as the camp.

On November 12th 1915, the Unit embarked on the H.M.T. ORSOVA " A "67, which vessel had arrived at Port Melbourne from Sydney that morning with the H.Qrs and 2 Squadrons of the 2nd Remount Unit. The embarkation was completed and all baggage and equipment taken on board by 3 p.m, when the vessel resumed her voyage. Colonel H.V.KING was O.C. Troops and Capt E.C.TATCHELL was Ships Adjutant.

The ORSOVA reached Freemantle on the 18th November 1915, two officers Lieut A.J. WATT and Lieut J.B. BLAKE were embarked during the afternoon, the voyage was resumed at midnight the same date. The voyage of the Orsova to Egypt was without incident worth recording. The troops on board consisted of 1st AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT, H.Qrs, and 2 Squadrons of the 2nd AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT, also some Artillery and Army Service Corps. There was also a large number of Australian Nursing Sisters on board. The discipline was good, no serious case of crime occurred during the voyage, the training of the N.C.O's and men was carried out each day, lectures to officers were frequently held.

The H.M.T.ORSOVA "A.67" with troops as stated arrived at Suez on the 8th December 1915, having called at ADEN for coal, no other Port being visited after leaving Australia. Both Units disembarked on the 9th December 1915 and proceeded by train to ZEITOUN where they camped. Total strength of Unit 793 all ranks, several men being left in Hospital at SUEZ.

On the 14th December 1915 the Unit took charge of 198 horses that were intended for Batteries arriving shortly from Australia. These were the first animals taken charge of by the Unit, subsequently other horses were taken charge of for a short time.

On the 28th December 1915., the Unit moved out from ZEITOUN and marched to MAADI to form a Depot there. The march fully 16 miles was accomplished in good time, only six men fell out.

The H.qrs and 2 Squadrons of the 2nd Remount Unit were taken to Maadi the same day by train.

Capt J.W. CHANTER who had been doing duty with a Light Horse Regiment in Egypt, reported for duty on December 26th 1915, he having been previously appointed a Squadron Commander in Australia, to the 1st AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT.

It was found on arriving in EGYPT that the evacuation of GALLOPOLI was determined upon, consequently the original work intended for the Unit was not required. The Imperial Authorities decided to make use of them as part of the REMOUNT SERVICE in EGYPT, consequently the AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT came under the Command of Brigadier-General C.L. BATES. C.M.G., D.S.O., Director of Remounts, and of all Remount Depots in Egypt.

On the 24th December 1915., the Unit was handed the first draft of horses (consisting of 356 all told) for the New Depot.

On the 29th December 1915., the first lot of mules were taken on charge, and were drawn from the Remount Depot "ABBASSIA". The Mules 716 in number were driven from Abbassia to Maadi, the route lay through the Tombs of the Khallifs between the famous Citadel, and Blue Mosque and so on through the Dead City on to the open Desert. The mules caused some annoyance to the natives by getting into grave yards and enclosures, this however was unavoidable. The droving party consisted of the following officers; Colonel McLEISH Commandant., Major Woodruff, Capt Davidson, (Veterinary Officers) and Capt H.A. REID .D.S.O. and 60 other ranks. No mules were lost or injured on the trip.

30..12..15 from this date to 4..2..16 there is nothing important to record, animals were received and issued in accordance with instructions from the Director of Remounts. G.H.Q.

The staff work from the formation of the Australian Remount Unit in Australia was carried out by Captain W.F. LONGSTAFF (Adjutant) and the following N.C.O's viz; Staff Sergt T.F. LITTLE and Lance Sergt E.W.S. BERRYMAN in a very efficient manner, all returns being punctually and satisfactorily rendered.

4...2...16. Lieut Colonel WILSON of the A.I.F. Canteens made arrangements to start a branch of the Canteens in the Depot, this was the first A.I.F. CANTEEN in EGYPT.

9...2...16 Brigadier-General C.L. BATES. C.M.G., D.S.O., Director of Remounts and Brigadier -General E.R.C. BUTLER. C.M.G., D.V.S. INSpected the Depot to-day.

10...2...16. Brigadier-General IRVING., Commanding A.I.F. Cairo, inspected the Depot.

4...3...16. It was proposed on or about this date to reduce the strength of the AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT DEPOT by half, which meant forming one Unit from the 1st and 2nd AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNITS.

The officers N.C.O's and men not required for the New Unit to have the opportunity of joining other Corps if medically fit.

6...3...16. Applications from men desirous of joining other Units were called for, and rendered by this Unit.

27...3...16. Brigadier-General C.L. BATES. C.M.G., D.S.O. Director of Remounts informed the Commandant on this date that it had been ~~XXXXXXXX~~ finally decided to reduce the 1st and 2nd Australian Remount Unit to one Unit. The procedure being to halve each Unit except the rough riders who were all to be retained. Selection of Officers to be in the hands of Commandant, 2nd Remount Unit, and Commandant, 1st Australian Remount Unit. Colonel McLEISH., being selected to command the New Unit, and the selection of N.C.O's to be left in his hands.

The following Officers were selected for the New Remount Unit:-

<u>HEADQUARTERS.</u>	Colonel D. McLEISH.	COMMANDANT.
	Major D.P. YOUNG.	2nd in Command.
	Capt. W.F. LONGSTAFF.	Adjutant.
	Lieut M.T. KEARNEY.	Quartermaster.
	Lieut H.C. FERGUSON.	Riding Master.
OFFICERS	}	
COMMANDING		
SQUADRONS.		
	Captain H.A. REID. D.S.O.	
	Captain J.S. FREEHAN.	
	Captain A.B. PATERSON.	
	Captain M.W. McDOUGALL.	

SQUADRON
OFFICERS.

Captain J.W. BOYES.
Lieut. W.B.P. FELL.
" P.D. BRIGHT.
" H.S. TYNDALL.
" E.B. RANCLOUD.
" C.S. BUNDOCK.
" C.H. BOURNE
" R.W. COVERDALE

VETERINARY
OFFICERS.

Captain. W.B. WAKEHAM
" J.M. DAVIDSON.

WARRANT
OFFICER.

Squadron Sergt Major E.C. CASEY was selected as
Warrant Officer.

MEDICAL
OFFICER.

Captain A.E. MACHIN. (Attached for duty as
Medical Officer)

Major R.C. BELL and Lieut P.H. OSBORNE were temporarily attached for duty.

The Officers selected from the 2nd Remount Unit were as follows:-

Captain A.B. PATERSON.
" M.W. McDOUGALL.
Lieut. E.B. RANCLOUD.
" R.W. COVERDALE.
" C.S. BUNDOCK.
" C.H. BOURNE.

The Officers not included in the personnel of the New Unit were notified that that they were at liberty to join other Units if opportunity offered, or they were to return to Australia.

1..4..16. Colonel McLEISH assumed command of the New Unit, Colonel H.V. KING handed over his quota viz:- 2 Squadrons complete, the officers and men comprising it being selected in almost equal numbers from New South Wales and Queensland. All horses and mules were taken over from the original 2nd Remount Unit also all equipment, less certain articles required for the men not selected in the New Unit. These men remained in camp until they were dispatched to Moascar prior to their return to Australia or absorption in other Units.

4..4..16. Brigadier-General V.C.M. SELHEIM., C.B. ordered Colonel D. McLEISH to take command of the whole of the Details composed of men from the 1st and 2nd Remount Units who were not included in the New Unit.

- 5..4..16. Instructions were received to select from the men not included in the New Unit, all men unfit for further service, this was done, all these so selected to return to Australia at an early date.
- 6..4..16. Lieut A.J. WATT received an appointment in the Police Corps. (ANZAC PROVOST CORPS.) This Officer did good work while with the Unit.
- 11..4..16. Orders were received to prepare to move to HELIOPOLIS RACECOURSE at an early date, with all personnel and animals.
- 14..4..16. Colonel H.V. KING took command of all Officers and other ranks that were returning to Australia. They remained in the original 2nd Remount Unit Camp at Maadi until a ship was ready for their return.
- 20..4..16. On this date orders were received to Move to HELIOPOLIS the following day. Warrant Officer E.C. CASEY and party were sent to Heliopolis to clean camp in readiness for the Unit 21.4.16 (Good Friday)
- 21..4..16. The Unit moved to Heliopolis, horses and mules were marched out at 0545 and reached Camp at a little after 1000. The move was effected without difficulty or delay.
- 22..4..16. Colonel H.V. KING, Officers and men who were returning to Australia proceeded to SUEZ on this date expecting to embark at once. The Officers returning being Colonel H.V. KING., Major R.C. BELL., Capt E.C. TATCHELL., CAPT. G.L. McCALLUM., and Lieutenant's H.V.H. NEWBIGGIN., L.E. STIRLING., J.B. BLAKE., R.A. HENTY., and W.E. MANNING., the number of other ranks being 441.
- 27..5..16. to 28..5..16. Acting under instructions from Headquarters a Board consisting of Colonel McLEISH, C.M.G., V.D. (Commandant) Capt M.W. McDOUGALL and Capt J.W. CHANTER proceeded to Remount Depot "ABBASSIA " to inspect and report on recently arrived Australian Horses. The Board inspected horses " Ex MASHOUBA " also horses "Ex PALERMO " but not officially in respect to the latter shipment.
- 29..5..16. The Board proceeded to Remount Depot, BELBEIS., and inspected horses " Ex KATUNA " and " E x BARUNGA". The Katuna horses were found to be a fair and useful lot. The Barunga horses on the other hand were found to be unsatisfactory as regards the rides, many being small and weedy, several as low as 14..1 and light besides, quite a number were too old.
- 12..6..16. Captain J. McLEOD (Veterinary Officer) reported for duty at the Australian Remount Depot.

21..6..16. The Commandant was ordered to inspect and report on three shipments of newly arrived horses at Remount Depot "ABBASSIA".

These horses arrived "Ex Port McQUARRIE" ANGLO EGYPTIAN" and SERADA ". It was found that the percentage of inferior horses in these shipments were :- 12., 20., and 25 per cent respectively.

13..7..16. The Commandant received orders to take over Remount Depot "SERUM " with 580 horses from 42nd Remount Squadron.

The Camp is situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles South - West of Abbassia.

14..7..16. This order was carried out Captain H.A. REID., D.S.O. was placed in command and the whole of his Squadron moved out to Serum Camp. This detached Depot was worked as part of the Australian Remount Depot, all returns were sent through Headquarters as usual.

21..7..16. On this date the first fatal accident occurred since the Unit was formed No 1942 Tpr W.W.RANKIN, of " D " Squadron was kicked over the heart by a horse and died almost immediately. No blame was attachable to anyone but himself, his wife was written to.

29..7..16. Remount Depot, Serum, was evacuated on this date Captain H.A. REID., D.S.O. with his Squadron, baggage, etc, and 203 horses returned to old position in Racecourse, Heliopolis. Captain H.A. REID. D.S.O. carried out his duties in a most creditable manner while in charge of Serum Camp.

1..8..16. On this date notice was received from headquarters that in future all expenses inconnection with the upkeep of the Depot except pay of Officers and other ranks would be borne by the Imperial Authorities ,and all accounts were to be sent to the Command Paymaster in Egypt.

5..8..16. Capt W.B. WAKEHAM (Veterinary Officer) was struck off the strength of the Unit on this date, he embarked for England and Lieut W.B.BUNNELL, Veterinary Officer from the 20th Veterinary Hospital was attached to the Depot for duty in his place.

23..8..16. Capt J.W. BOYES and 60 O/Ranks were sent to SALONIKA in charge of a ship load of mules 600 in number. This was the first time any conducting party from this Unit was sent overseas with animals.

4..9..16. Capt D.H. MACHATTIE (Veterinary Officer) was attached to this Depot for duty, from the New Zealand Army Veterinary Corps.

4..9..16. Major-General H.G. CHAUVEL.K.C.M.G.,C.B. informed the Commandant on this date that it was proposed to reduce the Unit by two Squadrons.

1..10..16. In structions were received on this date with reference to the reduction of the Unit to Headquarters and 2 Squadrons.

Headquarters were to remain as before with the exception of the 2nd in Command which was cut out. Lieut H.C. FERGUSON to Riding Master to comply with the British Establishment of a Remount Depot.

Each Squadron to have (3) Three Officers and 196 other ranks.

Arrangements were made at once to carry out these instructions, the officers selected being Captain H.A. REID,D.S.O., and Captain A.B.

PATERSON to be Squadron Commanders and Lieutenant's P.D.BRIGHT.,

H.S. TYNDALL., C.H. BOURNE., and W.B.P. FELL to be Squadron Officers.

Captain D.H.MACHATTIE and Captain A.E. MACHIN being attached as Veterinary Officer and Medical officer respectively.

Major D.P. YOUNG late 2nd in Command was appointed to the Administrative Staff, Australian Imperial Force, Headquarters, Cairo.

7..10..16. Major General H.G. CHAUVEL.,K.C.M.G.,C.B.,. G.O.C., A.I.F. in Egypt,approved of the selection by the Commandant, of Officers, N.C.O's and men for the New Depot, and gave instructions that those Officers,N.C.O's and men not selected were to be sent forthwith to the DETAILS CAMP, MOASCAR.

9..10..16. On this date Captain M.W. McDOUGALL took charge of the Officers and other ranks not selected for the New Depot. They entrained at Palais-de-Koubbah for MOASCAR at 0900. The officers marching out were Captain M.W.McDOUGALL.,Captain J.S.FEEHAN., Captain J.W.BOYES.,and Lieutenant's E.B.RANCLOUD and C.S.BUNDOCK.

Lieut R.W.COVERDALE was absent ~~in~~ in England on sick leave. Of these officers only Lieut E.B. RANCLOUD received an appointment in Egypt, he joined the Camel Corps.

It may be stated here that on arrival in Egypt the AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT came directly under the Command of Brigadier-General C.L.BATES.,C.M.G.,D.S.O.,. DIRECTOR OF REMOUNTS, and remained under his command, the fair courteous and considerate treatment accorded to the Unit at all times by the Director and his Staff caused the

very best of feeling to prevail and no doubt contributed in no small degree to the usefulness of the work carried out by it.

16..10..16 The vote on the Referendum for conscription of Australian troops serving in Egypt was taken on this date. Lieut H.C. FERGUSON of this Depot was sent to SUEZ in connection with the ballot.

24..10..16. Brigadier-General H.G.CASSON. C.M.G., G.O.G., Delta and Western Force and L. of C. inspected the Depot on this date, and expressed himself well satisfied with the Depot and arrangements.

6..11..16. The Commander-in-Chief General Sir Archibald J MURRAY K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., inspected the Depot on this date, he promised some improvements in the way of sheds, blacksmiths shops, etc, these were duly effected at an early date.

10..11..16. Lady McMAHON wife of the HIGH COMMISSIONER of EGYPT and party were present at a display of rough riding in the Depot, she was much interested. Brigadier-General C.L.BATES. C.M.G., D.S.O., Director of Remounts, Colonel J.J. PAYNE. Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters Cairo., and Mr Massey, Times correspondent were also present.

20..12..16. Captain D.H.MACHATTIE (Veterinary Officer) attached to the Depot committed suicide early in the morning by shooting himself, no reasons could be discovered that explained the rash act, except insomnia, He had suffered from this for some time. His mother was informed of his death. Captain D.H.MACHATTIE was a New Zealander and was an exceptionally competent officer.

21..12..16. His remains were buried in the Old Cairo Cemetery with full Military honours, Capt Machattie's death was much regretted by all who came in contact with him at the Depot.

Captain J.MCLEOD, A.A.V.C. attached to the Depot for duty was admitted to Hospital on 5..1..17.

15..1..17. Capt J.MCLEOD returned from hospital on this date but not to resume duty as he was returning to Australia for certain reasons. The work usually performed by the last two mentioned officers has been carried out by the Officers of the 16th Veterinary Hospital.

28..1..17. The O.C. of the 16th Veterinary Hospital reported that he had discovered a case of glanders among his horses and as the Depot adjoins the Hospital, it may be necessary to quarantine both places.

29..1..17. Another case of glanders reported in the 16th Veterinary Hospital, it was traced to the Remount Depot. Brigadier-General E.R.C.BUTLER. C.M.G.,. D.V.S. decided to mallein all animals in the Hospital and Remount Depot, both places were quarantined.

31..1..17. Major LORNIC, O.C. 16th Veterinary Hospital started to mallein the animals in the Australian Remount Depot, he had a very efficient staff and they put through 500 animals before evening.

1..2..17. The Veterinary Staff of the 16th Veterinary Hospital continued the malleining of the Australian Remount Depot animals, using the eye test material.

5..2..17. Malleining was continued on this date, and one flight Draught horse showed signs of reaction and was at once isolated.

13..2..17. Two more cases of glanders reported from the 16th Veterinary Hospital.

7..4..17. 24 AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT Details were dispatched to France these men will probably be used in the Veterinary work.

9..4..17. The Commandant and Adjutant went to Moascar to inspect a site for a Depot for the Unit.(AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT DEPOT)
A very convenient spot was selected close to Railway Station and Supply Depot.

11..4..17. The Director of Remounts approved of the site recommended by the Commandant and made a few slight alterations to the plan submitted.

15..4..17. Capt C.ANDREW, Veterinary Officer, reported for duty from A.&N.Z.T.C.DETAILS CAMP, MOASCAR.

4..5..17. Catarrh broke out amongst horses and mules in the Depot, severely enough to warrant the cancelling of an order of horses to the A.&N.Z.T.C. Details,. These horses were all ready for dispatch. In connection with catarrh outbreaks it spreads very rapidly but rarely causes death, although pneumonia is not uncommon in severe cases.

19..5..17. A fire broke out in the centre of the Camp in a store where Red Cross goods were kept, a strong wind was blowing at the time, and, but for the prompt action of Lieut H.S.TYNDALL and a few men great damage may have been done.

29...5...17. Capt W.F.LONGSTAFF (Adjutant) was admitted to Hospital on the above date suffering from,an affliction of the eyes,evidently rather serious. Lieut H.C. FERGUSON was appointed acting Adjutant during his absence.

6...6...17. A return was called for showing particulars as follows; Age., Occupation and Medical Class of all ranks in the Unit. Captain A. BADOCK,A.A.M.C. proceeded to examine all ranks.

8...6...17. The result of the Medical Examination showed that 2 officers ; Lieut C.H. BOURNE and Lieut M.H.C.FERGUSON and 261 other ranks were fit for service in a fighting unit. The officers named and 176 other ranks volunteered for fighting service.

12...6...17. Inspection of the New Remount Depot,Moascar, showed that good progress had been made. The Engineer reported that it would be ready at the end of the month.

2...7...17. The move to the New Remount Depot,Moascar, commenced on this date, half the animals in the Depot, and approximately half the baggage being sent by rail.

An advance party and 4 wagons had previously been sent by road.

4...7...17. The remainder of the animals and balance of baggage and personnel moved to Moascar by rail, except one officer and 62 other ranks were left behind as rear party to clean camp and bring on transport the following morning by road.

5...7...17. The Commandant reported to Brigadier-General E.R.B.MURRAY. G.O.C., Southern Canal Section.

Arrangements were made with the O.C. A.&N.Z.T.C.DETAILS for animals from this Depot to be sent to the Training Regiment's for training purposes.

9...7...17. to 7...8...17. Owing to the Commandant having to go to hospital Major H.A. REID. D.S.O. acted as Commandant for the period between dates stated.

7...8...17. Colonel D.McLEISH,returned from hospital and resumed command.

5...8...17. Capt W.F.LONGSTAFF formerly Adjutant, Australian Remount Depot, sailed for England on extended leave. He has been seconded from the Unit.

11..8..17. Inoculation of the Officers and other ranks as a preventative against Enteric and Cholera was carried out on the above date.

11..8..17. Admiral Gaunt and two of his officers visited the Depot this day.

21..8..17. The Director of Remounts inspected the animals in the Depot, he considered the condition of the animals quite satisfactory.

26..8..17. Wire received this day that No 1890 Sergt C.M. FOOT has been promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

27..8..17. 80 Mules were sent to Remount Depot, Kantara, by road from this Depot. These conducting parties always start at daylight and return during the evening of the same day.

6..9..17. 19 Men and N.C.O., were sent to Rest Camp, at Port Said, these men to remain there for one week, and to be replaced by others.

10..9..17. The Light Horse Training Regiments at Moascar draw daily excepting Sundays, a number of horses from this Depot for the training of their men. The arrangements being they use the horses in the morning, returning them to the Depot at 0800 or thereabouts, the men who use them water and feed, and after they have their own breakfast return and groom them. This system works well and serves as a double purpose as the men are being trained, while the horses are being exercised.

The work done by the Farriers during the period under review has been uniformly good, the shoeing of often very vicious and wild horses being carried out without injury to the animals in any one case, though not without injury to the men themselves.

Besides shoeing animals much useful work has been done viz:- cutting and welding tyres of the transport wagons, also repairs to same, and other things too numerous to mention.

The Saddlers also have done excellent work at all times.

20..9..17. The Commander-in-Chief General Sir EDMUND ALLENBY, K.C.B. inspected the Depot during the forenoon, he saw all the horses and afterwards inspected the Camp.

A large number of Mules were received from the 10th Division now camped at Moascar. These mules were first sent into No 2 Field Veterinary Detachment to be malleined as they had recently arrived from Salonika, most of them were in very low condition.

26..9..17. The Director of Remounts inspected the animals in the Depot and was well satisfied with their condition.

Mules and horses continue to be dispatched by road to Kantara from the Depot, also a considerable number have been issued locally to various Corps.

1..10..17. Number of animals in the Depot on this date was Horses 673., and Mules 286, a considerable number of these mules being what we received from 10th Division (English) lately arrived from Salonika.

4..10..17. 235 Mules (fit) were dispatched to Kantara by road in charge of Captain W.B.P. FELL and party.

5..10..17. The horses ridden by the conducting party under Captain W.B.P.FELL returned in a bad condition, many of them had sore backs and girth galls. All showed that they had been worked very hard. Report on the above trip sent to the Director of Remounts, G.H.Q.

4..10..17. Lieut- Colonel V.R. Hine-Haycock, D.S.O. D.D.R. inspected the animals in the Depot, he selected a number of mules which he directed were to be delivered to various Units.

9..10..17. The Commandant received orders to send on all available fit mules, and draught horses to Rafa, and to make up the number to 300 animals.

12..10..17. Capt P.D. BRIGHT and 95 other ranks marched out this day for Rafa as conducting party taking charge of 150 Light Draught and rides horses and 150 mules. This was the first consignment of animals from this Depot to be taken by road to Rafa by a party from the Australian Remount Depot.

13..10..17. Lieut C.H. BOURNE with 97 O/Ranks marched out with 300 animals from this Depot (296 Horses and 4 Mules) for Rafa.

16..10..17. The Director of Remounts inspected the animals in Depot on above date.

18..10..17. Lieut C.M.FOOT and small party were sent to Suez to take over 15.L.Draught Horses (Australian). These animals had been sent to WEJH on the Red Sea in charge of a conducting party from the Heliopolis Depot, and issued to the King of the Hedjah's Army several months before. These animals were in a very low condition and were handed over to No 2 Field Veterinary Detachment.

19..10..17. Major A.B. PATERSON and 40 other ranks were dispatched

to Kantara on the above date, conducting 130 horses and 20 mules, the party to take the draft on to Rafa by similar stages as the other two already sent forward.

19..10..17. Capt W.B.P. FELL received orders from A.I.F. Headquarters to report to Training Centre, Headquarters, Moascar, his services being no longer required.

20..10..17. Capt P.D. BRIGHT with first consignment of horses and mules by road from the Australian Remount Depot arrived at Rafa, animals in good condition. No difficulties to speak of were encountered, the animals stood the journey well.

21..10..17. Lieut C.H. BOURNE with the draft of animals he was in charge of arrived at Rafa on the above date after a successful trip only one horse being left behind.

24..10..17. A portion of Lieut Bourne's party returned from Rafa and he and a number of men were ordered to remain to look after animals.

29..10..17. Major A.B.PATERSON with conducting party and 150 animals reached Rafa on the above date, animals arrived in a very satisfactory condition. The above particulars of the conducting of animals to Rafa are entered in the Diary to show that the distance and heavy nature of the route really did no harm whatever to them, rather the reverse as the animals actually improved.