

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

Remount

Item number: 28/1/3 Part 2

Title: Australian Remount Depot

March - April 1918 Duplicate



AWM4-28/1/3PART2

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Australian Remount Unit

FOR

1st March 1918 to 30th April 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

J. F. Little 2nd Lieut

Signature of Officer Commanding

D. M. Leish Colonel



WAR DIARY

AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT UNIT. A.I.F.

1st MARCH 1918. Brig-General C.L. Bates C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

inspected the Depot today. *JH*

3rd MARCH 1918. Lieut. H.S. Tyndall and party returned from Belah where they delivered their draft of horses; one horse was badly ~~where~~ injured during trucking. *JH*

4th MARCH 1918. The number of men at present in No 2 Aust. Stationary Hospital is 16, of these 4 have broken legs. *JH*

5th MARCH 1918. 82 animals sent to Kantara Remount Depot S/S/M/Lyne in charge. *JH*

7th MARCH 1918. 2/Lieut. T.F. Little and party went to Kantara Remount Depot to bring back 100 English riders. They arrived in the Depot in good order. 170 horses received from Field Remount Section Abbassia, mostly riders, one third of them are in low condition.

A Field General Court Martial applied for to try Trps. Reid and Rankin, they are charged by the Australian Provost Corps with gambling and resisting arrest and striking the police. *JH*

10th MARCH 1918. The Commandant left for Palestine today. 86 horses came in from Remount Depot Belbeis. *JH*

13th MARCH 1918. 102 horses marched out to Anzac Mounted Division, 2/Lieut. T.F. Little in charge. *JH*

16th MARCH 1918. 33 horses marched out to Australian Provost Corps Dier-Seneid. *JH*

18th MARCH 1918. 40 horses and 10 mules marched out to -- Division 57 pack mules marched in from --- Division. *JH*

22nd MARCH 1918. The Commandant returned from Palestine today. *JH*

23rd MARCH 1918. A/Sergt. Wade and L/Cpls Starkey and Lord reported to the D.R. 2nd Echelon G.H.Q. for personal interview as they are applicants for cadets under A.I.F. Circular Memorandum No 10 dated February 1918. *JH*

25th MARCH 1918. A charge has been made against Hon. Capt. M.T. Kearney by R.Q.M.S. Robson. *JH*



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26th MARCH 1918. On investigation the case is so serious that Capt. Kearney has been placed under arrest. *JH*

27th MARCH 1918. A summary of evidence in the case against Capt. M.T. Kearney was taken, and an application was made for a General Court Martial. *JH*

31st MARCH 1918. Notice was received to take in 1900 animals, (horses and mules) from the --- Division. During the Commandant's stay in Palestine with the Anzac Mtd. Division he saw several of the Light Horse Regt's; their horses were on the whole in strong working condition. No doubt their supply of forage had at times been short owing to transport difficulties; Tibben has been getting scarce this month, and will no doubt get scarcer until the new season supply comes to hand. The Indian grass hay supplied in lieu of tibben is not of much use, as many animals refuse to eat it, and others will only eat it very sparingly. Good Australian hay or chaff would be invaluable now, or in fact at any time.

The general health of both personnel and animals has been remarkably good during the past month. Flies are beginning to make their appearance in considerable numbers, every precaution is being taken to prevent them breeding in the camp.

The bucket system of treating nightsoil is admirable and reduces the risk of contagion from that quarter to a minimum. *JH*

1st APRIL 1918. The -- Division started to hand in their animals today. Over 600 horses and mules, mostly gunners were received during the day. *JH*

2nd APRIL 1918. The -- Division handed in the balance of their animals today. Both horses and mules are in splendid condition, a large number of chargers were sent to Remount Depot Kantara. 5 Officers and 200 O/Rks arrived from Kantara to take a number of the -- Division animals to Kantara Remount Depot. *JH*

3rd APRIL. 1918. The party from Kantara started with a number of horses and mules, they left about midday. Kantara Remount Depot is to get about half of the Division animals, as this Depot cannot accomodate the whole number. *JH*



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3rd APRIL 1918. Another party of 5 Officers and 200 O/Rks arrived from Kantara to take away the balance of the animals for the Kantara Remount Depot. *JH*

4th APRIL 1918. The Kantara party left at 0900 with an equal number of horses and mules, practically all the horses of this Division are Australian bred and were no doubt bought for the Indian Government and later taken to Mesopotamia; the mules are medium sized animals and are probably all American bred. *JH*

8th APRIL 1918. 6 Officers rides issued to Royal Air Force. Capt. P.D. Bright with 1 Officer and 48 O/Rks (The Officer and 29 O/Rks being N.Z.) was sent to Abbassia by rail to bring back horses by road. They leave Abbassia at daylight tomorrow and proceed via Matarieh to Belbeis where they will rest for 24 hours then to Tel-el-Kebir where they camp for the night and on to Moascar the following day. *JH*

9th APRIL 1918. Instructions were received that a General Court Martial had been appointed to try Capt. M.T. Kearney. *JH*

11th APRIL 1918. General Court Martial to try Capt. M.T. Kearney assembled today. Capt. P.D. Bright and party with 160 horses arrived at the Depot at 3 p.m. The day was exceedingly hot, so far the hottest of the year, several of the horses were very much distressed and some may not recover; these horses were not shod behind and several were very bare and sore-footed, and had to be put into a Kraal for a rest. Lieut. H.S. Tyndall and 51 O/Rks arrived back from Belah where they had been assisting at the Temporary Remount Depot erected there. This Depot had to be erected very hurriedly to accomodate a large number of animals. Capt. C.H. Bourne remained behind and is acting as Adjutant. *JH*

13th APRIL 1918. The Court Martial proceedings on Capt. M.T. Kearney were returned today. Finding:- Guilty. Sentence:- To be severely reprimanded and to forfeit seniority. *JH*

17th APRIL 1918. Brig-General C.L. Bates C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. and Lieut-Colonel V.R. Hine-Haycock C.M.G., D.S.O. arrived at the Depot about 1600 and inspected all animals; they were very pleased with the animals received from the Division. The Director of Remounts selected 61 Artillery rides and 40 gunners for a Division that is refitting and left orders for 80 Artillery mules to be sent on with these horses to the same Division. JH

20th APRIL 1918. Lieut. N.C. Brown and 48 O/Rs took 101 horses and 80 mules to Kantara where they handed them over to the -- Division; these animals are as good as any ever issued from the Depot, they are in very good condition and are a sound lot. JH

22nd April 1918. The Commandant went to Cairo to see the Director of Remounts regarding a cable received from Major H.A. Reid D.S.O. in which he states he cannot return unless it is very urgent. Instructions were given to send the cable to A.A.G., A.I.F. in Egypt also a letter recommending that Major H.A. Reid D.S.O. be allowed to remain in Australia, but that he be struck off the strength of this Unit. Lieut. Blott and party arrived with 200 horses from Belbeis Remount Depot. They are marching them through to Kantara Remount Depot. JH

23rd APRIL 1918. Lieut. Blott and party left at 0400 for Kantara Remount Depot. JH

25th APRIL 1918. Military Sports were held today, these were organised by the A.&N.Z.T.C. & D.C. Moascar. The Remounts won 6 firsts and several seconds. JH

26th APRIL 1918. The pumping engine which supplies the Depot with water stopped work and a man from this Depot was sent down to help overhaul it. He succeeded in getting it to work again. A larger engine is to be put in shortly.

Two officers and party of men from Kantara Remount Depot arrived with 200 horses, they are taking these animals to Belbeis, they are in low condition. JH

27th APRIL 1918. The Kantara party left and will go as far as Tel-el-Kebir today, one horse had to be left in this Depot. JH



30th APRIL 1918. The supply of tibben has been cut down to 1 lb per animal. There are two small hand power chaff cutters in the Depot, and with these about 1 lb per animal of Indian grass hay is chaffed, this chaff is eaten readily. An endeavour has been made to procure power machines, but so far with no result. At this time of the year the stocks of tibben are nearly exhausted and it is too early for the new season supply. Berseem is also getting scarce and dhura will not be available for another month. The respective feed values of dhura and berseem have not been made public but there is no doubt that dhura is more valuable, though more colic cases occur when dhura is used. Berseem contains a very large percentage of water but all animals eat it greedily. When dried and used as hay it must have a much greater feed value pound for pound, and the general ~~expression~~ expression is that animals will do well on it alone.

The carob bean has been tried as a substitute for gram but the tests were not exhaustive. The whole pod is used, this contains a large percentage of sugar almost 50 %.

During the month under review the usual work of the Depot has been carried out. The animals with the exception of about 50 pack mules and 40 horses are in good condition. The fit mules are mostly artillery and are a splendid lot.

The health of members of the Unit has been good, and there have been few accidents.

Capt. C.H. Bourne is still on detached duty at Belah. *JH*

D. M. Lusk

COLONEL.

COMMANDANT,

AUSTRALIAN REMOUNT DEPOT.