

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/17/21

Title: 5th Australian Mobile Veterinary
Section

April 1918



AWM4-27/17/21

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Austⁿ Mobile Veterinary Section

FOR

April *1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

Ross Grant Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

Ross Grant Capt

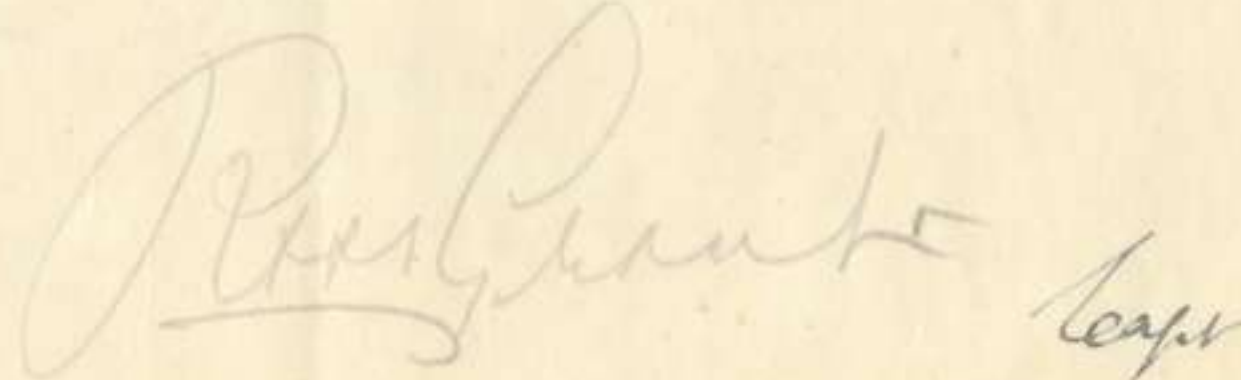
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vauchelles	5/4/18		5 Aust M.V.S. moved from Vauchelles to CAMON.	
Camon	6/4/18		5 Aust M.V.S. moved to BOSSY LES DAOURS	
Bussy	29/4/18		5 Aust M.V.S. moved to junction of Allonville, Querrien Eds	
			Notes on work for month	app ^x I
			Observations on effect of Enemy gas shells on animals	app ^x II
<p style="text-align: right;">  R. G. GRANT O C 5th MOBILE VET. SECTION A. I. F. </p>				

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Austⁿ Mobile Veterinary Section

FOR

April

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

Notes on work for the month

"

*Observations on the effect of
Enemy Gas shells on horses
and mules.*

Appendix 1

War Diary -- 5th Australian Mobile Veterinary section -- April 1918

Location: On the 5th inst., the section moved from VAUCHELLES where it had been located since the 28th ult. The move was made by road to CAMON remaining there overnight, and proceeding on following morning to BUSSY les DAOURS. On the 29th inst., the main part of the section proceeded to a camp at junction of the ALLONVILLE QUERRIEU roads. An Advance post consisting of Sgt Pentland and two men was left at BUSSY.

Work for the Month: The majority of the animals evacuated to Base were from Units of the British Army, comparatively few animals from our own Division passing through the section up to the 24th inst., when there was an influx of Gassed and wounded animals.

Evacuation was by road in the early part of the month to PICQUIGNY and in the later part to No 14VH at ABBEVILLE via Olincourt Chateau.

The stabling and accommodation at BUSSY was particularly good.

Veterinary Evacuation Station: In the latter part of the month a V.E.S. was established at Olincourt Chateau, thus doing away with the road trip to ABBEVILLE. A Corporal and two men were despatched from the section to this station.

Total number of animals evacuated during month

Horses	134
Mules	26
Total	160

Ross Grant
Capt



281

Number of Cases; Period 24th to 30th April 1918.

Admitted to M.V.S. 26)

) Total 29.

observed in Units. 3)

Nature of Cases;	(A) showing symptoms of Pulmonary trouble....	3
	(B) Eye lesions only.....	7
	(C) Skin.....	4
	(i) skin & Eyes....	4
	(ii) skin only.....	15

where occurring; The majority of cases of 'Gassing' appear to have occurred in stables. Those animals affected in the open air were either only slightly affected- or if severely, this was due to the shell bursting close at hand.

Length of time before symptoms appeared; In Class (A) the time varied from four hours up to twenty four. One case (a mule belonging to the 5th Divl signal Coy) was showing great respiratory distress and was destroyed by me 6 hours after being 'gassed'. The other two cases did not show definitive symptoms till much later.

later. Class (B). Symptoms of eye trouble appeared very soon after the animals were gassed.

Class (C). Those affected in the skin only, did not show the maximum amount of distress till about forty eight hours after affection.

symptoms Observed: Class (A). Probably due to Phosgene poisoning. A definite bronchial pneumonia with rise of temperature, in one case to 104.8. Very great bodily distress. In one case (destroyed) eye symptoms were also present, showing that the animal had been affected with both Mustard gas and phosgene. The other two cases showed only respiratory trouble - no eye or skin lesions -. One case is progressing favourably, the other is still in a critical condition.

Class (B). -Mustard Gas. Very severe Conjunctivitis and Photophobia. Total loss of sight for some days. Those cases retained are showing gradual improvement under treatment.

Class (C). A number of these cases show only lesions of the skin, lips and tongue, with in some cases oedema of the glottis — the eyes not being affected. Very great bodily distress, the animal appearing as though nailed to the ground, and absolutely refusing to move. The lesions are most severe between the thighs and in the neighbourhood of the udder or sheath. Lips and tongue very much swollen and blistered. The animals retain their appetite, but owing to the soreness of the mouth and throat, are almost unable to eat. Great distress on movement, due probably to oedema of the glottis.

In addition to the above symptoms, some cases are also showing eye lesions. A number of this class of Case (B) have been retained at the M.V.S., owing to their inability to move by road, and they are showing a gradual improvement under treatment.

Treatment: The eye and skin lesions are being treated with a mild alkaline solution (saturated solution of sodii bicarb) which is evidently beneficial.

Note: It is rather difficult to understand why in Class (C) some animals should show very severe blistering of the lips, tongue and skin but No eye lesions. This may be due to the bursting of a shell very close to the animal and the splashing of liquid upon parts of the body, but this does not seem very probable, as the parts of the body showing the worst lesions i.e. between the thighs etc., could not very easily be reached in that way.

(2)

It may perhaps be due to the use of an irritant gas other than Mustard which does not affect the eyes in the same manner as that Gas.

Ross
Capt.,
O.C., 5th Aust M.V.S.

