

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

Veterinary

Item number: 27/14/21

Title: 2nd Australian Mobile Veterinary
Section

January 1918



AWM4-27/14/21

CONFIDENTIAL.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2 AUST. MOB. VET. SEC

FOR

JAN. 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Stanley Hatcher Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Stanley Hatcher 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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1918 BAILLEUL	Jan 5.1.18		<p>For week ending 5.1.18 151 animals dealt with as follows:-</p> <p>Evacuated to No 23 R.V.H. 57</p> <p>Discharged cured to units 26</p> <p>Destroyed 1</p> <p>Remaining for treatment or vaccination 67</p>	
	12		<p>For week 123 animals dealt with</p> <p>Evacuated to No 23 R.V.H. 42</p> <p>Discharged cured to units 15</p> <p>Destroyed 1</p> <p>Remaining for treatment or vaccination 65</p>	
			<p>Extracts from London Gazette Jan 1st 1918 List 279 A.I.F</p>	
			<p style="text-align: right;">Supplement No 30445</p> <p>The following is a copy of F.M. Sir Douglas Haig's despatch 11/12/18</p> <p>I have the honour to submit a list of names of those Officers, Ladie N.C.O.'s & men serving or who have served under my command during period</p>	
			<p>Feb 26 to midnight Sept 26 to 20/21st 1917 whom distinguished & gallant.</p>	

Plante Shute cap etc. 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Baikent	JAN		<p>Services and devotion to duty. I consider deserving of special mention</p> <p>No 25 Staff Sergeant Halton H.H. 2 Just. Mob. Vet. Sec.</p> <p>Major R.H. Macintosh D.F.D.V.S 2 Just. Dir.</p> <p>Extract Supplement No 30450</p> <p>Awarded the Military Cross.</p> <p>Captain Stanley Helcher 2 Just. Mob. Vet. Sec.</p>	
	19		<p>During the week 100 animals have been dealt with:-</p> <p>Evacuated to No 23 R.V.H. 55</p> <p>Discharged cured to unit 4</p> <p>Remaining for treatment or vaccination 41</p>	
	26		<p>During the week 76 animals dealt with:-</p> <p>Evacuated to No 23 R.V.H. 40</p> <p>Discharged cured to unit 16</p> <p>Remaining for treatment or vaccination 20</p>	<p>Stanley Helcher Capt PS</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Baillieux	Jan 28		The 2 Aust. Division moving out from front line into rest-in-back area. The 2 Aust M. & S. will move on 29th to strategic route to Nielles by BLEQUIN	
	29		Unit camped at PATHELLES arriving at 3 pm.	
	30		Unit marched through RENESCURE arriving at 2.45 pm.	
	31		Unit marched through HROGUES, WIZERNES, LUMBRES to NIELLES LOZ BLEQUIN arriving at 3.15 pm. No shelter for animals save 4 or so on unused road sheltered by ledges unused for standing. Men camped in 3 different houses. Country very peaceful but bleak wet. Horses will suffer slightly from exposure after food stalling in forward area. Splendid rest area for summer time	
<i>Stanley Shute Capt</i>				

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18,000-12/17-8723.

Appendix

WAR DIARY

OF

2 Aust. Mob. Vet. Section

FOR

JANUARY 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No. /

Subject.

2 Aust. Div. Rest Farm for Horses

WAR DIARY

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BAILLEUL	20.11.17		<p>G.O.C of 24th Div. ordered on advice of D.4 D.V.S the establishment of a Rest Farm for horses - comparatively in fair condition but run down from over-work and severe conditions. Capt. Heleth O.C. 24th Div. M.V.S to control all arrangements of management. 2 Div Train to supply on Subaltern i/c of camp and to carry out instructions of O.C. Horses to be drawn from 4th & 5th H.F.H Bds. S.S.D. to supply extra ration as required as linseed, manyles etc. A chaff-cutter was authorised for farm This was found unprocureable. Div Train eventually were able to supply 50% of hay in form of chaff for a period but machinery broke down. As a result of the benefit to horses and marked improvement in health + condition D.4 D.M.G. Aust. Corps decided to advise similar establishments in the other Aust Divs.</p> <p>Three batches of horses were given treatment for a period of 21 days. The personnel was supplied by the Div Batteries at rate of one driver to 3 horses. Later this was increased to 1 to 2 horses & better results obtained. The camp broke up at end of 3rd period as division was moving to a back area for Rest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Stanley Heleth Capt O.C.</p>	Appendix

2 Aust. Mob. Vet. Sect. APPENDIX I

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or
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
S. 28. 515 C98 FRANCE	25/11/17	Noon	In company with Capt Fletcher OC 2nd MVS inspected horse line camp which has been taken over by 2nd Aust Division for the purpose of establishing a HORSE REST FARM. Camp in bad repair owing to there being no Camp warden in charge. A considerable amount of work will have to be done before the camp is in anything like good condition. Fatigue parties and Carpenters will be necessary.	
	26/11/17		First batch of horses arrived from 11 th , 12 th & 104 th Batteries for 21 days rest. They are in very low condition, none of them clipped. They are very dirty having been groomed very little while in the line, several very bad skins caused by much bad management and mud	
	27/11/17		Horses inspected by Capt Fletcher. Owing to their bad condition it was decided that they would have to receive special treatment before they could be clipped to clean the skin. A skin wash was prescribed composed of the following ingredients. 1 gall warm water, 10 ozs Petrol, 1/2 lb soft soap thoroughly mixed and the affected animals to be well washed with it & left for 24 hours, then washed over with warm water. The mixture to be applied every 4 days until the animals skin is thoroughly clean.	
	28/11/17		All animals of 11 th , 12 th & 104 th Batteries washed with special skin preparations. 24 Horses arrived from 14 th , 15 th & 105 th Batteries in fairly good condition, all clipped & 1 driver to every 3 Horses. Several Horses skinned	

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

S28. S15. C88
FRANCE

Date Hour

29/11/17

All horses exercised from 9 to 10 AM, and horses that had been washed with special dressing washed over with warm water, and although some horses had benefited by the wash there are several which appear to be stubborn cases. Fatigue parties arrived to renovate camp.

30/11/17

Exercise 9 to 10 AM, Grazing 2 to 3 PM. Horses inspected by V.O. 3rd Mangle suspects isolated and treated accordingly. ~~Two~~ ^{Two} horses were found to have developed "Ophthalmia" and will require attentions daily until cured. G.O. inspected lines. Fatigue party down good wood

1/12/17

Exercise 9 to 10.15 AM. Considerable amount of grooming carried out from 10.15 to 11.45 AM. Grazing 2 to 3 PM. Grooming 3 to 4 PM. The condition of the Horses slightly improved. 3 Horses too many for 1 man to attend to properly

2/12/17

Grazed all horses for 2 hours today, and washed all 11th, 12th & 10th Battery horses again with special wash at 2 PM.

3/12/17

All horses grazed for 2 hours, and horses that were washed yesterday with special wash washed over with warm water. The bad cases showing very little improvement, remainder improved considerably, will not require another dressing. Horses in all cases very hungry, continually eating, ration issued at units apparently inadequate (?) Rations not issued to best advantage i.e. animals did not eat full ration owing to methods of "feeding" it.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SZ9515C88 FRANCE	4/12/17		All horses grazed for 2 hours during day. Many animals show good progress. Light shower during day. Mange affected horses showing considerable improvement. Camp considerably improved by fatigue party. V.O. inspected horses	
	5/12/17		All horses grazed for 2 1/2 hours during day. Grazing greatly improving their condition, and the amount of grooming beginning to show good results. Light rain still falling, very muddy under foot	
	6/12/17		Grazing for 2 1/2 hours, bad skin cases again washed with "Special Wash". Ophthalmia cases showing good improvement under treatment. V.O. inspected all horses. Grazing paddock getting cut up, several horses slightly swollen about the legs had them picqueted out during the day, all bedded at night	
	7/12/17		Exercise from 9 to 10 AM and 2 to 3 PM. Skin cases washed but show very slight improvement. One O, man to 3 horses, especially when skins are in such a bad state as is inadequate. The horses that were drenched benefited very considerably. Many horses show marked improvement. Fatigue returned to unit	
	8/12/17		All horses exercised 2 hours. V.O. inspected all horses & noted progress, he is not satisfied with bad skin cases and decided on altering treatment in their case by making solution much stronger, and after the solution is applied to put on a W.P. sheet next to animal's skin, then putting rug over all, the idea being to cause the solution to remain moist for a longer period on the skin, thereby giving it greater penetrating power.	
	9/12/17		Exercise for 2 hours during day. One Ophthalmia case serious is still going on is still going on is still going on bad skin cases much better as a result of yesterday's special treatment. Mange cases much improved under treatment.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
S29.515C88				
FRANCE	10/12/17		Nothing of importance occurred during the day. Horses showing marked improvement. Horses with swollen legs owing to hard standings completely well. Decided not to put them on hard standings in future.	
	11/12/17		Nothing of importance occurred during the day. V.D. inspected horses and noted marked improvement, also that although all animals show great improvement, the younger ones show better progress than the older ones	
	12/12/17		Enemy Planes dropped Bombs in the camp but no damage done.	
	13/12/17		Bad skin cases treated with special dressing again. One case of Ophthalmia which had an injection showing good improvement, all other horses doing well.	
	14/12/17		V.D. inspected all horses at 10 AM, all satisfactory. 2nd N.H.Q. Staff Officers inspected horses 2 PM. Expressed satisfaction. 1st Amgar Staff Officers inspected lines and horses at 3.15 PM, they expressed satisfaction. Picked out poorer horses with view to keeping them at Farm for further period, three 11th Battery horses selected.	
	15/12/17		Staff Captain, Artillery inspected lines and horses. Expressed satisfaction.	
	16/12/17		Final inspection by DC (Capt Fletcher) 9 to 11 AM, noted the condition of all horses, justified the establishment of the Rest Farm. Each animal putting on condition to the extent of 2 to 3 cwt at least, the only horses that have not shown marked improvement, are those with extremely bad skins. To thoroughly clean these particular horses skins it would take at least 2 months of careful attention	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

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528-514-088				
FRANCE	17/12/17		All horses of 11 th , 12 th , 14 th , 15 th , 104 th , & 105 th Batteries with exception of three 11 th Battery with one farrier & C marched off from farm at 11 AM for their respective units. Further relay of 47 horses reported at farm for period of 21 days from above Batteries with exception of Howitzer Batteries at 4 PM. One man to two horses. Snow falling	
	18/12/17		All horses inspected by V.D. 9 to 11 AM. All horses clipped, condition fair. Skins much cleaner, all horses to be washed with petrol, soap & warm water. Snow still falling. 5 Horses with Mange, Isolated	
	19/12/17		All horses washed as ordered yesterday. Freeze set in. Brig. General Carruthers & Major Macindoe Inspected Farm, noted three horses in good condition 2/14 & 1/15 Battery, well have to be returned to units early as possible, and poorer animals sent in their place. Weather fair, ground still frozen	
	20/12/17		Sent animals back to Batteries that were in good condition, and others came in place of them. Still freezing	
	21/12/17		all horses considerably improved by wash. Ground very hard on account of freeze	
	22/12/17		Thaw set in, weather much brighter. Horses shoes require attention.	
	23/12/17		G.O.C of Division visited camp. One (1) horse evacuated suffering "Glossitis" caused by swallowing piece of wire freeze set in	
	24/12/17		all horses washed again with "Golden Wash". Many cases washed with special dressing. Thaw set in	
	25/12/17		Nothing of importance occurred during the day. Light snow falling during afternoon	
	26/12/17		all horses inspected by V.D. much improvement noted abroad. Snowing & freezing	
	27/12/17		Horses feeling cold very much. Exercised with rugs on	

A6945 Wt. W1122/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
S28.515.C88				
FRANCE	28/12/17		All horses put through dip. Weather freezing	
	29/12/17		As a result of dipping horses skins very dull and dirty. Found it necessary to put foot nails in horses shoes	
			owing to slippery condition of ground. This was done in absence of Frost Caps. Weather cloudy, slight thaw	
	30/12/17		Frost nails a failure, as after standing on brick floor all night the nails bend over and in most cases	
			turned outwards, and protruded over shoes. 2 horses injured as a result of this, being kicked by horses	
			with nail heads protruding. Weather cloudy and still freezing.	
	31/12/17		All horses inspected by V.O. marked improvement in condition, noted skins much brighter. Many cases	
			showing marked improvement. Weather still freezing	
	1/1/18		Nothing of importance occurred during the day. Slight thaw about mid-day	
	2/1/18		Had all horses shoes attended to by farriers of different Batteries. Slight thaw	
	3/1/18		all horses show good improvement. One horse washed with Mangle dressing. Weather fine	
	4/1/18		Obtained clean change of underclothing for men. Baths not available. Weather cloudy towards evening	
	5/1/18		All horses inspected by V.O. who expressed satisfaction with progress made. Weather cloudy	
	6/1/18		Weather cold & freezing. Nothing of importance occurred during the day	
	7/1/18		All above horses (50) marched out of Rest Farm to units, much improved in condition. Fresh batch (47) horses arrived	
	8/1/18		Fresh batch horses inspected by V.O. (Capt Fyans) 3 inspected Mangle, isolated, remainder in poor condition.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
528515-C99 FRANCE	9/1/18		V.O. inspected all horses teeth, sunlight weather cold, heavy snow fall during afternoon	
	10/1/18		Thaw set in. Gen. Smyth and Lieut Col Murrant inspected lines. Nose bag feed at 8 PM cut out owing to inconvenience	
	11/1/18		Weather cloudy & ground muddy. 12 Horses of 105 th Battery returned to unit owing to Battery being in quarantine, replaced by 14 other horses from 14 th & 15 th Battery. All horses teeth filed down as required. Commenced clipping. All horses washed with 'A' dressing. Mange cases special wash	
	12/1/18		V.O. inspected all horses, good improvement noted. Weather slightly cold	
	13/1/18		Nothing of importance occurred during the day. Weather cloudy and cold. All horses skins showing marked improvement	
	14/1/18		Lieut Cox to command of Camp. Lieut Fleming proceeded on leave to Paris. Heavy snow during the morning. Horses exercised for 1 1/2 hours. 5 Horses teeth filed down. seven horses clipped. Thirty men for bath parade 3 PM.	
	15/1/18		Heavy rain today. Horses exercised for 1 hour. Inspection by V.O. Special attention paid to grooming. One hair on saddle during afternoon. Two horses washed with lice dressing. Grooming kits dumped. Clipping continued	
	16/1/18		Repairs to stables owing to heavy wind storms during the night. All horses washed with 'Golden Wash'. Horses exercised during afternoon. Inspection by V.O., Major Macindoe & D.A.M.C. Clipping continued. One man reported as cook from 26 Batt.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
S. 29. 515. C 88 FRANCE	17/1/18		Horses exercised during the morning for one hour, Grooming and Harness cleaning during afternoon. Inspection by V.O. one horse running a temperature. Raining all day. Blepping continued.
"	18/1/18		Raining slightly early morning, fine for rest of day. Horses exercised for 1 1/2 hours during morning & one hour during the afternoon. Harness cleaning for 1/2 an hour. Blepping continued.
	19/1/18		Five horses washed with "Golden Wash" this morning and then exercised for 3/4 of an hour. Exercised again for 1 1/2 hours this afternoon. Blepping continued. One horse to M.V. section.
	20/1/18		Horses exercised for 1 hour during the morning. Visit by V.O. 11 AM. Blepping finished. Horses again exercised during the afternoon.
	21/1/18		Wet. Horses exercised for 1 hour during the morning. Two horses washed with "Golden Wash". Harness cleaning for 3/4 of an hour this afternoon. Visit by V.O.
	22/1/18		Wet. Usual exercise for 1 hour this morning. Harness cleaning during the afternoon. Special attention to grooming.
	23/1/18		All horses exercised for 1 1/2 hours during the morning. Every horse washed with "A" wash. This afternoon inspection by Major Macindoe. Harness cleaning for 1 hour.
	24/1/18		Horses thoroughly groomed during morning. Exercised for 1 1/2 hours this afternoon. Visit by V.O.
	25/1/18		Horses groomed this morning and preparation made for "The King" Camp. Visit by V.O. Marched out 1 PM.

Appendix