

Remount Depot Gibbons Street Upper Hutt

Civilian grooms were employed by the Defence Department and attached to the Remount Depot along with other enlisted Service personnel. For the large number of horses held at the depot during the early war years there would have been a number of personnel required to assist with the care and training of these horses. I have compiled the list of 54 names below from various sources. Further details about the Remount Depot are listed after the list of names.

ADAMSON Frank	1890-1970	Sapper 4/1023
ALLEN William	unknown	First Reserves
AVISON Frank	1871-1944	Trooper 13543
BATCHELOR Leslie James	1888-1947	Lance Corporal 46426
BOWKER George	1878-1925	Corporal 19/370
BROUGHAM Charles Roy	1896-1968	First Reserves
BULLOT Eugene Isadore	1873-1941	Second Reserves
CALDER Horace Frederick	1890-1944	Trooper 17/324
CATOR William Duncan	1861-1944	Civilian Cook
COSTELLO T	unknown	unknown
CUNEEN John Edward	1897-1967	Sapper 4/1762
DANAGHY Len J		Orderly Vet Corps
EDWARDS Alva	1888-unknown	Trooper 17/301
ELWORTHY Herbert	1878-1948	Lieutenant NN
EMERY Arnold Arthur	1867-unknown	Private 12535
FERGUSON	unknown	unknown
FULLER Ernest	1890-1958	Company Sergeant Major
GALLIGAN James	1887-unknown	Trooper 17/327
GENT Leonard	1886-1967	First Reserves
GIBBONS James	ploughman Reservists	Private 79211
GREEN Samuel Percy	unknown	Second Reserves
GRONN Lawrenz	1893-1969	Second Reserves
HEWSON Leonard Charles	1884-1952	Second Reserves
HORAN Thomas Martin	1884-1946	First Reserves
JEFFRIES J or JEFFS perhaps	unknown	unknown
JEFFRIES W or JEFFS	unknown	unknown
JOHNSON William E	unknown	unknown
KEARNEY William	1890-1949	Trooper 17/386
KEIGHTLEY R	Cook	Rifleman 60342
LITTLE John Lewis	1891-1970	Trooper 17/396
LOGAN William John	Unknown	First Reserves
MANSILL George Edward	1863-1937	Rifleman 26124
MARSHALL Thomas	1888-1915	Corporal
MARCUSEN Peter	1877-1943	Sergeant 17/308
MEACHEM Percy Samuel	1894-1970	Driver 2/679
MONCRIEFF Harry Gilbert Plimmer	unknown	First Reserves
MORRISON Henry	unknown	First Reserves
MORROW George	unknown	unknown
MURPHY John Conway	unknown	unknown
MURPHY Patrick	1877-1953	Trooper 17/389
MACDONALD John	unknown	First Reserves
MCLEAN G	1917 Head Farrier remount but not sure	
MCPHEE H C	unknown	unknown
O'DEA Edmond	1890-1936	Rifleman 74361
PHILPOT Edward Charles	1988-1975	Trooper 17/393
POTTER H	unknown	unknown
RAPLEY Wallace Garnet	1898-1947	Private 66541
REID Seddon	1895-1918 †	Rifleman 22686
RITCHIE	unknown	unknown

TILLEY Reginald Charles	1873-1962	Major
TOCKER H	unknown	unknown
WALSH J D	unknown	unknown
WEBBY Ross	1889-1934	Private 49855
WESTERN Richard James	1866-1917 †	Lance Corporal 17/331

Arrangement to establish a Remount Depot in Upper Hutt began when Colonel Reakes of the Defence Department Veterinary Services arrange to rent a large paddock in Gibbons Street from Mr H C Gibbons. The rental from October 1914 to January 1915 was £75. Additional land was required including a shed at the entrance to the paddock and a two storey wooden shed and the Defence Department agreed to pay Mr Gibbons additional rent.

All horses brought into Trentham Camp by men for the reinforcements were ordered to hand them over to the Officer in charge of the Remount Camp. By January 1915 Mr R C Tilley later promoted to Lieutenant then Captain was in charge of the Remount Depot.

Arrangements were made with Mr Pringle of Silverstream to use 35 acres of grazing land for 4 months at the cost of £10 per month. Mr Donald Reid's paddocks were also used for grazing.

Mr Brown who owned a number of sections around Upper Hutt gave permission for the use of his land at no cost. Unfortunately some men camped on an additional piece of land (lots 26 & 27 in King Street) not owned by Mr Brown and the owners claimed rent from the Defence Department for its use.

The depot employed civilian grooms' who collection horse hair which was sold along with a few horses that had to be destroyed and the money was approved to be used for the comfort of the men during the winter months. The groom accommodation were tents but in June 1915 arrangements were made to supply wooden floors for twelve of the tents. The Health department proposed the building of latrine accommodation and cook house

Owing to the wet state of the camp the blacksmiths were unable to shoe horses so a request was made for a farriers shed to be built. Mr Harrisons tender of £25 10s 0d was accepted.

Captain R C Tilley re Troops required for Remount depot an Officer, two NCO and twenty men to assist with horses on and after Monday 06 November 1916

Telegram –Camp Commandant Trentham

Please issue instructions for a Medical Officer to inspect proposed temporary Canvas Camp site at Remount Depot Upper Hutt where approximately 30 men will be accommodated temporary until approximately middle December stop. Please report if medical officer approves of site and arrangements stop. Grant facilities for issue of necessary tents and cooking utensils requisitioned for by Remount Officer for this camp - 04 November 1916

Please detail one Office Two Non Commissioned Officers and twenty men to report to the Remount Officer Upper Hutt on Tuesday Seventh Instant to look after horses in the depot stop. The men to be selected from 19th Mounted Rifles or from details preferably the latter in order not to interfere with Mounted Training stop. These personnel will be required at Remount depot until approximately middle December stop. They will be quartered and rationed at Remount depot stop. Please notify Remount Officer actual time of arrival.

06 December 1916 letter

Although 450 horses were despatched from the Remount Depot at Upper Hutt there yet remains upwards of a 100 horses. Until such time as we can make arrangement for their disposal I should like the assistance of two NCO and twenty men and shall be glad if you will arrange for this number to be retained from those at present at the depot or if these are removed that they be replaced by others before their removal signed Lt Col A R Young ADVS Wellington Military district

02 October 1917 – In view of the fact that there appears little likelihood of further shipments of horses being made I recommend that notice be given to the owner of the present Remount depot property of the intention of the Department to terminate its tenancy. I can do this if given authority. Also that steps be taken to establish a small depot at or near Trentham Camp. We are leasing a paddock at Upper Hutt adjacent to the river and it is advisable to retain this meanwhile as it may be of value in connection with the new depot, a site for which I had in mind and though I am certain regarding it until I make further inquiries. Colonel D J Reakes

To H C Gibbons - It has been decided to remove the Remount Depot from the Upper Hutt, and re-established it on the Wallaceville Laboratory Farm. I have therefore to intimate to you that the land and premises at the Upper Hutt now occupied as a Remount depot also the whole of the land rented for paddocking purposes will not be required after 30 November next – 16 October 1917

Remount Depot Wallaceville – Defence Department horses are running on Government Farm at Wallaceville. Water supplied by wind mill which is at present out of order local plumber failed to get it right Private Mansill was in Trentham camp and former plumber at Upper Hutt understand the windmill and able to repair it. Request that Private Mansill be transferred to Captain Tilley of Remount Depot - 05th February 1918 (they also had a pig farm on the land)
George Edward MANSILL Rifleman 26124 Plumber nok wife Mrs Kate Mansill Main Road Upper Hutt reference nominal roll volume 2 roll 41 page 32

Conference re purchasing of additional land adjoining Tauherenikau four section camp so that the Remount depot at Wallaceville to be abandoned and moved Remount Depot to Tauherenikau – 27 February 1918

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AD1 899 40/23/1 Horses Mules etc. – Remount Depot – Upper Hutt for Reinforcements 1914-1919 AD1 900 40/68 Horses, mules etc. – Halters for use in remount depot Upper Hutt 1915)

Problems with Chains, Leather headstalls and halters for use in Remount Depot Upper Hutt

The life of a rope halter does not exceed one month under the best conditions. With horse given to chewing halters, several may be used in a week. Leather headstalls are estimated to last twelve months. For the greater safety in securing horses by chains must be taken into account. Horses were biting through their halters and getting free and have been badly kicked as a result.

Problems have been found with the care of horses, in both the training and at the Remount Camps. The horses have the habit of chewing through the rope halters and get away through the halters slipping off their heads. Proper leather headstalls and chains to tie up with were recommended but none have arrived from England and are not available in New Zealand.

Some difficulty is being experienced in connection with head ropes for horses and they are gradually being replaced by light chains at small cost. It is found no matter how the ropes are treated whether with tar or soft soap the horses chew them.

Owing to the shortage of material in the New Zealand and supplies not arriving from overseas we shall continue with the ordinary head ropes that will suffice until the arrival of troops in Egypt where a better opportunity to procure suitable chains.

Archives NZ Wellington Agency TBA AD1 823 29/19 Establishment and Recruitment – Veterinary Corps 1913

- No names mentioned very little details

Archives New Zealand Wellington Agency TBA AD1 718 9/260 Expeditionary Force – Remount Veterinary Corps 1914

- 18 May 1915 = Captain W F C SMITH transfer from Veterinary Corps to Remount Branch of the Veterinary Corps

- 18 May 1915 = Lieutenant R C TILLEY from unattached list B to Remount Branch of Veterinary Corps with rank of Captain

Archives New Zealand Wellington Agency ABVV W4763 7295 Box 1 d New Zealand Veterinary Corps – (draft notes of the official history)

- Under the command of Colonel Dr REAKES & Late Lieutenant Colonel CLAYTON
 - Active personnel of the Veterinary Corps = Lt-Col A R YOUNG & Lt-Col H A REID & Major J STAFF & Major P M EDGAR & Major C R NEALE, Captains T a BLAKE & E C HOWARD & R H MEADE & W C RING & E L SIDDALL & C S SIMPSON & A TAYLOR & W C BARRY & W P BEGG & F CROSSLEY & E E ELP-- & JOHNSON & T G LILLICE & D H RAIT & W G TAYLOR & DANSKIN & D H MCHATTIE & others (paper torn) Major D MUNRO & Lt MCCALLUM – Captains MchATTIE, PR—MER and WAUGH killed in action. (decoration Major STAFFORD & Captain BLAKE)
 - Animal Research Station Wallaceville = Captain C S M HOPKIRK ADVS
 - Lt I J CUNNINGHAM Wallaceville
 - Records full of details about equipment and items ordered for the Remount Corp.in NZ
 - One thousand horses with 100 attendant at Remount Depot Upper Hutt
 - Hospital for horses at Animal Research Station Wallaceville
 - Total number of horses 9,988 transported – Main body 3,817 horses 78 died
 - Large file but no mention of those employed or appointed to the Remount Depot in Upper Hutt
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