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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

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HISTORY SESSION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These will be held in Melbourne as part of the National Conference of the Australian Veterinary Association. The proposed program is:

Thursday 25 May

9.00 - 10.00	K.L. Hughes - The indirect influence of Dick, Pasteur and Kock on veterinary science in Australia
10.00 - 10.30	Morning tea
10.30 - 11.15	G.E. Fewster - Chasing leads
11.15 - 12.00	Nineteenth century animal diseases in Australia
12.00 - 12.30	C. Bunn - Why did not foot and mouth disease spread through Australia in 1872
12.30 - 2.00	Lunch and Trade Display
2.00 - 2.30	W.H. Stevens - Early veterinary history in Tasmania and the Veterinary Nationalization Scheme
2.30 - 3.00	Jessica Taylor - Were we such a threat to the British
3.00 - 3.30	Afternoon tea
3.30 - 4.00	R.I. Taylor - From Glasgow to Sydney; John Stewart M.R.C.V.S. a distinguished veterinary surgeon
4.00	Annual General meeting



Friday 26 May

10.30 - 12.00

A tour of the University of Melbourne Medical History Library and a visit to Kendall's original Veterinary College building.

HISTORICAL ARTICLES

**DAD'S ARMY (MOBILE VETERINARY SECTIONS),
SYDNEY VETERINARY FACULTY, 1937-1940:** Doug Johns, 13
Warri Crescent, McMasters Beach NSW 2251

The way to the army drill hall led past the rabbit cages and dog pens through a latched gate and along a short laneway. A small solid brick building, standing on the site of the present Gunn lecture theatre complex served as the gathering place for those students who volunteered or were enticed to join either the 2nd Cavalry or 2nd Mobile Veterinary Section. Emu feathers in the hats of the former helped to distinguish the personnel of that group.

The breezes of war were blowing steadily in 1937, to the point where Army Command decided to bring its units, including the Army Veterinary Corps, closer to wartime footing. At that time the army horse still contributed largely to the need for power and pull.

A few shillings pay for attendance at parades and camps, plus the fact that time spent in army horse camps was a course credit for practical experience, resulted in the ranks being filled by undergraduates and staff. The wearing of the uniform of boots, spurs, leggings, breeches tunics and bandoliers also gave some satisfaction.

At the Saturday parades, besides being instructed in the usual army foot drill, one learnt about the contents of the Field Veterinary Medical Chest and their applications. These included items for the still mobile and treatable horses such as white lotion made of a mixture of lead acetate and zinc sulphate, tincture of iodine, gauze

bandages and small 5 cm X 5 cm patches of compressed cotton wool for external use. A small folder contained scissors, scalpels, artery forceps and dressing forceps. Capsules of aloes and ammonium carbonate provided internal treatment whilst a Greeners Humane Killer was supplied for the untreatable.

The parades also instructed in the use of elbow grease and dubbin for cleaning and preserving saddlery and gear, which had been preserved in perfect condition by Army Ordinance units since World War I.

Commanding officers leading these groups included Majors R.M.C.Gunn and E.M.Lucas, Captains R.M.Webb, F.W.Whitehouse and V.G.Cole.

As the title implies, the 2nd Cavalry Mobile Veterinary Section was responsible for casualties of a Cavalry Division whilst the 2nd Mobile Veterinary Section treated those from an Infantry Division. In the latter, horse drawn G.S. Wagons, limbers (two linked trailers) and some horse drawn artillery were still being used.

Each unit attended camps arranged to coincide with university vacations. Places such as Camden, Douglas Park, and Berry Showgrounds as well as Holsworthy Army Veterinary Hospital were chosen for these camps.

Here the units comprising about thirty horses and riders went through many hours of mounted drill, forming and breaking down sections at the walk and trot. Among students whose seats were accustomed to the University lecture halls this sometimes resulted in more saddle galls on riders than on horses. However, horsemanship and riding ability improved as the camp period progressed with even the horses responding to the appropriate commands. Once saddle seats became less tender longer daily treks were taken e.g. Camden to Appin and return, from Douglas park to the foot of the escarpment on the old "butter" track, and from Berry to Kangaroo Valley.

Remounts from the Remount Depot at Holsworthy generally arrived

by train. Although largely or partially broken in for riding the togetherness of drill formations soon appeared to quieten any of those showing objections.

Involvement in clinical and surgical activity did not seriously take place until 2nd Cavalry Mobile Veterinary Section was reclassified as a Veterinary Evacuating Station during a Light Horse camp at Wallgrove in 1939/40. On this site three Light Horse Regiments were stationed with a total of 1,800 horses. Regimental Veterinary Officers were kept busy treating and evacuating those cases requiring more than sundry dressings.

At that camp also, an epidemic of strangles spread throughout which prompted Commonwealth Serum Laboratories to further develop an adequate vaccine.

Casualty numbers at this camp further increased one Sunday afternoon when one thousand horses stampeded during the watering parade.

All feeding, tethering, grooming and exercising was carried out according to the manuals issued from the British War Ministry. When breast lines were not available a rope line pegged to the ground, to which were fastened the ropes from the head collars provided front restraint. A similar line at the rear holding ropes from leather pastern heel straps gave rear restraint. Any attempt to lie down was immediately thwarted by the night picket but despite this restraint some animals were clever enough to indulge in kicking fights.

Occasional parades at Long Bay Rifle Range had the intention of testing and improving any skill at rifle firing.

At camps, "Bell" tents left over from World War I, or showground hall board floors provided sleeping quarters. Hessian outers, into which one stuffed as much straw as possible at the filling point became a mattress. The usual ration of two blankets was sometimes a little inadequate e.g. during a camp at Camden when at the 6 am

watering parade horses had to be helped to drink by firstly breaking the ice on the watering trough.

Lighter moments included attendance at the Mobile Veterinary Sections Annual Ball held at the Paddington Town hall or taking part in Captain Whitehouse's in-line charge at full gallop across the paddocks at Holsworthy just prior to camp break up.

These Veterinary Sections were serving their purpose at that particular time, in as much as they filled the requirements of the immediate pre-war non mechanised military establishment, but perhaps more so, enabled the students to improve on and perfect what in many cases was a non-existent horsemanship.

THOMAS HAGGER: AN INDIAN ARMY VETERINARY SURGEON IN AUSTRALIA: John Fisher, Department of Economics, University of Newcastle.

This paper began as a correction to part of an earlier paper on 'Veterinary Surgeons in early New South Wales' (Fisher 1993b). Thomas Hagger was mentioned as one of three individuals listed as veterinary surgeons in a 'Hunter Valley Directory' compiled by Elizabeth Guilford (1987). He was also described as an employee of the Australian Agricultural (AA) Company at its Stroud headquarters.

Since then, Elizabeth Guilford has found evidence that this was not in fact the case. Thomas Hagger's appearance in the 1841 Census and thus in the Directory appear to have been fortuitous. Nevertheless, it is worth recounting what we know of Hagger, both because it illuminates an important aspect of the infant British veterinary profession and because it touches on at least two significant features of nineteenth-century Australian history.

Thomas Hagger was born in 1804 and graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 1828 (Youatt 1838:6, gives his name as Hagger but a document noted below confirms that the form used here throughout is correct). He was one of 25 College students to graduate

in the 1820s, who were then employed in the East India Company's Army (Smith: 1927:100). These were the years when the quality of teaching of graduates at the College was deteriorating (Smith 1976, Pattison 1984, Fisher 1993a), but it seems likely, as Sir Frederick Smith suggests, that those who, like Hagger, went to India, were the most able of the time. The evidence below suggests also that he was of higher social class than many if not most College graduates.

In 1838, according to Youatt (1838), Hagger was in Madras; according to the Indian Army Register, he was then attached to the 4th Light Cavalry and a member of the Governor's personal body guard (Pocock 1971). He was thus intimately acquainted with the troubled state of horse supply and maintenance in the Indian Army's cavalry and studs (Smith 1927:127), the problems of which were the cause of the East India Company employing so many Veterinary College graduates. Attempting to find a solution to these problems brought many of these veterinarians into professional contact with Australian horses and even to Australia at various times in the nineteenth century. Hagger was one such but his story differs from the others in at least one respect.

The story of the Walers, the Australian horses supplied to the Indian Army, has been vividly told in a fascinating book by Professor Yarwood (1989). The book makes constant reference to the Indian Army veterinarians who were called upon to exercise their professional judgement on the suitability of Australian horses. William Lindsay, (RVC graduate 1826), for example, was a member of the first major expedition backed by the East India Company, which arrived in New South Wales in 1834 (Yarwood 1989). However, Lindsay, along with most of the others, was a subordinate in such ventures, acting in his capacity as an army veterinarian. Hagger was not. Some details of both his two known visits to Australia remain unclear or unknown but what is certain is that, although he was involved in the horse trade, this involvement was in a private capacity. On his first visit too, he had other private matters to attend to.

The highlight of his first expedition was (presumably) his marriage. Miss Elizabeth Guilford has established, from the Gloucester parish records of the Anglican Church, that this took place on the 1st May, 1841, in Stroud at the headquarters of the Australian Agricultural (AA) Company. The marriage register records that the Reverend William M. Cowper, the chaplain to the AA Company, united, 'Thomas Hagger, widow (sic)' to 'Charlotte Elizabeth White, spinster', both being recorded as residing in Stroud.

Neither was in fact a permanent resident of Stroud. Charlotte, with her eldest brother, a cavalry officer in the Indian Army, was on a visit to her second brother, James Charles White. The same source which provides this information also states that Hagger was at Stroud seeking to procure horses for the Indian Army (Pocock 1971). This seems probable, although there is no other record relating to Hagger's mission. He does not appear in Cumpston's Shipping Lists and was not on one of the East India Company's official missions. What is clear is that the marriage was yet another example of the Australian/Indian connection which loomed so large in the new colony's early history. India had provided many basic necessities, including livestock, for the first settlement (Blainey 1968: 56-62). Many of the most substantial early settlers had been army officers or other employees of the East India Company, including some of the characters mentioned below.

The events leading up to the marriage belong in the realms of romance. All that is known is that Hagger was baptised, on the 9th April, before the marriage - suggesting that he was originally of a Nonconformist sect. However, the known links of both participants with India, and with the Indian Army cavalry in particular, suggests there may have been a prior acquaintance (although the family background of the Whites was actually in Ceylon). Whatever the case, for Hagger the marriage began or cemented a relationship of some significance, giving him an intimate connect with important figures in the AA Company and in Australian pastoralism as a whole. Among the witnesses to the marriage were J. Edward Ebsworth, the long standing Accountant and Assistant Commissioner on the AA

