

Biographic Sketch -Dr. Harry Colebourn V.S., B.V.Sc.,M.R.C.V.S., F.Z.S.,
C.A.V.C.

Date of Birth - April 12, 1887

Place of Birth - Birmingham, Warwickshire, England

Date of Death and Place - September 24, 1947 - Winnipeg.

Doctor Harry Colebourn came to Canada in 1905 when he was 18 years of age. He settled in Toronto initially and, in order to finance his university education, he worked in menial jobs such as selling fruit from door to door on the streets in Toronto and as a deckhand on commercial vessels plying the Great Lakes. In 1908, he enrolled at the Ontario Veterinary College located in Guelph. On the 25 of April, 1911, he received his degree as a Veterinary Surgeon and following his graduation, he returned to Dewsbury, England to re-~~unit~~e with his family. Following a short stay, he returned to Canada.

On July 3, 1911, he accepted a veterinary appointment with the Department of Agriculture, Health of Animals Branch in Winnipeg. In the same year he joined the 18th Mounted Rifles as a militia officer and then was seconded to the 34 Regiment of Cavalry, Fort Garry Horse, on May 15, 1912. He was one of the original officers of the Fort Garry Horse. When World War One broke out in August, 1914, he was already a trained officer and immediately offered his services to his country. Subsequently, he was given leave of absence from the Department of Agriculture and left Winnipeg on August 23, 1914, bound for Valcartier, Quebec. While enroute to Valcartier, he was attached to both the Fort Garry Horse and the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps. (C.A.V.C.)

On the 24th of August, the train stopped at White River where father purchased a small black female cub bear for the sum of \$20.00 from a hunter who had killed her mother. Shortly after this, father named his little cub, "Winnie" after the City of Winnipeg, his home town. On September 12, 1914, he was Taken On Strength of the Second Canadian Infantry Brigade Headquarters under the command of Lt. Colonel Arthur W. Currie who was later on to become Canada's leading general of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Father's six diaries he kept of the War show that on October 3, 1914, he and "Winnie" embarked from Gase Bay enroute for England aboard the S.S. Manitou along with four other liners heading for England. On October 17, they disembarked and left Devenport, England, for Salisbury Plains at 7:00 p.m. that morning. Winnie was to remain with him and a pet to the Second Canadian Infantry Brigade Headquarters while he remained in England. Both the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Fort Garry Horse regiments were part of the Second Canadian Infantry Brigade serving under the command of Lt. Colonel Currie. Winnie quickly became a pet to many of the soldiers and would follow them around like a tame dog in their off-duty hours at Salisbury Plains. There were numerous photos taken of her with the men and these photos often became a keep-sake for them to treasure.