

Alfred Lionel Rose OBE AM BVSc 1898-1980

Lionel Rose was born and educated in Sydney. He left school in 1916, joined the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) and served in France where he was wounded in action in 1917. He served again in World War II in Syria and New Guinea, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

When Rose returned from World War I in 1919, he entered the Faculty of Veterinary Science and graduated BVSc from the University of Sydney in 1924. He began his veterinary career as a Veterinary Officer in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture. As District Veterinary Officer for southern NSW from 1928 until the outbreak of World War II in 1939, he made significant contributions to knowledge of the distribution and control of several important diseases of livestock in the region, notably black disease in sheep, enterotoxaemia, blackleg in sheep and toxaemic jaundice.

At the conclusion of the war in the Pacific area, Rose was appointed Director of Animal Health in the Northern Territory, based at Alice Springs. He was instrumental in the establishment of a diagnostic and research laboratory at Alice Springs, which proved a valuable adjunct in diagnosis and control. Northern Territory cattle had for many years been regarded as the reservoir of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. Rose formulated a plan for its eradication. The plan was adopted by the Commonwealth and State governments and its outcome was successful; Australia is free from pleuropneumonia. He retired in 1958 but continued to live and work in the Northern Territory as a veterinary consultant to pastoral interests and to the Territory government.

Rose was a member of the Australian Veterinary Association for 60 years. The AVA honoured him with the award of the Gilruth Prize in 1961 and appointed him a Fellow in 1970. On the establishment of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, he was elected an Honorary Life Fellow.

Reference

Obituary *Aust Vet J* 1980;56: 396

RI Taylor
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