

Jack Arthur Mouchemore

Private (Pte) 94 Jack Arthur Mouchemore enlisted in the 37th Infantry Battalion in the 10th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division in Melbourne on 7 February 1916. He embarked overseas on 3 June and disembarked in Plymouth on 25 July, where he was admitted to the Military Hospital with rheumatism from 31 July – 2 September.

He rejoined the battalion and sailed to France on 22 November. He was slightly wounded (no details) at Armentieres on 29 December 1916 but did not require medical attention. He was admitted to the 4th Stationary Hospital at Arques with scabies from 5 January – 2 March 1917 and rejoined the unit on 6 March, where he was appointed Lance Corporal. He was further promoted to Corporal (Cpl) on 27 May.

The battalion moved north to Belgium in early June in preparation for the attack on Messines Ridge on 7 June. At 3.10 am, 19 massive mines detonated under the German lines and the allies attacked and captured the ground in what was considered a well-planned attack. The 37th Battalion alone suffered 402 casualties (71 killed) and Cpl Mouchemore was promoted to Lance Sergeant the next day, 8 June.

On 26 June he was promoted to Sergeant and on 22 July, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (2nd Lt), then proceeded on two weeks leave in Paris from 25 September – 7 October 1917.

The battalion's next action, an attack on the village of Passchendaele on 12 October 1917, was a disaster. The soldiers were subjected to German artillery fire while they waited then, once the attack commenced, were pinned by machine gun fire, and hindered by deep mud, so made no headway at all, at a cost to the 37th Battalion of another 250 casualties (71 killed).

Things quietened down at the conclusion of Third Ypres and the Australians used the next few months to recuperate and re-train. 2nd Lt Mouchemore was also promoted to Lieutenant (Lt) on 26 October and then enjoyed leave in England between 14 – 28 January 1918.

The scabies returned and he was hospitalised from 31 January – 20 February. Shortly after his return, on 24 March the 3rd Division rushed south to help stem the German advances on the Somme. While the main thrust of the German offensive had petered out by the time they arrived, and only minor skirmishes ensued, the battalion remained in the area for several months.

The 37th Battalion was Brigade reserve for the Amiens offensive on 8 August and played no active part. It did, however, take part in the unsuccessful attack on Proyart on 10 August, where another 103 casualties were sustained.

The front line kept moving east and from 28 – 31 August 1918 the battalion supported the 2nd Division's left flank in an action near Clery-sur-Somme, during which Lt Mouchemore sustained a gunshot wound to his left leg. He was evacuated to England where he was treated at the 3rd London General Hospital between 1 September – 26 November 1918. Not long afterwards, he embarked for Australia on 14 January 1919.

Lieutenant Jack Arthur Mouchemore disembarked in Melbourne on 27 February, where his commission in the AIF was formally terminated on 6 April 1919.

Name: Mouchemore, Jack Arthur	
Service Number	94
Date enlisted	7 February 1916
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	37 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	3 June 1916 HMAT A34 <i>Persic</i>
Previous military service or enlistment attempts?	Field Company Submarine Mines, Queenscliff, 1913
Stated age/DOB (if known)	22 years 6 months (4/8/1894)
Place of birth	Portsea, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Seaman (Melbourne Harbor Trust)
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Mouchemore, Mr Peter, father, 118 Farrell Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria
Permanent address in Australia	Port Melbourne, Victoria
Appearance	Fresh complexion, dark hair, hazel eyes, height – 5 feet 8 ½ inches, weight – 8 stone, 11 lbs, chest measurement – 33/35 inches
Final Rank	Lieutenant
Final Unit	37 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	30 August 1918 Clery sur Somme, France
Nature of wounds	Gunshot wound to left leg
Date and ship embarked for Australia	14 January 1919 HT <i>City of York</i>
Date discharged	6 April 1919
Nature of discharge	Appointment Terminated
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Listed on the Queenscliff Fire Brigade Honor Roll and The Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners Roll of Honour, Williamstown

