

Harold George Hewitson



Driver (Dvr) 14698 Harold George Hewitson enlisted in the Field Company Engineers reinforcements in Melbourne on 31 January 1916.

He embarked overseas on 11 July and disembarked in Plymouth on 9 September. During the voyage he was admitted to the ship's isolation hospital with venereal disease between 18 August – 3 September.

He joined the Engineer's Training Depot at Christchurch on 10 September then transferred to the Engineer Details at Brightlingsea on 12 March 1917.

He left England on 29 May and landed in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 6th Field Company Engineers, in the field near Bapaume, on 27 June 1917.

Each infantry brigade had its own field engineer unit which undertook a broad range of tasks, including preparation and construction of defensive positions and command posts, trench and dugout excavation, erection of barbed wire obstacles, road and bridge construction and maintenance and water supply.

Drv Hewitson was evacuated sick to the 58th Scottish General Hospital at St Omer with a severe bladder stone between 1 – 4 August, then transferred to England and admitted to the Midlands War Hospital at Napsbury from 5 August – 11 September 1917.

He was granted leave in England from 15 – 29 October, then reported to Weymouth Camp.

He became ill again and was hospitalised at the 1st Northern General Hospital in Newcastle between 12 October – 2 April 1918, diagnosed with cystitis and a bacterial infection in his bladder, and he embarked for return to Australia on 8 April.

Driver 14698 Harold George Hewitson disembarked in Melbourne on 26 May, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 22 August 1918.

Name: Hewitson, Harold George	
Service Number	14698
Date enlisted	31 January 1916
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Driver
Initial Unit	Field Company Engineers reinforcements
Date and ship embarked for overseas	11 July 1916 HMAT A44 <i>Vestalia</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	24 years 10 months
Place of birth	Sebastopol, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Builder
Religion	Wesleyan
Next of kin and address	Hewitson, Mr Jack, father, "Terminus", Point Lonsdale, Victoria
Permanent address	Point Lonsdale, Victoria
Appearance	Fresh complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 10 ½ inches, weight – 10 stone, 7 lbs, chest measurement – 36/39 inches
Final Rank	Driver
Final Unit	6 th Field Company Engineers
Theatres of war served in	France
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	8 April 1918 HMHS <i>Dunluce</i> & HT <i>Karoola</i>
Date discharged	22 August 1918
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (illness)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Died 7 February 1965. Also remembered on the Point Lonsdale War Memorial and Borough of Queenscliffe Roll of Honor.