

Leslie George Howsam

Private 5083 Leslie George Howsam enlisted in the 3rd Light Horse Brigade Train in Melbourne on 27 October 1914. They were responsible for the provision of all manner of supplies required to maintain a large, mounted unit in the field, including such things as food, water and ammunition for the men, and grain and fodder for the horses.

He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 30 December and Corporal (Cpl) on 25 January 1915, then embarked overseas on 2 February and disembarked in Egypt in early March.

When the light horse units went to Gallipoli as replacement infantry in late May 1915, the supply units mostly remained in Egypt, so Cpl Howsam didn't embark for Gallipoli until 9 July.

He served there for four months, then returned to Egypt where he was promoted to Staff Sergeant (S/Sgt) and transferred to the New Zealand & Australian Division Train at Heliopolis on 20 November 1915.

He returned to the 3rd Light Horse Brigade Train at Serapeum on 31 March 1916 and was promoted to Second Lieutenant at Romani on 31 August 1916, with the title of Requisitions Officer, then promoted to Lieutenant (Lt) on 2 January 1917.

On 12 August 1917, he was transferred and taken on strength of the Australian Mounted Division Train at Moascar. Not long after though, he was hospitalised at the 26th Stationary Hospital at Ismailia with diphtheria between 15 August – 9 September 1917.

He was then promoted to Captain (Capt) on 2 January 1918. By this stage of the war, due to the steady advances made by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, the allies' supply lines extended right across the harsh Sinai Peninsula and up into Palestine.

Capt Howsam spent two weeks at the Port Said Rest Camp between 2 – 16 July then, after the war had ended, he was granted leave in Egypt from 18 December – 9 January 1919.

Given the length of his war service since 1914, Capt Howsam was granted special leave prior to returning home. He sailed from Alexandria on 14 July and enjoyed three months' leave in England prior to his embarkation for Australia on 18 October.

Captain Leslie George Howsam disembarked in Melbourne in early December, where his Appointment as a Commissioned Officer in the AIF was terminated on 28 December 1919.

Name: Howsam, Leslie George	
Service Number	5083
Date enlisted	27 October 1914
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	3 rd Light Horse Brigade Train
Date and ship embarked for overseas	2 February 1915 HMAT A51 <i>Chilka</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	26 years 1 month (9/9/1888)
Place of birth	Queenscliff, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Clerk
Religion	Methodist
Next of kin and address	Howsam, Mr George, father, Hesse Street, Queenscliff, Victoria
Permanent address	Queenscliff, Victoria
Appearance	Florid complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 5 inches, weight – 11 stone, chest measurement – 34/36 inches
Final Rank	Captain
Final Unit	Australian Mounted Division Train
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, Sinai, Palestine
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	18 October 1919 HT <i>Morca</i>
Date discharged	28 December 1919
Nature of discharge	Appointment Terminated
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Died 19 January 1959. Also remembered on the Geelong College Roll of Honour and the Borough of Queenscliffe Roll of Honor.