

## **Vernon Thomas Ash**

Driver (Dvr) 7111 Vernon Thomas Ash enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Reserve Park in Melbourne on 11 June 1915. He embarked overseas on 26 August and disembarked in Egypt in mid-September, where he was transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Army Service Company on 23 October and detailed to look after the horses at ANZAC Headquarters at Maadi.

He contracted enteritis on 1 July 1916 and was hospitalised at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Stationary Hospital between 1 – 5 July, after which he was detached to the Anzac Mounted Division Service Company at Kantara from 15 July, and then to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Brigade supply section from 23 July – 17 August.

He sailed for England on 14 September and disembarked on 26 September, where he joined the Army Service Corps Training Depot at Parkhouse Camp. He was admitted to the Tidworth Military Hospital between 6 – 17 February 1917, but his service record is silent as to details. He remained at Parkhouse for the next five months then departed England on 16 July. He landed in France the next day, where he was initially re-allocated to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Supply Train on 27 August.

Dvr Ash was subsequently re-mustered as a Private (Pte) at his own request on 23 September 1917, the same day he was transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Supply Column in Belgium.

On 12 March 1918, he was taken on strength of the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Mechanical Transport Company in the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division, then granted leave in England from 13 March – 4 April. This group drove motor lorries to move supplies from the docks and railheads of France, where the state of the roads allowed.

On 14 April, Pte Ash was with a group drawing supplies from the Amiens railhead, when it came under a long range, German artillery bombardment, during which he sustained a shell concussion, one of three men wounded. He was treated at the 12<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station from 14 – 20 April then rejoined his unit two days later.

During the remainder of the war, the 5<sup>th</sup> Division participated in the allies' offensive from Amiens in August and was heavily involved right up to the final actions of the AIF on the Hindenburg Line in late September and early October 1918.

Pte Ash was granted leave to Paris between 22 March – 1 April 1919 then sailed for England on 21 April. He contracted venereal disease on 3 June and was subsequently hospitalised at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford from 11 June – 28 July, after which he embarked for Australia on 19 August.

Private 7111 Vernon Thomas Ash disembarked in Sydney on 9 October, then made his way to Melbourne where he was discharged from the AIF on 10 December 1919.

Name: Ash, Vernon Thomas	
Service Number	7111
Date enlisted	11 June 1915
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Reserve Park
Date and ship embarked for overseas	26 August 1915 HMAT A68 <i>Anchises</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	26 years 7 months
Place of birth	Leopold, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Poultry dealer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Ash, Mrs P, mother, 108 Richmond Terrace, Richmond, Victoria
Permanent address	Richmond, Victoria
Appearance	Fresh complexion, dark brown hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 3 inches, weight – 10 stone, 6 lbs, chest measurement – 34/36 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	5 <sup>th</sup> Australian Mechanical Transport Company
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	14 April 1918 Amiens, France
Nature of wounds	Shell concussion
Date and ship embarked for Australia	19 August 1919 HT <i>Ajana</i>
Date discharged	10 December 1919
Nature of discharge	Termination of Period of Enlistment
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Died 1937. Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll and Leopold War Memorial.