

Horace Robert Richardson

Driver (Dvr) 34219 Horace Robert Richardson enlisted in the Field Artillery (FA) Brigade reinforcements in Melbourne on 16 January 1917.

He embarked overseas on 10 May and disembarked in Plymouth on 20 July, where he joined the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery at Larkhill Camp.

After almost three months training, Dvr Richardson departed England on 12 October. He landed in France the next day, where he was subsequently taken on strength of the 12th Field Artillery Brigade in the 4th Australian Division at Reninghelst, Belgium on 17 October.

Dvr Richardson was posted to the Brigade's Ammunition Column and would have driven a team of two horses, as this was still the major form of transport at the time.

The brigade's wagon lines were bombed by German aircraft on 19 October (five men killed and four wounded) and again on 21 October, when two horses were killed, and one man and four horses wounded.

The wagon lines moved to La Clytte later that month when the 12th FA Brigade took over the front line positions of the 103rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery from 24 October and supported British infantry activity in the area.

During this period, Dvr Richardson was evacuated sick with influenza on 3 November. He was treated at the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance between 6 – 12 November and then the 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples from 12 – 19 November, after which he was transferred to England, where he was subsequently admitted to the Eastbourne Military Hospital between 19 November – 18 December 1917.

He was granted leave from 14 – 28 January 1918 and then reported for duty with No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott Camp, where he remained for the next eight months.

Between 31 October – 23 November, Dvr Richardson was treated for rheumatism at an unspecified clearing hospital then embarked for return to Australia on 9 December.

Driver 34219 Horace Robert Richardson disembarked in Melbourne on 1 February, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 24 February 1919.

Name: Richardson, Horace Robert	
Service Number	34219
Date enlisted	16 January 1917
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Driver
Initial Unit	Field Artillery Brigade reinforcements
Previous military service	Home Service (SN 48668)
Date and ship embarked for overseas	10 May 1917 HMAT A74 <i>Marathon</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	30 years 1 month
Place of birth	Leopold, Victoria
Marital status	Married
Occupation	Storeman
Religion	Methodist
Next of kin and address	Richardson, Mrs Ethel, wife, 65 Fyans Street, Chilwell, Victoria
Permanent address	65 Fyans Street, Chilwell, Victoria
Appearance	Medium complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 9 inches, weight – 8 stone, 12 lbs, chest measurement – 32/37 inches
Final Rank	Driver
Final Unit	12 th Field Artillery Brigade
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	9 December 1918 HT <i>Argyllshire</i>
Date discharged	24 February 1919
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (rheumatism)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Died 1988. Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Leopold War Memorial and Geelong & District Peace Memorial.