

Oliver Jesse Sadler

Driver (Dvr) 3445 Oliver Jesse Sadler enlisted in the 1st Australian Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC) in Geelong on 2 November 1914. He embarked overseas on 22 December and disembarked in Egypt in mid-January 1915.

He joined the 1st Division on Gallipoli on 30 April 1915 and remained there until they eventually evacuated the peninsula in late December.

He arrived back in Egypt on 25 January 1916, where he was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital in Cairo and treated for laryngitis between 28 January – 11 February, then again at the same hospital for tonsillitis between 29 February – 4 March.

The 1st DAC departed Egypt on 26 March and landed in Marseilles on 2 April, where they entrained north to le Havre to collect their horses, wagons and other equipment.

The column moved south to the Somme in readiness for the 1st Division's attack on Pozieres set for 23 July 1916 where, over the next eight days and nights, they continuously supplied ammunition to the field artillery batteries. This was quite a dangerous role as the German artillery regularly targeted the supply columns. The unit then remained in the Somme area throughout August – December.

Dvr Sadler again contracted laryngitis and was evacuated sick on 19 December. He was treated at several medical facilities in Rouen and eventually rejoined the column at Fricourt on 5 February 1917.

He was granted leave in England from 27 April – 14 May and returned to the column to find that the allies' attention had turned north to Belgium. In the lead up to the Third Battle of Ypres, the ammunition columns were kept busy supplying the field batteries with shells and they came under constant German artillery fire while doing so.

While working near Ouderdom, the column came under fire and Dvr Sadler was among several men who sustained gas wounds on 23 July 1917.

He was initially treated at the 47th Casualty Clearing Station from 24 July – 1 August, then at the 54th General Hospital at Wimereux until 8 August, when he was transferred to England and admitted to the Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley between 9 – 14 August.

After a further period of convalescence at Weymouth, he was still suffering with debility from the effects of the gas, and he embarked for return to Australia on 5 November 1917.

Driver 3445 Oliver Jesse Sadler disembarked in Melbourne on 31 December, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 18 March 1918.

Name: Sadler, Oliver Jesse	
Service Number	3445
Date enlisted	2 November 1914
Place enlisted	Geelong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Driver
Initial Unit	1 st Divisional Ammunition Column
Date and ship embarked for overseas	22 December 1914 HMAT A30 <i>Borda</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	20 years 3 months
Place of birth	Leopold, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Farm labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Sadler, Mr Owen, father, c/- Leopold PO, via Geelong, Victoria
Permanent address	Leopold via Geelong, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 8 inches, weight – 9 stone, 10 lbs, chest measurement – 35 inches
Final Rank	Driver
Final Unit	1 st Divisional Ammunition Column
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	23 July 1917 Ouderdom, Belgium
Nature of wounds	Gassed
Date and ship embarked for Australia	5 November 1917 HT <i>Themistocles</i>
Date discharged	18 March 1918
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (wounds)
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Died 1958. Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Leopold & District Honor Roll, Leopold War Memorial and the East Geelong Congregational Church & Sunday School Honor Roll.