Murray Lewis Peacock

Private (Pte) 2020 Murray Lewis Peacock enlisted in the 46th Infantry Battalion in Melbourne on 10 January 1916. He embarked overseas on 5 June and disembarked in Egypt on 6 July.

He re-embarked on 12 July and landed in England on 23 July, where he joined the 12th (Brigade) Training Battalion in Wiltshire.

He left England on 16 September and landed in France the next day. He was initially attached to the 4th Division Base Depot at Etaples, then later transferred and taken on strength of the 59th Infantry Battalion near Gueudecourt on 27 November 1916.

In early 1917, it was discovered that Pte Peacock suffered from malformed toes on both feet (how this had been missed in the previous 12 months is anyone's guess) and was therefore unfit for frontline military service. He was referred to various medical facilities between 20 January – 2 April 1917, then transferred to the 2nd Anzac Corps Salvage Company on 3 April.

Salvage companies were responsible for recovering all forms of equipment from the battlefield and played a crucial role in supporting the war effort by repurposing valuable materials, arms and ammunition.

After seven months' service with this unit, Pte Peacock was granted leave in England from 14 – 27 November 1917. In early 1918, he contracted scabies and was hospitalised at the 39th General Hospital at le Havre between 2 – 11 February.

On 12 March 1918, he was transferred and taken on strength of the newly formed 3rd Australian Mechanical Transport Company in the 3rd Australian Division at Desvres.

The nature of the work involved the collection, transportation, and delivery of all manner of supplies to the forward areas, including ammunition and stores, at times under enemy artillery fire, and continued right up until the end of the war.

After the war had ended, Pte Peacock was granted leave in England between 17 November – 2 December 1918, then returned to France.

He was subsequently identified for early repatriation home, and left France for the last time on 30 December, then embarked for return to Australia on 7 February 1919.

Private 2020 Murray Lewis Peacock disembarked in Melbourne on 31 March, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 8 May 1919.

Name: Peacock, Murray Lewis	
Service Number	2020
Date enlisted	10 January 1916
Place enlisted	Domain, Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	46th Infantry Battalion
Previous military service	Senior cadets
Date and ship embarked for overseas	5 June 1916 HMAT A30 *Borda*
Stated age/DOB (if known)	18 years 5 months
Place of birth	Koetong, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Peacock, Mr Henry, father, Mimosa Road, Glen Huntly, Victoria
Permanent address	Glen Huntly, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 8 inches, weight – 12 stone, chest measurement – 36 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	3rd Australian Mechanical Transport Company
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	7 February 1919 HT *Lancashire*
Date discharged	8 May 1919
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (malformed toes/feet)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Brother of Henry and Walter Peacock. Father was manager of Holden's Coffee Palace, St Leonards in 1915. Died 26 November 1986. Remembered on the St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll.