

Arthur Thomas (Con) Wright



Private (Pte) 1501 Arthur Thomas Wright enlisted in the 301st Mechanical Transport Company in Melbourne on 26 October 1914 and embarked for Egypt on 22 December. While enroute, the ship was diverted to England, where they disembarked on 15 February 1915.

They left England on 12 July and disembarked at Rouen on 15 July, becoming one of the first Australian units to serve in France, predating the arrival of the bulk of the AIF by eight months. They drove north to Steenvorde, where they were redesignated as 17th Division Ammunition Sub Park and operated under the command of the British 17th Division.

Pte Wright was promoted to Driver (Dvr) on 28 August and then granted leave in France from 10 – 17 April 1916, around the time the unit was renamed 1st Division Ammunition Sub Park, and its command reverted to the recently arrived 1st Australian Division.

The year 1917 was an eventful one for Dvr Wright, who was treated at several medical facilities for various ailments, including a foot abscess (9 – 16 January), middle ear infection (16 February – 5 March) and venereal disease (6 September – 30 October). He was also granted additional leave in France between 19 – 29 June and charged with being drunk while driving a motor lorry on 3 September, for which he was docked 21 days' pay.

Dvr Wright was given furlough in England from 6 – 21 February 1918 and, three weeks after his return to France, the unit was renamed 1st Australian Mechanical Transport Company and became part of the 1st Division Supply Column on 12 March.

He departed France for the final time on 2 November and landed in England the next day, where he embarked for return to Australia (on 1914 leave) on 3 December 1918.

Driver 1501 Arthur Thomas Wright disembarked in Melbourne on 27 January, where he was discharged from the AIF on 28 March 1919.

Name: Wright, Arthur Thomas (Con)	
Service Number	1501
Date enlisted	26 October 1914
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	301 st Mechanical Transport Company
Date and ship embarked for overseas	22 December 1914 HMAT A40 <i>Ceramic</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	27 years 1 month
Place of birth	Maffra, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Holden, Mrs Frances, mother, St Leonards, Victoria
Permanent address	St Leonards, Victoria
Appearance	Fresh complexion, light brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 8 inches, weight – 11 stone, chest measurement – 36/38 inches
Final Rank	Driver
Final Unit	1 st Australian Mechanical Transport Company
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	3 December 1918 HT <i>Port Hacking</i>
Date discharged	28 March 1919
Nature of discharge	Termination of Period of Enlistment
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Brother of George Wright. Died 26 August 1965. Remembered on the St Leonards Honor Roll, St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll, Portarlington Honor Roll and Portarlington War Memorial.