

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCES STATUS

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OPEN

"
Hororata"

Sailed from Sydney, 14th. June, 1917.

Arrived at Liverpool, - Aug, 1917.

HORORATA L'pool 26.8.17

T.—106.

REPORT OF THE MILITARY COMMANDING OFFICER
ON THE
DISEMBARKATION OF TROOPS
(VOYAGE REPORT)

From the Hired Ship HORORATA, A 20

On its voyage from SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA to ENGLAND (LIVERPOOL & PLYMOUTH).

This report is to be filled up and signed by each Military Commanding Officer when he himself disembarks, and will be rendered as follows:—

- (1) One copy to be retained for reference.
- (2) One copy to the Master of the Ship.
- (3) One copy to the Disembarking Staff Officer for transmission to the Secretary, War Office.
- (4) One copy to the Australian Naval Transport Officer, Egypt.
- (5) Additional in the case of disembarkations at Aden and ports in India or Burmah, to the Disembarking Staff Officer:—
 - One copy for transmission for the Quartermaster-General in India.
 - One copy for transmission to the General Officer Commanding at the Port of Disembarkation.

NOTE.—No report need be rendered unless more than 50 Troops have been embarked.

If more than ten horses or mules be carried, the Commanding Officer will make a full report on their conveyance, and attach it to the Voyage Report, together with any separate remarks of the Veterinary Officer on board. If a Remount Officer proceed, his report will be similarly dealt with. The following points should be touched upon in such reports, viz.:—(a) Horse fittings, type of; (b) Drainage; (c) Ventilation; (d) Water; (e) Forage; (f) Number of horses embarked; (g) Casualties during the voyage; (h) Any prevalent disease.

[Should there be a Naval Transport Officer on board the Ship, the Reports are to be first handed to him for his remarks.]

SUBJECT	REPORT
1st. What Troops are embarked, viz.:—	
Regiment or Corps.....	Miscellaneous Reinforcements.
Number of Officers.....	35 (including 1 Y.M.C.A. Representative.
" Ladies.....	Nil.
" Officers' Children.....	Nil.
" Warrant Officers.....	Nil.
" " " Wives.....	Nil.
" " " Children.....	Nil.
" Men (including Male Servants).....	1710 at Sydney plus 1 at Durban who was
" Women (including Female Servants).....	Nil. disembarked Cape Town.
" Soldiers' Children.....	Nil.
" Horses or Mules.....	Nil.
2nd. What portion of them have now dis- embarked, viz.:—	
Regiment or Corps.....	
Number of Officers.....	35 (including 1 Y.M.C.A. Representative.
" Ladies.....	Nil.
" Officers' Children.....	Nil.
" Warrant Officers.....	Nil.
" " " Wives.....	Nil.
" " " Children.....	Nil.
" Men (including Male Servants).....	1649 (9 Disembarked Durban; 5 deaths at
" Women (including Female Servants).....	Nil. Sea; 48 disembarked Cape Town (one
" Soldiers' Children.....	Nil. (of whom died) 1 disembarked Sierra
" Horses or Mules.....	Nil. Leone.)

Sgt Russell
29/8/17

SUBJECT		REPORT		
3rd.	Port.....	Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.		
Embarkation	Date of Embarkation...	14/6/17.		
	Date of Sailing.....	14/6/17.		
Arrival at and Sailing from other Ports	Port.....	Durban.	Cape Town	Sierra Leone
	Date of Arrival.....	9/7/17.	15/7/17.	9/8/17.
	Date of Sailing.....	12/7/17.	27/7/17.	12/8/17.
Disembarkation	Port.....	Plymouth. Liverpool.		
	Date.....	/8/1917.		
Number of days on the voyage				
4th. Has there been any unnecessary delay in making the passage ?		No.		
5th. Has the Ship been properly fitted? and kept in a clean state ?		Yes. Yes.		
6th. Has the Master discharged his duty to the troops in a proper and satisfactory man- ner ; and afforded every care and attention to the Women and Children on board ?		Yes.		
7th. Have the conditions of the Charter- party been carried out ?		Yes.		
(NOTE.—The Officer commanding the Troops is authorised to apply to the Master for a perusal of the Form of Charter-party, as well as of the Regu- lations for H.M. Transport Service, whenever he may require them.)				
8th. Has the Officers' Mess been properly kept, and satisfactorily provided under the established Regulations ?		Yes.		
9th. Has there been any cause of complaint of the Provisions, or Medical Comforts, either as regards quantity or quality, or any inatten- tion in their issue ?		No.		
10th. Has the distilling apparatus been in operation during the voyage ; has it worked well ; and have the Troops been properly supplied with good water ?		Yes.		
11th. Has fresh bread, of good quality, been baked and issued daily to the troops, Women and Children ?		Yes.		
12th. Was the Cooking apparatus provided for the Troops sufficient ?		Yes.		

SUBJECT	REPORT
13th. Has any sickness been prevalent among the Troops, or other persons on board, and if so, to what cause can it be attributed?	Yes. Influenza attributable to bad weather. Mumps attributable to infection from Tasmania. Cerebro Spinal Meningitis attributable to carriers believed to have been embarked in Tasmania.
14th. Have the regulations interdicting smoking below been attended to?	Yes.
15th. Name and Address of owner of the Ship	N.Z. Shipping Coy. 138 Leadenhall St. London, E.C.
Name and Address of Broker of the Ship	J.B. Westray and Coy. 138 Leadenhall St. London, E.C.
Name of Master of the Ship.	Lieut-Commander A.H. Ryley, R.N.R.

GENERAL REMARKS (IF ANY) OF THE MILITARY COMMANDING OFFICER

The Master of the Ship and his officers have continuously devoted themselves to promote the welfare, comfort and enjoyment of all ranks.

Seen

A. R. Ryley
Lieut-Col.
O. C. TROOPS, A 20.

Seen
[Signature]

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29/8/17
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AGMC
29/11/17

REPORT

SUBJECT

Yes. Influenza attributable to bad weather. Mumps attributable to infection from Teamania. Cerebro Spinal Meningitis attributable to carriers believed to have been embarked in Teamania.

13th. Has any sickness been prevalent among the Troops or other persons on board and if so what cause can it be attributed to?

Yes.

14th. Have the regulations regarding smoking below been attended to?

15th. Name and Address of owner of the Ship

Name and Address of Broker of the Ship

N.B. Shipping Coy. 138 Leadenhall St. London, E.C. 3.
J.B. Westray and Coy. 138 Leadenhall St. London, E.C. 3.

N.B.—The remarks are intended to be confined to the general arrangements of the service. Comments of a personal nature, if necessary, should be made the subject of separate and special communications.

Dated at

Liverpool

this

26th

day of

August 1917

Signed

A. H. P. Smith

Officer Commanding the Troops on board.

GENERAL REMARKS OF THE NAVAL TRANSPORT OFFICER OR OF THE MASTER OF THE SHIP IF THERE BE NO NAVAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ON BOARD.

The conduct of the troops has been excellent and a high standard of discipline maintained throughout the voyage.

The troop decks have been kept scrupulously clean, and to my entire satisfaction.

A. H. P. Smith

Naval Transport Officer or Master.

N.B.—The remarks are intended to be confined to the general arrangements of the service. Comments of a personal nature, if necessary, should be made the subject of separate and special communications.

Honorata

L'pool

26. 8. 17

6/D4:

Copies

H.M.A.T. A. 20 - "HORORATA".

UNIT	EMBARKED		Died at Sea.	DISEMBARKED.					Sick.
	Australia	Durban.		Capetown	Durban	Sierra Leone	Liverpool.		
2nd Battalion.	2	150.		7 $\frac{1}{6} \%$	2 $\frac{1x}{1\%}$		2	1141	
9th "	2	150.		2 %			2	148	
12th "	2	148.		7 %	3 $\frac{2x}{1\%}$		2	138	
25th "	2	150.		3 %			2	147	
26th "	2	150.	1	7 %			2	142	
40th "	2	147.	1	9 %	2 $\frac{1x}{1\%}$		2	135	
41st "	2	150.	1	3 %	1 x		2	145	
42nd "	2	149.		2 %			2	147	
31st "	2	148.	1			1 %	2	146	
4th Pioneers.	2	150.		1 %			2	149	
15th Battalion.	2	149.		3 %	1 x		2	145	
A. A. M. C.	-	48.	1	3 %			-	44	
1st Cyclists.	-	19.		1 %			-	18	
Medical Offrs.	6	-.					6	-	
S/Sergt. Dispenser	-	1.					-	1	
Dental Dets.	1	1.					1	1	
O.C. Troop.	1	-.					1	-	
Adjutant	1	-.					1	-	
Chaplains	3	-.					3	-	
Y.M.C.A. Rep.	1	-.					1	-	
Stragglers.	-	-.	1 $\frac{1}{2} \%$	1 $\frac{1}{2} \%$			-	-	
TOTAL.	35	1710.	1	5	49	9	1	35 1647.	

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A 20 - "Hororata"

Boarding Papers only

8 gen.

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46 mumps

TRAINS.

UNIT.	EMBARKED.				Died at sea.	DISEMBARKED.				SICK.
	Australia	SEABOARD	CAPE TOWN	DURBAN		SIGARA LEONE	PLYMOUTH.			
2nd. Battn.	2	150.				7 ¹¹ / ₁₀	2 ¹¹ / ₁₀		2	141
9th. Battn.	2	150.				8 ² / ₁₀			2	148
12th. Battn.	2	148.				8 ⁹ / ₁₀	3 ² / ₁₀		2	138
25th. Battn.	2	150.				* ³ / ₁₀			2	147
26th. Battn.	2	150.				7 ⁰ / ₁₀			2	142
40th. Battn.	2	147.				1 ⁹ / ₁₀	2 ¹¹ / ₁₀		2	135
41st. Battn.	2	150.				1 ³ / ₁₀	1 ¹ / ₁₀		2	145
42nd. Battn.	2	149.				2 ⁰ / ₁₀			2	147
31st. Battn.	2	148.				1		1 ⁰ / ₁₀	2	146
4th. Pioneers.	2	150.				1 ⁰ / ₁₀			2	149
15th. Battn.	2	149.				3 ⁰ / ₁₀	1 ¹ / ₁₀		2	145
A. A. M. C.	-	48.				1 ³ / ₁₀			-	44
1st. Cyclists.	-	19.				1 ⁰ / ₁₀			-	18
Medical Offrs.	6	--							6	-
Staff Sergt.	-	1.							-	1
Dispenser.	-	1.							1	1
Dental Dets.	1	1.							1	-
O.C. Troops.	1	--							1	-
Adjutant.	1	--							1	-
Chaplains.	3	--							3	-
Y.M.C.A. Rep.	1	--							1	-
Stragglers.	-	--	1 ¹ / ₁₀			1 ⁷ / ₁₀			-	-
Total.	35	1710.	1	-	-	5	9	1	35	1647

1st. Train (No.). AMESBURY.

EXETER: Queen Street.

- 2nd. Battalion.
- 9th. Battalion.
- 12th. Battalion.
- 25th. Battalion.

2nd. Train (No.). AMESBURY.

EXETER: Queen Street.

- 26th. Battalion.
- 40th. Battalion.
- 41st. Battalion.
- 42nd. Battalion.

3rd. Train (No.). DINTON, CODFORD & TIDWORTH.

EXETER:

- 31st. Battalion. (Dinton).
- 4th. Pioneer Battalion. (Dinton).
- 15th. Battalion. (Codford).
- A. A. M. C. (Tidworth).
- 1st. Cyclist Battalion. (Tidw).
- Medical Officers. (Tidworth).
- Staff Sergt. Dispr. (Tidworth).
- Dental Details. (Tidworth).
- Stragglers. do

Proceeding LONDON per passenger service:-

- Officer Commanding Troops.
- Adjutant.
- Chaplains.
- Y.M.C.A. Representative.
- Escort Canteen Monies.

BLANKETS:

RATIONS:

STRAGGLERS
ATTACHED TO:

ESCORT CANTEEN
MONIES:

RED CROSS &
OTHER CARGO:

BLANK DISCHARGE
FORMS:

REMAINING ON
BOARD:

* Janssen
+ despatch.
o to hospital.

S E C R E T.

121/Overseas/4119(S.R.1A).

Transport A. 20 "HORORATA" left Sydney 14th. June 1917 for the United Kingdom via the Cape. Due Devonport about 23rd. ~~July~~, 1917.

ORDER OF DISSEMBARKATION AND ENTRAINMENT OF TROOPS.

Three (3) Trains.

Train.	Index No.	U N I T.	Officers.	Other ranks.	Station.
1st.	1.	2nd. Battalion.	2	150.	Amesbury.
	2.	9th. Battalion.	2	150.	Amesbury.
	3.	12th. Battalion.	2	148.	Amesbury.
	4.	25th. Battalion.	2	150.	Amesbury.
			8	598.	
2nd.	5.	26th. Battalion.	2	150.	Amesbury.
	6.	40th. Battalion.	2	147.	Amesbury.
	7.	41st. Battalion.	2	150.	Amesbury.
	8.	42nd. Battalion.	2	149.	Amesbury.
			8	596.	
3rd.	9.	31st. Battalion.	2	148.	Dinton.
	10.	4th. Pioneer Battalion.	2	150.	Dinton.
	11.	15th. Battalion.	2	149.	Codford.
	12.	A. A. M. C.	-	48.	Tidworth.
	13.	1st. Cyclist Battalion.	-	19.	Tidworth.
	14.	Medical Officers.	6	-	Tidworth.
	15.	Staff Sergt. Dispenser.	-	1.	Tidworth.
	16.	Dental Details.	1	1.	Tidworth.
			13	516.	

Proceeding LONDON per passenger service:-

17.	Officer Commanding Troops.	1	--
18.	Adjutant.	1	--
19.	Chaplains.	3	--
20.	Y.M.C.A. Representative.	1	--
		6	--

TOTAL: Officers 35: Other ranks 1710:

The above figures are only approximate and are subject to amendment.

Flymouth.
11/8/1917.

Embarkation Staff Officer, A.I.F.
for Embarkation Commandant.

Copy to:- Embarkation Commandant. Adm. H.Q., A.I.F., LONDON.
H.Q., A.I.F. Depots in U.K., Tidworth. Mr. M. Blewett, GWR, Devonport.
D.A.D.R.T. do do do Mr. H. Tucker, GWR, Millbay.
Mr. A. G. Hitchcock, GWR, Millbay. Mr. J. Nicholas, GWR Dock Office.

F I N A L R E P O R T

by
Lieutenant Colonel A. J. BENNETT, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., O.C. Troops.

1 & 2 vide para 22.

26th August, 1917.

1. Health en route. Sea sickness and influenza were prevalent during the first four (4) weeks, and mumps during the last four (4) weeks. There was a serious occurrence of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, with five (5) deaths, as reported. The health of the majority of the troops has been good. Report of S.M.O. attached.
2. Training. The limited facilities for training were fully utilised, but only elementary work was attempted. Lectures were regularly given to Officers, N.C.Os and men.
3. Discipline. Aboard ship the discipline has been very good. At ports of call there have been no complaints from Military or Civil authorities. At Capetown about twenty (20) men misconducted themselves after obtaining vile liquor surreptitiously. They were suitably punished.
4. Personnel. For particulars, vide B213, 25/8/17.
Quite 10% of the troops should never have been accepted for service on account of physical unfitness arising from age and chronic illness, and deficient development. 13 Men were disembarked at Capetown, for return to Australia as hopelessly unfit, and a Medical re-examination by Board of Reinforcements in England is recommended.
5. Casualties. 6 deaths ----- 5 at sea and 1 at Capetown.
6 A.W.L. at Durban.
1 A.W.L. at Capetown.
3 sick landed at Durban.
x 48 sick landed at Capetown, including 1 died at Capetown.
1 sick landed at Freetown, Sierra Leone.
x Includes 7 carriers
6. Messing. The food and supplies have been ample and of good quality. The cooking and distribution have been satisfactory. Foods, etc.
7. Pay. Pay to the amount of £3778 was advanced by the A.D. Pay Command, 2nd. Military District, and £2000 Paymaster, Capetown, and accounted for per receipts on acquittance rolls.
8. Losses or deficiencies of stores, etc. Adjustment not complete at time of disembarkation
9. Number of horses-
(a) embarked. Nil.
(b) disembarked. Nil.
10. General health of horses, etc. Nil.
11. Quality and quantity of forage. Nil.
12. Water supply for horses. Nil
13. Censorship. About 20,000 letters and cards were censored and posted in accordance with regulations.
14. Ship's arrangements, including accommodation for personnel. Troop deck accommodation is particularly good, but provision for isolation of sections thereof is desirable. The sleeping and saloon accommodation for Officers is of a makeshift character, and far below first class standard.

(2).

15. Sanitation and Sanitary accommodation. These are sufficient, and have been kept in perfect order.
16. Co-ordination of responsibility with Master of vessel. Complete and working smoothly.
17. Amusements, sports, etc. Sports, competitions, and concerts, have been regularly conducted, and greatly enjoyed.
18. Religious Services, etc. Church Parades have been regularly held and fully attended. Special services and classes have been conducted by the respective Chaplains.
The Y.M.C.A. representative has been in charge of Red Cross, and has own Sports and amusements supplies.
19. Weather conditions during voyage. The weather from Sydney to Durban was bad; from Durban to Capetown, indifferent; the remainder of the voyage, very good.

20. RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That provision for isolation on sections of the troop deck be provided by means of moveable bulkheads.
2. That it be a standing order that no smoking take place in latrines to prevent draining pipes being blocked with matches.
3. That Officers' bunks be fitted with spring mattresses in lieu of present stiff planks.
That the Officers' Saloons, (upper and lower) and the Sergeants' Mess, and all Officers' sleeping quarters, be fully supplied with electric fans.
4. That a supply of new life belts be made for the ship.

21. GENERAL REMARKS.

The Commander of the Ship, and his Officers, have advanced the comfort and welfare, and enjoyment of the troops in every possible way.

A. J. Bennett

Lieutenant Colonel.
O.C. Troops A 20.

Para 22.

Left Sydney 14.6.17 Arrived Durban 9.7.17.
Left Durban 12.7.17 Arrived Cape Town 15.7.17.
Left Cape Town 27.7.17 Arrived Sierra Leone 9.8.17.
Left Sierra Leone 12.8.17 Arrived Plymouth. 26.8.17.

A. J. Bennett

Lieut. Colonel.
O.C. Troops. A20.

Seen

Tf
led
Edl
30/1/17

Return to T. H. B.

To O.C. Troops,
From S.M.O. H.M.A.T. Hororata.

H.M.A.T. HORORATA A 20.
24.8.1917.

Sick Parades have been large. Cerebro Spinal Meningitis developed on 2.7.17 and proved to be of a fulminating type, the first two cases dying within 24 hours of admission to hospital.

Systematic spraying with Chloramine solution and gargling of all troops was immediately carried out; cases and suspicious cases were isolated and treated.

Three deaths occurred from meningitis before reaching Durban and three cases were landed there.

On arrival at Cape Town nasopharyngeal swabbings were taken of suspicious cases and contacts. Six cases and seven carriers were removed ashore. One of the cases dying there.

A case of Meningitis occurred after leaving Cape Town and was landed at Freetown 10.8.17. After leaving Freetown two cases occurred one on the 20.8.17 who is still on board, and one on the 23.8.17, who died on 24.8.17.

Owing to Meningitis 22 general cases, who were in ship's hospital were landed by order of S.M.O. Cape Town to clear ship's hospital.

Thirteen men were landed at Cape Town some pneumonia cases etc for hospital treatment, and the others for Return to Australia as Medically Unfit in accordance with finding of Medical Board held by order of O.C. Troops.

The following deaths occurred :-

30.6.17	No. 6908 NEILSEN, Harry Alexander, 20/26,	Cardiac Failure
3.7.17	No. 3396 STOKES, John Joseph, 8/40,	Meningitis.
5.7.17	No. 17234 WARNOCK, Thomas, A.M.C.	do.
8.7.17	No. 5049 KING, William Hugh, 14/31	do
20.7.17	No. 7482 HOWES, Alfred Francis Sidney, 25/2	do
		(died ashore)
24.8.17	No. 3267 BATES, William Henry, 8/41	Meningitis.

An epidemic of Parotitis occurred after leaving Cape Town, 195 cases being admitted to Hospital, a number suffering from Orchitis.

It has been impossible to isolate Contacts or even cases owing to the large number of cases admitted, and the lack of facilities for shutting off sections of the troop deck which is continuous. Two hunx

215 Inoculations, 98 Vaccinations were done during the voyage.

56 men were treated for Venereal Disease; a prophylactic station was established at every port, over 400 men applying for treatment. Venereal detection parades were held at intervals during the voyage.

On daily food inspection everything was found satisfactory.

Sanitation and Sanitary accommodation on board has been good.

Hospital accommodation had to be supplemented with awnings making improvised hospitals.

Medical stores had to be requisitioned at Cape Town to replace goods damaged, owing to rough weather. Surplus stores were disposed of in accordance with orders.

Red Cross linen etc used on board was repacked according to orders.

Electric Steriliser supplied at Sydney was out of repair and has been useless during the voyage.

Certain Dental supplies were requisitioned for and others bought by O.C. Troops at Cape Town, and Dental Officer has been able to treat a number of cases.

Lectures were given by Medical Officers to A.M.C. Unit during the voyage.

The following records are attached :-

Copies of Requisitions for Medical Stores.

List of Men becoming Non-effective.

Summary of Sick Parades, Hospital, and Venereal Cases.

Accounts for Hospital washing done at Durban and Cape Town.

Report of Dental Officer.

List of Surplus Medical Stores.

J. M. A. L. Captain.
Senior Medical Officer, A.20
A.M.C.