

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

"Itria"

Sailed from Pinkembah Ald. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1915.

Arrived at Suez, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1915.



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

From the Hired Ship

*A 53 "Thia"*

On its voyage from

*Brisbane*

to

*Suez 24.3.15*

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) Two copies to the Disembarking Staff Officer for transmission to the Secretary, War Office.
  - (4) 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 his 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:—	<i>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division</i>
Regiment or Corps .....	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Regt: 1<sup>st</sup> L. H. Bde. 2 Officers</i>
Number of Officers.....	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Regt: 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 "</i>
" <del>Ladies</del> .....	<i>9<sup>th</sup> Battr: 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Bde. 1 "</i>
" <del>Officers' Children</del> .....	<i>A A M C. 1 "</i>
" <del>Warrant Officers</del> .....	<i>A A V C 1 "</i>
" " " <del>Wives</del> .....	
" " " <del>Children</del> .....	
" Men (including Male Servants) .....	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Regt: 1<sup>st</sup> L. H. Bde. 104 Men</i>
" <del>Women (including Female Servants)</del> .....	<i>5<sup>th</sup> " 2<sup>nd</sup> " 104 "</i>
" <del>Soldiers' Children</del> .....	<i>A A M C. 4 "</i>
" <del>Horses or Mules</del> .....	<i>Unk. hundred fifty (250)</i>
2nd. What portion of them have now dis-embarked, viz:—	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division</i>
Regiment or Corps.....	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> L. H. Regt: 2 Officers</i>
Number of Officers.....	<i>5<sup>th</sup> " 2 "</i>
" <del>Ladies</del> .....	<i>9<sup>th</sup> Inf. Battr 1 "</i>
" <del>Officers' Children</del> .....	<i>A A M C. 1 "</i>
" <del>Warrant Officers</del> .....	<i>A A V C 1 "</i>
" " " <del>Wives</del> .....	
" " " <del>Children</del> .....	
" Men (including Male Servants).....	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> L. H. 104 Men (Incl: 1 at Colombo)</i>
" <del>Women (including Female Servants)</del> .....	<i>5<sup>th</sup> L. H. 104 Men ( " 1 " )</i>
" <del>Soldiers' Children</del> .....	<i>A A M C 4 Men</i>
" <del>Horses or Mules</del> .....	



SUBJECT		REPORT
3rd.	Port.....	<u>Pinkembah. Queensland</u>
Embarkation	Date of Embarkation..	<u>9 2 1915</u>
	Date of Sailing.....	<u>10 2 1915</u>
Arrival at and Sailing from other Ports	Port.....	<u>Colombo.</u>
	Date of Arrival.....	<u>7 3 1915</u>
	Date of Sailing.....	<u>8 3 1915</u>
Disembarkation	Port.....	<u>Suez</u>
	Date.....	<u>24 3 1915</u>
Number of days on the voyage.....		<u>44</u>
4th. Has there been any unnecessary delay in making the passage?		<u>No</u>
5th. Has the Ship been properly fitted? and kept in a clean state?		<u>Yes</u>
6th. Has the Master discharged his duty to the Troops in a proper and satisfactory manner; and afforded every care and attention to the <del>Women and Children</del> on board?		<u>Yes</u>
7th. Have the conditions of the Charter-party been carried out?		<u>Yes</u>
(NOTE.—The Officer Commanding the Troops is authorized to apply to the Master for a perusal of the Form of Charter-party, as well as of the Regulations 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?		<u>Yes</u>
9th. Has there been any cause of complaint of the Provisions, or Medical Comforts, either as regards quantity or quality, or any inattention in their issue?		<u>No</u>
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?		<u>No distilling apparatus used A plentiful supply of fresh water always available</u>
11th. Has fresh bread, of good quality, been baked and issued daily to the Troops, Women and Children?		<u>Yes</u>
12th. Was the Cooking apparatus provided for the Troops sufficient?		<u>Yes</u>



# Report on Voyage of Transport A53 B.I.S.N. "Assintra"

Embarked at Pinkenba Brisbane ninety two (92) horses on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1916 Inst, and one hundred and fifty eight (158) on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst; making two hundred & fifty 250 in all; of which number forty (40) were heavy horses & two hundred and ten (210) light horses.

The Embarkation was greatly hampered by heavy torrenthial rain, which did the horses no little harm.

Arrived at Suez on March

The worst trouble experienced throughout the voyage was "Shingles" which made its appearance during the first few days. There occurred twenty rather severe cases and many of a mild type. The appearance of "shingles" was unavoidable as these horses came from a depôt where that disease was prevalent, & where isolation of the affected was impossible. From "Pneumonia" nine (9) horses died and seven (7) of these were carried in Nos four (4) & five (5) Tween decks, where ventilation was not good. One horse died from Colic caused by eating earth when being fed off the ground at Wilston Remount Depôt.

The fittings on Deck forward & below forward were good and all sufficient, as was the drainage in the same parts of the ship. In the after part of the ship below in No 5 Tween decks there was no passage left behind the horses & this caused great inconvenience in cleaning out the stalls. The ventilation aft in both Nos 4 & 5 between decks was insufficient and at times the air was very foul. To this I attribute the causation of five (5) deaths from "Pneumonia".

The drainage below aft in Nos 4 & 5 was very bad early in the voyage & has not been of the best at anytime. In No 5 between decks aft, there was leakage of a drain pipe from the Cook's Gally, which greatly upset horses on more than one occasion. In only one part of the vessel was it at all possible to exercise horses viz:- on deck forward. Had the horses been exercised they would have caused much better. Several horses were suffering from skin disease, Mange, of a mild type & Ring-worm when loaded, & this spread slightly despite all attempts to prevent same by plentiful & thorough use of disinfectants.

As Assistants I had detailed to me four keepers, one from each Reinforcement Unit :-



(2)

Assistants.

No 493	C. Stanley	3 <sup>rd</sup> Reinfo	2 <sup>nd</sup> A. L. H.
No 436	A. Riddell	2 <sup>nd</sup> " "	2 <sup>nd</sup> " " "
No 423	P. E. Kelly	2 <sup>nd</sup> " "	5 <sup>th</sup> " " "
No 755	W. Baker	3 <sup>rd</sup> " "	5 <sup>th</sup> " " "

These were all good horsemen, but had had no experience as "Dressers" prior to the voyage. They all showed great willingness to learn, & all worked in a most thorough and praiseworthy manner during the whole voyage.

I consider them each to be fully qualified to act as "Dressers" in any Veterinary Corps now, as they have had plenty of tuition, & plenty of practice, & have shown their worth by their work.

It is with pleasure I bring under notice the able manner, & the willing way in which the hoofers have worked throughout the whole voyage, & the great assistance they have been to me in the performance of my duty at all times.

J. M. Head Capt  
V. D.



Report on conveyance of horses on  
H.M.A. Transport A 53. India

The horse fittings on the upper decks  
and in Numbers 2, 3, & 4 between  
decks are satisfactory but it is  
considered that No 5 between decks  
would have been improved had  
a greater space behind the horse stalls  
been provided.

The scuppers in No 4  
between decks are too far forward  
and if the vessel is to continue  
tramping, additional scuppers should  
be provided in that hold.

The ventilation in No 5 hold was  
not always of the best.

The water & forage were  
satisfactory.

250 horses were embarked  
of which 10 died during the voyage  
(9 from pneumonia and 1 for colic)

Richard D. Smith  
M/3/15



# List of Casualties during the Voyage.

Name.	Unit.	No. & Rk.	Cause.	Date	Where.
McLeod. H.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Reinf. 2. Reg. 1 <sup>st</sup> LA Bde.	782. Private	Syphilis medically unfit	7 <sup>th</sup> March.	Colombo.
Knight. G.H.	2 <sup>nd</sup> " 5 <sup>th</sup> " 2 <sup>nd</sup> " "	724. "	medically unfit	7 <sup>th</sup> March.	Colombo.

These men were received at the Military Hospital at Colombo for treatment of Syphilis



List of Unexpended Forage.  
on Board N. M. A. T. Italia "A 53."

<u>Description.</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		
<u>Chaff.</u>	1361.	<u>Bags</u>	T C " "
<u>Bran.</u>	229.	"	42. 5 1 2.
<u>Oats</u>	330	"	T C " "
<u>Oatmeal</u>	1	"	16. 7 0 16.
<u>Linseed</u>	2.	"	T C " "
<u>Hay.</u>	10	"	21. 13. 0 14.
		approx.	T C " "
			2 0 0 0.
			T C " "
			82. 5. 2. 4.

Bales of Hay issued for Live Stock 13.

9 Bags of Bran. } condemned by Board as unfit for equine consumption.  
8 " " Chaff. }



Unexpended Veterinary Stores

8 Cases.

no 2 Hold

2 Hef Check nos 1 + 2. " 3 " Between Decks.



# List of Medical Stores

left over from  
Transport A 53.  
& taken off with troops

2 oz Galen Hydraz  
2 oz Hydrochloric Acid  
500 Pil. Col.  
1/2 lb. Glycine  
4 oz Turpentine  
6 lbs Lin. Camph. Meth  
1 1/2 lbs Lin. Saponis. Meth  
1 lb. Olive Oil.  
60 lbs Pulv. Amyli  
100 Horse hair ligatures  
200 Silk worm gut  
6 Spools surgeons gut  
2 Carbolised Silk Suture  
200 pot chlor.  
100 pot permang.  
2 lb Alum Sulph.  
1/2 oz Arg. nitrate  
1 1/2 lb Ung Zinc  
2 lb. Ungl Borac.  
200 pot iodide  
1/2 lb. soda Bicarb  
3/4 lb. Mag. Carb.  
100 Bis carb.  
5 lb mag Sulph.  
1/2 lb. Acid Borac  
200 zinc Sulph

Y. C. Evans  
M.D. Transport A 53  
Mar 24 1915



$\frac{1}{2}$  oz Iodiform  
 3 ll. Antiphlogistine  
 100 Mercuric Potassium Iodide  
 150 Conosive Sublimate  
 15 Quinine pills  
 50 Blands pills  
 50 Opium pills  
 25 Antipyrine pills  
 12 Veronal pills  
 12 Utopine pills  
 70 Calomel pills  
 100 Strych Sulph Tabs  
 95 Morph "  
 25 Atrophine Sulph.  
 25 Apromorphine "  
 20 Physostigmine Salicylate  
 90 Cocaine  
 6 Catheters  
 4 Throat brushes  
 1 eye dropper  
 2 tigranis enema  
 1 ear metal syringe  
 2 hypodermic syringes  
 13 needles for same  
 1 record Perum 10 c.c.  
 1 Stomach tube  
 1 Probang.

J.C. Powers.  
 Mo. Lemisport 1853  
 Mar 24 1855



- 3 rubber drainage Tubes
- 1 Sterilizer & Lamp complete
- 1 Primus Lamp
- 1 Needleholder
- 1 Tracheotomy Tube
- 1 Speculum nose & ear
- 60 Temperature Charts
- 6 Thermometers
- 1 Mouth gag masons
- 2 Forceps Clamp (large)
- 2 Sponge Forceps
- 2 Retractors
- 2 Forceps large tissue
- 1 Scissors pair straight
- 1 " " curved flat
- 3 " " dressing
- 2 Masks Chloroform
- 1 Stethoscope Binaural
- 8 Forceps Tooth
- 12 Forceps Spencer Wells
- 1 Aneurism Needle
- 2 doz Surgical Needles
- 1 Jaw Ferguson's
- 1 Elevator
- 1 Trophine  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch
- 2 Forceps dissecting

Y.C.C. Rooms  
M.O. Transport 1153  
Mar 24 1915



- 1 Forceps tongue
- 1 tongue Depressor
- 1 probe with eye
- 1 " large.
- 4 Scalpels in case
- 1 Bistoury Sharp
- 1 " Hunt
- 1 lancet Vaccination
- 2 drop bottles chloroform
- 1 urine Test box complete with tubes
- 2 feeding cups
- 1 Pet scales
- 1/2 gall. ethereal soap.
- 6 lb. linseed
- 2 minim measure glasses
- 2 2 oz do
- 2 10 oz "
- 6 oz Sandall wood oil
- 8 oz Spts. vinyl rect.
- 2 nail brushes
- 100 corks
- 1 large enamel funnel
- 1 ointment slab
- 18 ft tissue
- 10 ft macintosh sheet

J. C. Crocker  
M.O. Staughton 1883  
Mar 24<sup>th</sup> 1915



2 bed pans  
 2 urine bottles  
 5 enamel bowls  
 5 " jugs  
 2 " kidney bowls  
 3 " basins  
 1 gough  
 2 enamel buckets  
 2 Tin do  
 2 lb carbolic Acid  
 1 lb vin specac  
 1 lb Zinc Opü  
 4oz Zinc Card Co  
 78z Zinc Chlo et Morphine  
 3/4 lb Muz. An. Ins  
 3/4 lb. Muz. Expect  
 1 3/4 lb. Diarrhoea mixture  
 1/2 oz erg. menth. Dip  
 4 oz. Liquor Amych  
 10z Iodine Perchlor  
 2 lbs Chloroform  
 1/2 lb. Tinct of Iodine  
 2 lbs ether Pure  
 2 lbs Cotton wool  
 4 Surgeons gowns  
 1 + do aprons

J. C. Evans.  
 no. Mansfield St.  
 Mar 24<sup>th</sup> 1885



71 nests chip boxes  
48 nests pill boxes  
6 lb Plaster Paris  
4 lb vaseline  
20 plain absorbent gauze  
300 labels  
4 oz Rub zinc ox.  
20% Acetic Acid  
30% Nitric Acid  
15 deal boards

Y.C. Evans.  
M.D. Transcript A 53.  
Mar 24 1915.



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?	<u>No</u>
14th. Have the regulations interdicting smoking below been attended to?	<u>Yes</u>
15th. Name and Address of Owner of the Ship	<u>R. L. M. Coey</u> <u>9 Theogniston Ave</u> <u>London E C</u>
Name and Address of Broker of the Ship	<u>Mackinnon, Mackenzie.</u> <u>Bombay</u>
Name of Master of the Ship.	<u>J. J. Mahesh.</u>

GENERAL REMARKS (IF ANY) OF THE MILITARY COMMANDING OFFICER.

Health:

There were no casualties amongst the Troops during the voyage. Two men suffering from Syphilis were landed at Colombo.

Fittings:

An additional scupper is required under the Hammock bins on the Port Side, and Wind-scoops might with advantage be provided for the Troop-deck Ports.

The Wash-house accommodation is limited and the pipes leading from the troughs frequently became clogged.

A "Present Use" Baggage Room, with lock & key should be provided.

The Master and Officers of the vessel gave me every assistance and did everything possible to render the voyage successful as well as enjoyable to the Troops.



REPORT

SUBJECT

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 Suez this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 1915

Signed

*Richd H. Hatch*

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.

*Nil*

*W. Walsh*

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.