Boardman, Henry Edward

A West Australian railway employee killed while on military service for their country



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Way and Works
Designation:	Lineman

Rail employment notes: Born 6/9/1890. Joined WAGR 11/4/1913 aged 22 as Labourer, at Naraling. Transferred in same role to Northampton 23/6/13, Brunswick Junction 9/1/1914, Merredin 2/3/1914 and Dowerin 4/4/1914.
Appointed to Lineman, Geraldton 15/6/1914.

The WAGR had an extensive system of lines to maintain, as they built telegraph wires following every railway line for messages and safe-working, plus their own electric distribution in some built-up areas.

Granted leave to join AIF 17/8/1914 (Service No.754). Killed in action at Gallipoli 25/4/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	11th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	754
Date of death:	25 April 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Age:	24
Rank at time of death:	Private
Burial/memorialisation:	Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey

Henry Edward Boardman began his enlistment in Geraldton and completed the process at Blackboy Military Camp on 5 September 1914. He nominated his half-brother Ernest Hughes of Kalgoorlie as his Next of kin. He had no previous military experience and underwent training at Blackboy Camp. On completion of his basic training he was allocated the regimental number 754 of 11 Battalion.

The Battalion boarded HMAT *Ascanius* at Fremantle on 31 October 1914 but did not depart until 2 November 1914. *Ascanius* then joined the first convoy which had earlier departed from Albany with a substantial Naval escort to provide cover against the German Light Cruiser *Embden* which was thought to roaming the Indian Ocean. *Ascanius* later suffered minor damage in a collision with *Shropshire* and was required to enter Aden for repairs before proceeding up the Red Sea. Suez was reached on 5 December 1914 and the troops disembarked the following day and established camp at Mena with other elements of the 3rd Brigade. Training continued in Egypt until 2 March 1915 when the Battalion moved by rail to Alexandria, boarded HMT *Suffolk* and sailed for Mudros on Lemnos

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Island. There was a delay of 7 weeks while the troops practiced the use of scrambling nets and maintained fitness with route marches on the Island.

On 25 April 1915 the 11th Battalion as part of the 3rd Brigade landed at Anzac Cove and suffered considerable casualties. Private Boardman was reported as Missing in action at the landing but this was amended to Killed in action by a Court of Enquiry held at Flers, France on 10 April 1916. His remains were never located and he has no known grave but is remembered on the Lone Pine memorial at Gallipoli.

The Lone Pine Australian Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. In the foreground are individual grave markers. The walls running across the front of the memorial in the background are engraved with the names of Australian servicemen whose remains have not been located. Photo A.Tilley	

Additional/personal information:

*Henry Boardman was born in South Australia, attending North Adelaide Boys School, before coming to WA. His mother stated on forms completed after his death that he was aged 25 years and 7 months, but it is not possible to check that as SA records are not easily available. She also recorded that before joining the WAGR he was employed in farming and station work.

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In attempting to determine who was eligible to receive the medals Mrs Hughes stated that Pte Boardman had been born as an illegitimate child and raised entirely under her care. She had no idea where his father resided or even if he was alive. There is a single enquiry about the identity of Pte Boardman from a Mr T Pinnell of Coburg Victoria dated 30 Dec 1915 but no reason for the enquiry was stated. Army Records determined that the campaign medals and other memorabilia should be issued to his mother. Mrs Helene Hughes died on 6 June 1950 at the age of 81 years and was buried in Karrakatta Cemetery.

> HUGHES: On June 6, 1950, at Perth, Helene Elise (late of WooroIoo and Werribee), dearly beloved wife of the late Justinia Hughes, loved mother of Ernest (deceased) and Harry (deceased). *The West Australian* 8/6/1950p33.

Ernest Hughes had died on 2 June 1915 and Army Records then altered Henry's Next of kin to his mother Mrs Helene Hughes of Wooroloo.

Her husband had died in 1922.

Further information and/or photos may be added as available. Information may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Abbreviations: WAGR= Western Australian Government Railways (& Tramways at some periods); MRWA= Midland Railway of Western Australia; BDM=Western Australian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages website; AWM=Australian War Memorial (Canberra and

website); CWGC= Commonwealth War Graves Commission (including website). DVA=Department of Veterans' Affairs (including website)

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Honour Roll and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Military information researched by Dr G.M.Galvin. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------

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