

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

Bowes, John Beatty

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

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Traffic
Designation:	Night Station Master

Rail employment notes: Born 1/2/1888. Joined WAGR 18 May 1903 aged 15 as Junior Porter, Yalgoo. Transferred to Geraldton 1/4/1906. Appointed to Porter, Mt Magnet 24/2/1912 and to Day Dawn 20/11/1912. Transferred to Shunter, Geraldton 8/2/1913 and promoted to Assistant Station Master, Serpentine 23/12/1913, which was a promotion from Wages staff to Salaried Officer, a significant difference for many decades on WAGR. Transferred to Night Station Master Brunswick Junction 16/7/1914.

Granted leave to join AIF 19/5/1916. (Service No.2627). Killed in action 12/10/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	48th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2627
Date of death:	12 October 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	29
Rank:	Lance Corporal

Burial/memorialisation: Buried in field; Named on Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

John Beatty Bowes enlisted in the AIF at Belmont and received his basic military training at Blackboy Hill Camp. At the time of enlistment his wife Annie Janet was his Next of kin and he stated that he had 12 months service in the West Australian Infantry Regiment. He was assigned the regimental number 2627 in 6th/48 Bn and departed Australia aboard A16 HMAT *Port Melbourne* from Fremantle on 20 October 1916. He disembarked at Devonport on 28 December 1916 and marched into 12 Training Bn that same day. Following extra training he left the UK through Folkestone on 10 Apr 1917 and joined the British Expeditionary Force at 4 ADBD where he remained for just 3 days prior to being taken on strength of 48 Battalion, in the field. Pte Bowes was promoted to Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) on 28 May 1917. He was Killed in action on the advance to Passchendaele Ridge on 12 October 1917 during the Third Battle of Passchendaele. He was buried near the site of casualty.

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*

Additional/personal information:

John Bowes married Annie B Thompson, the marriage registered in the Geraldton district (BDM 37/1912). It appears the couple had two daughters, Doris and Mavis. Judging by family notices, the family called him 'Jack'.

After the War his grave could not be located and he is remembered on the Menin Gate memorial at Ypres (now Ieper) in Belgium. For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal both of which were delivered to his wife together with other memorabilia. His widow received a pension of 20/- per fortnight, his daughter Doris received 20/- per fortnight and the other daughter Mavis 15/- per fortnight with all pensions to date from 7 January 1918.

> BOWES.—Killed in action, October 12, Jack Beatty Bowes, loved husband of Mrs. A. Janet Bowes of Subiaco, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bowes, of Mullewa; son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Thompson.
> Until He comes.

Sadly common of the family losses in the Great War, John Bowes' brother Joseph Bowes served as 2288 L/Cpl in 43 Battalion and Died of wounds on 4 July 1918.

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).

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

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