Braddock, Charles Thomas

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:	Repairer

Rail employment notes: Born 15/6/1884. Joined WAGR 15/3/1913 aged 28 as Repairer, Wilga.
("Repairer" was a track maintenance worker in a gang responsible for upkeep of an allocated section of railway line. A typical gang might include between 3 and 6 Repairers with one Leading Hand Repairer and a Ganger in charge. The WAGR Annual report for 1914/15 showed they employed 882 Repairers at 8 shillings per day, with many at very small settlements or tent camps.)

Granted leave to join AIF 19/5/1915 (Service No.2283). Killed in action at Gallipoli 8/8/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	16th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2283
Date of death:	8 August 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Age:	31
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey

Charles Braddock was a resident of Donnybrook when he enlisted in the AIF at Blackboy Hill Camp on 17 May 1915. His father was recorded as his Next of kin. He stated that he had no previous military experience. As a recruit he was initially drafted to 7th Reinforcements to 16 Battalion but shortly afterwards this was amended to 6th Reinforcements to 16 Battalion and he was allocated the regimental number 2283.

Private Braddock departed Australia on 25 June 1915 aboard HMAT *Wandilla*, he disembarked at Alexandria and shortly afterwards crossed to the Gallipoli Peninsula where he was taken-on-strength of 16 Bn on 2 August 1915. On the night of 7 August 1915, the Battalion marched nearly 4 miles from Reserve Gully and began an assault on Hill 971, together with other Units of the 4th Infantry Brigade. The Brigade was beaten back in disorder by the Turkish Forces, with great losses. Private Braddock failed to answer his name at the subsequent roll call and was posted as Missing in action. A Court of Enquiry held at Serapeum, Egypt on 11 May 1916 determined that Private Braddock had been Killed in action on 8 August 1916. His remains were never recovered, he has no known grave, and in

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consequence, he is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial. [16 Battalion losses that night and the following day was 4 Officers and 114 other ranks].

The Lone Pine Australian Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. In the foreground are individual graves for servicemen buried here. 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:

Charles Thomas Braddock was born in Staffordshire, England, a son of Elizabeth Anne and Charles Braddock of Staffordshire and he had migrated to Australia at the age of 28 years.

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were all sent to his father in the UK.

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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