Brady, Ernest Wood

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:	Locomotive
Designation:	Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 3/10/1895. Joined WAGR 27/11/1911 aged 16 as Junior Labourer, Midland Junction. Transferred to Cleaner, Perth 20/10/1913
("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Granted leave to join AIF 5/7/1915. Died of wounds 3/3/1917 .

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2105
Date of death:	3 March 1917
Place of death:	Dernancourt, France
Age:	21
Rank:	Corporal

Burial/memorialisation: Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Dernancourt, Picardie, France

Ernest Wood Brady enlisted in the AIF with parental approval on 22 June 1915 in Perth. On enlistment his father Edward Foster Brady became his Next of kin. Ernest Brady was a serving member of 86th Regiment of Infantry (part time militia) at the time of enlistment. His basic military training commenced at Blackboy Hill Military Camp and he was made a Temporary Sgt on marching in and was added to the roll of 4th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion. 4th Reinforcements had trained at Bunbury but his records fail to show whether he had been in Bunbury. T/Sgt Brady had a portrait photograph taken which shows a head and shoulder study and reveals him to be wearing the colour patch of 28 Bn. That photograph is in the AWM collection labelled H06592.

He sailed from Fremantle on 1 October 1915 aboard HMAT *Hororata*. On arrival in Egypt he was taken-on-strength of 28 Battalion and reverted to his substantive rank of Private. He was appointed to be a L/Cpl and afterwards on 18 Jan 1917 he was given the temporary rank of Corporal. He had served through the campaigns along the Hindenburg Line throughout 1916.

On 2 March 1917 he was Wounded in action suffering compound fracture of the right femur. Corporal Brady was evacuated to the Field Ambulance and then on to 1st South Midlands Casualty Clearing Station where he Died of wounds on 3 March 1917. He was buried in the Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension 3 Km NW of Albert.

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Additional/personal information:

Ernest Brady was born in Burra in South Australia but it appears the family moved west whe he was young as he attended school in Perth.

His parents paid for an inscription on his gravestone which reads: “In Memory of a Loving and Dutiful Son We Miss Him Oh So Much”. For his service Corporal Brady was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia. Corporal Brady has a memorial plaque (M508A) in Kings Park which was dedicated by his mother.

His brother 709 Cpl E V Brady 10th Light Horse Regiment also lost his life in the war. He has a plaque next to Ernest’s which was dedicated by his father. There is no mention of any military pension to his parents in his personal file. Cpl Brady was one of five brothers who enlisted in the AIF but the others are yet to be identified.

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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