Briggs, Frederick William

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



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

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 12 September 1892. Joined WAGR on 7 February 1911 aged 18 as Cleaner, Fremantle ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning and otherwise working around locomotives whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder). Transferred to Narrogin, 24/4/1912 and to Fremantle 4/7/1913. Promoted to Fireman, Fremantle 10/8/1913. Transferred to Collie 26/5/1914 and to Perth 9/12/1914. Granted leave to join AIF 11/8/1915 (Service No.2601A).

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	51st Battalion, formerly 6th reinforcement group for the 28th Battalion.
Service number:	2601A
Date of death:	5 July 1916
Place of death:	France (Northern France near Armentieres)
Age:	23
Rank at time of death:	Private

Buried/Commemorated: Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France; Plot I Row E Grave 12.

Frederick Briggs enlisted into the AIF on17 August 1915 and embarked on 2 November 1915, HMAT A38 *Ulysses* from Fremantle. He was taken on strength by the unit on 3 March 1916 and served in Egypt and France but was killed in action on 5 July 1916.

Information and/or photographs may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Additional/personal information:

Born: Windsorton, Kimberley, South Africa; 1892; arrived in Western Australia 1908. He was unmarried. He appears to have lived in the Fremantle area as he is remembered on Honour Boards in St John's Anglican Church, Fremantle and St Paul's Anglican Church, Beaconsfield.

Sadly typical of the losses endured by many families in the war, Frederick's brother Frank Briggs also enlisted, he served with the 12th Battalion and was killed in action at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

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Right: Honour Board in St Johns Anglican church, Fremantle.



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 Alan Pearson.

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

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