**Bromham, Louis Frederick**

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



Plaque in May Drive, Kings Park

**Rail employment information**

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|---|---|
| Employer: | Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways |
| Branch: | Audit |
| Designation: | Cadet |

Rail employment notes: Born 19/7/1897. Joined WAGR 20/10/1913 aged 16 as Cadet, Perth for a clerical or accounting role.

Granted leave to join AIF 28/8/1916 (Service No.7202). Killed in action 9/8/1918.

**Military service information:**

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|---|---|
| Conflict: | First World War 1914-1918 |
| Service: | Australian Imperial Force (AIF) |
| Military unit: | 16th Battalion |
| Service number: | 7202 |
| Date of death: | 9 August 1918 |
| Place of death: | France |
| Age: | 21 |
| Rank: | Corporal |

Burial/memorialisation: Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Louis Frederick Bromham enlisted in the AIF at Perth on 31 July 1916 at the age of 19 years. He nominated his father as his Next of kin and both parents signed to give their approval for him to serve overseas. He had some previous military experience having served in 87 Infantry Regiment (Militia) and the Australian Army Medical Corps for a total of 4 years and was still serving at the time of AIF enlistment. His basic AIF training was conducted at Blackboy Hill Camp where he was assigned to 24th Reinforcements to 16 Battalion with regimental number 7202. For the voyage to the UK he was made a temporary or acting Corporal. On 29 January 1917 he sailed aboard A28 HMAT *Miltiades* from Fremantle and landed at Devonport, England on 27 March 1917 and marched in to 4 Training Bn that same day. His training was briefly interrupted by a case of mumps.

Pte Bromham was never taken on strength of 16 Bn but was allocated from reinforcements to 25th Machine gun Company, which later amalgamated with other MG Companies to form 5 MG Battalion. He crossed the Chanel on 7 September 1917, joined the British Expeditionary Force and saw action in Belgium before entering winter quarters. The MG Bn went into action again at the Battle of Amiens commencing on 07 August 1918 and he was now a substantive Corporal. Near Framerville-Rainecourt, France he was Killed in action by a single bullet through his head on 9 August 1918. There are a number of witness statements verifying that he was crossing open country, carrying a machine gun tripod when he was killed. He was buried in a newly created military cemetery which later grew to become Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres and lies 12 Km from Villers-Bretonneux.

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**Additional/personal information:**

Louis Bromham was a local man, born in Fremantle and educated at Perth Modern School.

His parents paid for an inscription on his tombstone which reads: “In loving memory of the only son of T and L Bromham. RIP”. They also dedicated a memorial plaque to him in Kings Park (M179 – see photo).

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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