Brown, David William

A West Australian railway employee
who died after volunteering for military service for their country



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

After five years apprenticeship, Brown finally qualified in his trade. But just months later, he left to join the army and died the following month in training camp.

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Electric Fitter

Rail employment notes: Born 8/8/1895. Joined WAGR 20/2/1911 aged 15 as Apprentice Electrical Fitter, Midland Workshops. Appointed Electrical Fitter, Midland Workshops 25/3/1916. Granted leave to join AIF 8/9/1916. Died in training camp of meningitis 28/10/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	Died before allocation
Service number:	Died before allocation
Date of death:	28 October 1916
Place of death:	Australia
Age:	21
Rank:	Not allocated

Burial/memorialisation: Karrakatta General Cemetery, Western Australia

David William Brown was a serving member of 13 Field Company RAE (Militia) when he enlisted on 14 September 1916 but was cleared for enlistment in the AIF. He commenced training at Blackboy Hill Camp in 83 Depot Company and was assigned to 6th Reinforcements to 44 Battalion. But before his training advanced to the point of his being issued a regimental number, he became ill on 27 October 1916 and was sent to the West Leederville Public Hospital (also known as Victoria Hospital). He was diagnosed with Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and died the following day. He was buried in Karrakatta General Cemetery. A Death Certificate was issued on 3 November 1916 by a doctor from Perth Public Hospital.

Additional/personal information:

Although he was nominally a member of 6th/44 Bn he had not been issued with a regimental number and he had no entitlement to any service medals. His father received a memorial plaque after the War.

> BROWN.—On October 28, 1916, at West Subiaco, Western Australia, David William Brown, the dearly beloved and only son of Mr.William Brown, Loco Superintendent Midland Railway Company

and Mrs. W. Brown and brother of Nellie and Teenie Brown, of Midland Reserve, Midland Junction, and brother of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Clough, of 174 Carr-street Leederville, Western Australia, aged 21 years. He wished to do his duty, but God wished otherwise. *The West Australian* 31/10/1916p1

MILITARY FUNERAL.
BROWN.— The Friends of the late Private DAVID WILLIAM BROWN, of the A.I.F., Blackboy Hill, and of the Electrical Department, W.A. Government Railways, Midland Junction, W.A., and beloved and only son of Mr. William Brown, loco. superintendent, Midland Railway Coy., Midland Junction, are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Presbyterian portion of the Karrakatta Cemetery. The Funeral is appointed to leave Mr. Donald J. Chipper's Private Mortuary, 844 Hay-street, Perth, at 2.20 o'clock TO-MORROW (Tuesday) AFTERNOON, per road. Friends wishing to attend the Funeral may proceed by the 3 o'clock trains from Perth and Fremantle. *The Daily News* 30/10/1916p9

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----------