040

Burrington, Horace Francis

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:	Carpenter

Rail employment notes: Carpenter, Ways & Works Branch, Bunbury.

Career details have not been located, however the Way and Works Branch (later the Chief Civil Engineer's branch) was responsible for track and structures so a carpenter might have been engaged on building and/or maintaining stations and smaller buildings, bridges, wooden culverts, etc.

Enlisted in AIF 29/4/1917 (Service No.4306). Killed in action 3/5/1918 age 28.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	48th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	4306
Date of death:	3 May 1918
Place of death:	Monument Wood, France
Age:	28
Rank at time of death:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Picardie, France

Horace Francis Burrington enlisted in the AIF at Bunbury on 29 April1917. The records do not reveal where he underwent basic military training but he was assigned the regimental number 4306 in 12th Reinforcements to 2 Pioneer Battalion and departed Australia through the Port of Melbourne aboard HMAT *Aeneas* on 30 October 1917. On enlistment he declared his wife (Mary Pearl Burrington) to be his Next of kin. He had previous military experience of 3 years Militia. Horace had been born in Devonshire in the UK and migrated to Australia at the age of 22 years. He disembarked at Devonport on 27 December 1917 and marched into the Pioneer Training Depot that same day. On 2 January 1918 Pte Burrington was transferred to 32 Bn (details) and moved to 15 Training Bn where he remained until 1 April 1918 when he joined a reinforcement party for 48 Battalion at Dover and crossed to Calais to join the British Expeditionary Force, as the British army was called there.

Pte Burrington was taken on strength of 48 Bn on 16 April 1918. He was Killed in action at Monument Wood in the action at Villers-Bretonneux and buried on the field. The co-ordinates of his grave were recorded but his remains could not be located by the Imperial War Graves Commission after the War. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. Evidence as to his death and burial was provided by 4391 Sargent and 4321 Cantor both of 48 Bn.

© Rail Heritage WA

Additional/personal information:

He was a member of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Employees and that organization became involved with his estate. For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his widow along with other memorabilia. His widow was provided with a pension of 40/- per fortnight, daughter Frances 20/- and the other daughter Ethel 15/- all to date from 17 July 1918.

His widow Mary remarried in 1923 to Michael J White (BDM Wellington 37/1923). Michael had served in the AIF as 3859 in 4 MG Bn. He died on 16 Jan 1937 at the age of 44. Mary Pearl White died at the age of 63 on 18 Feb 1956. Both are buried in the Bunbury Cemetery. (CWGC website show Pte Burrington's age at the time of death to be 33 years which is incorrect.)

Further information will 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----------

 © Rail Heritage WA