041

Bush, James Willie

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:	Tramways
Designation:	Conductor

Rail employment notes: Born 29/10/1884. Joined Tramways 1/7/1913 aged 28 as Conductor, Perth. (The tramways of Perth and adjoining suburbs were compulsorily purchased by the WA Government in 1913 and were placed in the management and responsibility of the WA Government Railways. The records of employees, including the honour roll after the war, reflected this combined operation.)

Granted leave to join AIF 17/4/1916 (Service No.5815). Killed in action 1/10/1918.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	5815
Date of death:	1 October 1918
Place of death:	Bullecourt, France
Age:	33*
Rank at time of death:	Private

Buried/commemorated: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

James Willie Bush was enlisted on 30 March 1916, according to the AWM's nominal roll, however he is missing from the embarkation rolls so it is not known when he sailed to England or Europe.

Private Bush was killed in action on 1 October 1918 in the attack on Beaurevoir Line, the very last action of the Great War in which 28 Battalion participated. His body was not found afterwards, he has no known grave but is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneaux Memorial.

Additional/personal information:

*There is some doubt as to Private Bush's age. His WAGR records indicate 33, but his widow when completing this information post-war stated "about 36".

James Bush was born in Horwich, near Bolton, Lancashire UK but came to Western Australia about April 1902. Personal information for Australian army records was supplied by his widow Alice, who returned to England and remarried, becoming Mrs Alice Sorah.

James Bush's marriage to Alice is not recorded by BDM in WA, nor is the birth of a child George mentioned in the family notice below, so may have been in England before he emigrated to WA. It may be noted that his widow returned to Bolton, the same area James came from.

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BUSH.—Killed in action on October 1, 1918, somewhere in France, Private James Willie Bush, 28th Battalion, beloved husband of Alice and father of George, 20 Mackie-street, Victoria Park. His duty done.

BUSH.—A loving tribute to the memory of Private J. W. Bush, of the 28th Battalion, killed in action on October 1. Inserted by Mrs. Chisnall and Albert and Frank, Victoria Park. Both *The West Australian* 24/10/1918p1

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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