048

Canny, James

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:	Traffic
Designation:	Porter

Rail employment notes: Born 1883. Joined WAGR 1/11/1910 aged 27 as Goods Porter, Kalgoorlie Goods. ("Porter" was a very widely-used title in the railways but in this case Mr Canny worked around the extensive Kalgoorlie goods sheds, loading, unloading and handling freight) Granted leave to join AIF 7/3/1916. Died of wounds 2/3/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	11th Battalion.
Service number:	6024
Date of death:	2 March 1917
Place of death:	France
Age:	26
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Dernancourt, Picardie, France

James Canny was enlisted into the AIF at Blackboy Hill Camp on 11 March 1916. He had no previous military experience and nominated his mother Mrs W C Canny, resident in Victoria, as his Next of kin. As training progressed, he was allocated to the 19th Reinforcement to 11 Battalion with the regimental number 6024. He departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard A 28 HMAT *Miltiades* on 7 August 1916 and disembarked at Plymouth on 24 September 1916. The following day he marched into 3 Training Battalion for further training before departing England aboard *Princess Victoria* on 4 December 1916 via Folkestone to join the British Expeditionary Force. He passed through 1 ADBD and was taken on strength of 11 Battalion on 26 December 1916. Serious foot trouble, not further specified, saw him admitted to 6 Field Ambulance between 2-29 January 1917 before he re-joined his Unit on 31 January 1917 but he was Wounded in action on 26 February 1917 by Gunshot wounds to ear and left leg. Pte Canny was admitted to 45 CCS where he Died of wounds on 02 Mar 1917.

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*

Additional/personal information:

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James Canny was born in Ballarat, Victoria before moving west.

Following his death, it was revealed that his father was still living (in Ballarat) and it was he who received the British War Medal, Victory Medal and other military memorabilia to which the late Pte Canny was entitled. The family paid for an inscription on his gravestone which reads: **Native of Ballarat, Vic R.I.P.**

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 information researched by Dr G.M.Galvin. Family information added by G.Higham.

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

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