

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

Chipper, Henry Thomas

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

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 25/6/1893. Joined WAGR 3/6/1910 aged 16 as Call Boy, Perth. Appointed Cleaner, Perth 17/7/1911 and transferred to Donnybrook 4/3/1913. ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning and otherwise working around locomotives whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder).

Promoted to Fireman, Donnybrook 6/6/1914. Granted leave to join AIF 9/1/1915 (Service No.860). Killed in action at Walker's Ridge, Gallipoli 7/8/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	10th Australian Light Horse
Service number:	860
Date of death:	7 August 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Turkey
Age:	22
Rank at time of death:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

Henry Thomas Chipper enlisted in the AIF on 14 January 1915 and was assigned to 4th reinforcements to 10th Light Horse Regiment with the regimental number 860. He had considerable military experience having served in the West Australian Infantry Regiment for 3 years and 3 months. He nominated his mother Mrs Emily Louisa Chipper as his Next of kin. Originally Henry was the NOK of his brother, 199 Driver A R Chipper but later his mother also became the NOK of both sons. Training was concentrated on the Claremont Showgrounds and the Osborne Rifle Range (now Swanbourne). The 4th/10 LHR departed Australia aboard A8 HMAT *Argyllshire* on 19 April 1915 from Fremantle Harbour.

They arrived in Egypt on 14 May 1915 (having lost 36 horses en route) and were taken on strength 10 LHR on 4 June 1915 on Gallipoli. The Regiment (minus rear details, to care for the horses) had sailed from Alexandria aboard the German prize ship, *Lutzow*. The ship had been used on a number of Gallipoli runs without cleaning and was is a filthy state. With other Regiments aboard the total carried was 106 officers and 2250 men which resulted in gross overcrowding. Landing was by Regiment and

Squadron and they came under fire almost immediately. By 7 August 1915 the Regiment was on Walkers Ridge with orders to charge the Turkish lines after a preliminary naval bombardment. There was confusion over the timing and despite requests to abort the charge the Brigade Major ordered that it should go ahead. The Turkish machine guns had adequate time to set up after the bombardment had ceased and the "Charge at the Nek" resulted in an enormous number of casualties. Trooper Chipper was killed. He was originally posted as Missing in action but a Court of Enquiry on 9 August 1915 determined that he was Killed in action. The charge at the Nek cost the lives of 3 Officers, 5 NCO and 29 Troopers of 10 LHR. His body was never recovered and he is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial.

Additional/personal information:

Henry Chipper was born in Katanning, WA.

His mother received a pension of £1-3-0 per fortnight commencing with effect from 08 Oct 1915. Tpr Chipper was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. These were issued to his mother together with other memorabilia except the Memorial Plaque which was later issued to his brother as his mother had died prior to issue.

> CHIPPER.-Killed in action, at the Dardanelles, on August 7, 1915, Harry, third son of Mrs. E. L. Chipper, 13 Lincolnstreet.Perth (late of Katanning), and brother of Maley, Arthur, and Muriel Chipper, age 22 years. *The West Australian* 28/8/1915p1

Trooper Chipper has a memorial plaque (M419) in Kings Park which was dedicated by his mother, Mrs Emily Chipper.

Further information 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----------