Close, Frederick Laurence

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:	Locomotive
Designation:	Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 15/1/1895. Joined WAGR 16/2/1914 aged 19 as Cleaner, Kalgoorlie. ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Granted leave to join AIF 11/1/1915 (Service No.1601). Killed in action at Gallipoli 4/5/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	16th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	1601
Date of death:	4 May 1915
Place of death:	Turkey
Age:	20
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

There is confusion throughout this soldier's documentation over his second name and whether it is Laurence or Lawrence. Equally he is shown as both 1601 and 1801 but the embarkation rolls confirm it to be 1601. He enlisted on 11 January 1915 in 3rd Reinforcement to 16th Battalion. He had been a trainee in 84th Infantry Regiment prior to enlistment. Private Close departed Australia aboard A50 HMAT *Itonus* on 22 February 1915. The dates that he was taken on strength of the Bn and crossed to Gallipoli are missing. He was found dead on the field at Gallipoli on 4 May 1915 but there is no other explanation. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.

Additional/personal information:

Frederick was born in Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State, then a separate colony but later a province of South Africa. He came to WA in his 14th year.

His identity disc was forwarded to his mother in December 1916.

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----------