064

Coleman, Edward John James

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

A young man sadly killed on the first day of the Gallipoli landings.



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

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Traffic
Designation:	Porter

Rail employment notes: Employed as a Porter, Kalgoorlie.

("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Kalgoorlie, a busy junction station and terminus of some local passenger trains, probably had at least 10 porters – some had specific roles, some were general hands around the station, a few would qualify in safe-working and assist with signals))

11th Battalion AIF.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	11th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	647
Date of death:	25 April 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Age:	24
Rank:	Private

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

Edward Coleman enlisted on 18 August 1914 and was assigned the regimental number 647 in 11th Battalion. He nominated his mother Mrs Hannah Coleman of Footscray in Victoria as his Next of Kin. He departed with the Battalion which boarded A11 HMAT *Ascanius* at Fremantle on 31 October 1914 but did not depart until 02 November 1914. *Ascanius* then joined the first convoy which had earlier departed from Albany with a substantial Naval escort to provide cover against the German Light Cruiser *Embden* which was thought to roaming the Indian Ocean. *Ascanius* later suffered minor damage in a collision with *Shropshire* and was required to enter Aden for repairs before proceeding up the Red Sea.

Suez was reached on 5 December 1914 and the troops disembarked the following day and established camp at Mena with other elements of the 3rd Brigade. Training continued in Egypt until 2 March 1915 when the Battalion moved by rail to Alexandria, boarded HMT *Suffolk* and sailed for Mudros on Lemnos Island. There was a delay of 7 weeks while the troops practiced the use of scrambling nets and maintained fitness with route marches on the Island. On 25 April 1915 11th Battalion as part of the 3rd Brigade landed at Anzac Cove and suffered very considerable casualties.

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Private Coleman was reported Missing in Action at the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915. A Court of Enquiry was held later in France on 10 April 1916 and determined that he was Killed in Action on 25 April 1915. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli.

The Lone Pine Australian Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. In the foreground are individual graves for servicemen buried here. The walls running across the front of the memorial in the background are engraved with the names of Australian servicemen whose remains have not been located. Photo A.Tilley	

Additional/personal information:

Edward Coleman was born in in Victoria (Vic BDM 5409/1891), a son of Arthur and Hannah (nee Hare) Coleman. He appears to have moved to WA on his own, his parents remaining in Victoria.

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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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