067

Coolahan, Arthur Hedley

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:	Junior Porter

Rail employment notes: Born 8/10/1896. Joined WAGR 24/5/1912 aged 15 as Junior Porter, West Guildford. Transferred to Perth 30/9/1912 and Fremantle 4/1/1913. Granted leave to join AIF 12/3/1915 (Service No.606). Wounded at Passchendaele Ridge and died 9/11/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	28th Battalion.
Service number:	606
Date of death:	9 November 1917
Place of death:	Boulogne-sur-Mere, France
Rank at time:	Sergeant

Buried/commemorated: Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne-sur-Mere, Pas-de-Calais, France; Plot VIII Row I Grave 109

Mr Coolahan enlisted on 13 March 1915 and was an original member of the 28th Battalion A.I.F. After initial training he was embarked on 9 June 1915; HMAT A11 *Ascanius* from Fremantle . and served in Egypt, Gallipoli, England, France, Belgium. He was wounded (gas) 29 October at Passchendaele Ridge, Zonnebeke Municipality, West Flanders, Belgium (east of Ypres); Died of Wounds (gas-Broncho Pneumonia) 9 November 1917 in the 3rd Canadian General Hospital, Boulogne-sur-Mere, Pas-de-Calais, France.

Information and/or photographs may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Additional/personal information:

Arthur Coolahan was born in Sydney NSW in 1896 but was in Western Australia by 1906. He was single when he enlisted. He is listed on an honour board in St Paul's Anglican Church, Beaconsfield (south side of Fremantle) and so may have lived in that area.

He was obviously appreciated by his fellow soldiers as the family notices are followed by one reading "A tribute to our dear comrade Signaller Sergeant Coolahan , who died of wounds on November 9. One of the best. – Inserted by Lieutenant Curnan and Corporal Silvester." (*West Australian* 23/11/1917p1)

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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 and personal information researched by A. Pearson.

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

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