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Cope, Frederick

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:	Wagon Builder

Rail employment notes: Born 21/3/1888. Joined WAGR 27/7/1911 aged 23 as Wagon Builder, Midland Workshops. His father recorded his training before coming to WA as a "carpenter" and the WAGR but he possibly was a specialised carpenter to be accepted at Midland Workshops as a Wagon Builder.
Granted leave to join AIF 30/10/1914 (Service No.1327). Killed in action 21/9/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	3rd Australian Machine Gun Company.
Service number:	1327
Date of death:	21 September 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	29
Rank:	Lance Corporal

Burial/memorialisation: Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

Frederick Cope enlisted under the name Fred Cope on 30 October 1914 and was assigned the regimental number 1327 in 2nd Reinforcements to 11th Battalion. He had previous military service as a Territorial in the 4th Royal Berkshire Regiment in England for 3 years. He departed Australia aboard A50 HMAT *Itonus*. He was taken on strength of 11 Battalion on 7 May 1915 at Gallipoli. He participated in action with the Battalion as a machine gunner until he was Wounded in Action on 20 July 1915. He was taken from the Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) at Anzac to Mudros in the Greek Islands and then transferred to the Royal Naval Hospital on Malta by the Hospital Ship *Claston*. Following treatment, he was discharged on 03 September 1915 and rejoined the Battalion on Gallipoli on 15 October 1915. In Egypt following the evacuation he was transferred to the newly formed 3 Machine Gun Company on 13 March 1916.

Private Cope departed Alexandria on 29 March 1916 and landed at Marseilles on 5 April 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. He was wounded (Second Occasion) on 24 July 1916 and rejoined his Company on 11 September 1916. He was appointed a Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) on 1 January 1917 and was wounded (Third Occasion) on 7 May 1917 in the area of Bullecourt. He rejoined his Unit on 21 September 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres but was Killed in Action on 21 September 1917. He was killed along with 3 other members of his gun crew at Glencorse Wood by an artillery shell. They were buried where they fell but the grave was lost. No trace of his remains was ever found and the search was abandoned in 1922. He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Additional/personal information:

Frederick Cope was born in Great Bedwin, Wiltshire, England, the son of Ambrose and Susan Cope. He was schooled and then trained as a carpenter in England. He came to WA when aged 23 - it appears he migrated alone and his family remained in England.

As he enlisted under the name Fred Cope that became his "Army name" and is used on the CWGC website however the Australian War Memorial refers to him as Frederick.

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----------