Cowie, Andrew Gray

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:	Brass Moulder

Rail employment notes: Born 20/9/1882. Joined WAGR 27/7/1911 aged 28 as Brass Moulder, Midland Workshops. Granted leave to join AIF 10/8/1915. Died of wounds 31/3/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	51st Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2619A
Date of death:	31 March 1917
Place of death:	France
Age:	34
Rank:	Private

Burial/commemoration: Bapaume Australian Cemetery, Picardie, France

Andrew Cowie enlisted in Perth on 16 August 1915 at the age of 33 years. He received his basic training at Blackboy Hill Camp before he departed Australia on 2 November 1915 as a member of 6th Reinforcement to 28th Battalion aboard A38 HMAT *Ulysses*. He had been assigned the regimental number 2619. Following his arrival in Egypt he was transferred to 51st Battalion on 3 March 1916 and his regimental number was changed to 2619A. His Battalion departed Alexandria on 5 June 1916 aboard HMT *Ivernia* and joined the British Expeditionary Force in France through the Port of Marseilles on 12 June 1916. Private Cowie was wounded in action on 28 June 1916 at Pozieres and following treatment at 3 Australian Field Ambulance was evacuated to London where he was admitted to Eastern General Hospital suffering facial and scalp wounds. Following treatment he joined 13 Training Battalion and then rejoined his Unit on 24 September 1916. On 31 March 1917 at Bapaume he was wounded (compound upper limb fractures), admitted to 13 Australian Field Ambulance where he died that same day.

Additional/personal information:

Andrew Cowie was born in Wellington, NZ, but came to Australia when he was 26. He does not seem to have had any family in WA.

His mother recorded that he was secretary of the Brass Moulders' Union in WA.

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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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