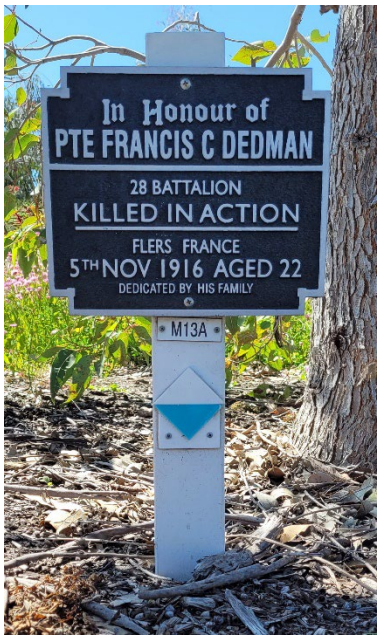
Dedman, Francis Charles

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



Plaque in May Ave Kings Park

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 27/6/1892. Joined WAGR 5/10/1910 aged 18 as Cleaner, Northam. ("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.)

Transferred to Perth 22/9/1912 and promoted to Fireman 9/12/1912.

Granted leave to join AIF 16/2/1916. Killed in action 3/11/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	4719
Date of death:	3 November 1916
Place of death:	Flers, France
Age:	23
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Serre Road Cemetery No 2, Beaumont Hamel, Picardie, France

Frank Charles Dedman enlisted in the AIF on 4 February 1916 and his brother Arthur, enlisted on the same day. Frank had no previous military service and nominated his father Charles Henry Dedman as his Next of Kin. His basic military training was carried out at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was assigned to 12th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 4719. On completion of training he departed Australia from Fremantle aboard A60 HMAT *Aeneas.* On disembarking in England, he marched into 7 Trg Bn and from there he departed England on 9 September 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force at 2 ADBD. He departed 2 ADBD on 24 September 1916 and was taken-on-strength of 28 Battalion in the field. In action between 3 and 6 November 1916 at Flers he was posted Missing in Action. Subsequently it was determined that he was Killed in Action on 3 November 1916. He was buried on the battlefield and some details were provided by a number of witnesses the most accurate was by 5102 Taylor 28 Bn. For the records his burial place was recorded as East of Le Sars. His body was found later and he was then buried in Serre Rd no 2-military cemetery.

Additional/personal information:

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Francis ‘Frank’ Dedman was born in Walhalla in Victoria, a son of Charles Henry & Sarah (nee Tempert) Dedman (Vic 24096/1894). Three sisters and a brother were also born in Victoria up to 1898, while a brother Arthur may have The family must have then moved to WA while he was a boy as he attended school in Coolgardie – this was the goldrush era and many families moved west in search of work or fortune..

> DEDMAN.—In loving memory of our dearly beloved son and brother, F. C. Dedman, 28th Battalion, who was killed in action in France, November 5, 1916, aged 22 years and 6 months. … —Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters, Clarice and Lily; and his brother, Arthur (on active service). Victorian papers please copy.
>
> DEDMAN.—In loving memory of our dear brother, Private F. C. Dedman, 28th Battalion, who was killed in action, November 5, 1916. … —Inserted by his sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, Ada and Allan McCosker, Osborne.
>
> DEDMAN.—A loving tribute to the memory of Private F. C. Dedman, who paid the supreme sacrifice on November 5, 1916. … —Inserted by his loving friends, Privates J.J. Jolly, J. C. Jolly (returned), and D. Jolly (on active service). All *The West Australian* 5/11/1917p1

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia.

In 1933 a body was found in the area near the Butte de Warlencourt and identified as 4719 Pte F C Dedman of 28 Bn. The Imperial War Graves Commission forwarded his identity disc to his father. The family paid for an inscription on his gravestone which reads: Gods Greatest Gift Remembrance. His brother Arthur served as number 4720 of 28 Bn 04 Feb 1916 to 16 Jun 1919 and returned home as a Sergeant. Charles Henry Dedman, the father, died on 15 March 1942 aged 78 years and was buried in Karrakatta Cemetery.

Private Dedman is remembered on a plaque (M13A) in Kings Park which was dedicated by his family in 2016.

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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