086

Dingle, Charles

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:	Apprentice, Blacksmith

Rail employment notes: Born 19/5/1897. Joined WAGR 6/4/1914 aged 16 as Apprentice Blacksmith, Midland Workshops.
In this era, the "Locomotive" branch of the WAGR, which would later be named the Chief Mechanical Engineer's branch, included the major workshops at Midland (then Midland Junction) employing a wide range of tradesmen to work on locomotives, carriages and freight wagons as they were built or passed through for repairs, and also trained apprentices in many trades.

Granted leave to join AIF 8/9/1915 (Service No.5364). Killed in action 22/10/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade
Service number:	5364
Date of death:	22 October 1917
Place of death:	Ypres, Belgium
Age:	20
Rank:	Gunner

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

Charles Dingle enlisted in the AIF on 13 September 1915, nominating his father H.Dingle as his next of kin and stating that he had some experience in 37th Battery A.F.A. militia unit.

He was allocated to 10th Reinforcements to 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, with regimental number 5364. The new soldiers from WA were transported to Victoria for consolidation, then they embarked on HMAT *Hororata* on 27 September 1915 from Melbourne port. (ref. AWM)

The 3rd Field Artillery Brigade was part of Australia's !st Division Artillery and mainly used '18-pounder' guns, heavy units which had wheels but needed many men to manouvre them. The Division regrouped in Egypt after Gallipoli and then was shipped to France.

Gunner Dingle was killed in action on 22 October 1917 during a long fight referred to as the Third Battle of Ypres (July-November 1917). This battle centred around the town of Ypres (Ieper in the Belgian Dutch language) and cost several thousand lives.

Additional/personal information:

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Charles Dingle was born in Fremantle in 1897, a son of Henry Dingle and Alice Ella Dingle (nee Leake). After attending a state school, he won an apprenticeship at Midland Workshops.

His parents had also married in Fremantle, in 1893, and he had at least three brothers and a sister, although family notices after his death indicate possibly more siblings. (BDM 306/1893 et al.)

> DINGLE.—Killed in action on October 22, 1917, after over two years' active service, Gunner C. Dingle, third loving son of H. Dingle, munition worker, England, and Mrs. H. Dingle, Claremont; also loving brother of Corporal H. Dingle (returned), Jack, Fred., Nellie, and Mabel. Lord, Thy will—not mine. *The West Australian* 14/11/1917p1

> DINGLE.--In, loving memory of my dear brother, Gunner Charles Dingle, who was killed in action on October 21, 1917. Inserted by his brother. Sergeant Dingle. *The West Australian* 21/10/1918p1

His parents' situation is not clear. Charles gave his father's address as Claremont when he enlisted, and Henry Dingle uses that address again when completing the AWM information, in the 1920s. However he is referred to as a munitions worked in England in the 1917 family notices. Whether he returned voluntarily as feeling that was his best contribution, or whether he perhaps had some reserve obligation due to previous service in England, is not known

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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