Doig, John Alexander

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:	Iron Machinist

Rail employment notes: Born 29/4/1878. Joined WAGR 1/2/1898 aged 21 as Machinist, Fremantle Workshops. Appointed to Iron Machinist 1/7/1903 and transferred to Midland Workshops 5/1/1905. 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 Fremantle, which moved to Midland (then Midland Junction) between 1904 and 1907. The workshops employing a wide range of tradesmen to work on locomotives, carriages and freight wagons as they were built or passed through for repairs.

Enlisted in 44th Battalion AIF 25/6/1916 (Service No.2564). Killed in action at Messines 31/7/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	2564
Date of death:	31 July 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	40
Rank:	Private

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

John Alexander Doig enlisted in the AIF on 25 July 1916 at Blackboy Hill Camp. On enlistment he nominated his wife Mary as his Next of kin and declared that he had previous militia service for 18 months but details were not provided. His basic military training was at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was assigned to 5th Reinforcements to 44 Battalin and sailed from Fremantle on 9 November 1916 aboard A8 HMAT *Argyllshire.* Private Doig disembarked at Devonport England on 10 January 1917 and marched into 11 Training Bn that same day for continuation training. On 9 April 1917 he made his Will in his paybook leaving his entire estate to his wife Mary.

He departed England through Folkstone on 10 April 1917 to join the British Expeditionary Force through 3 ADBD and was then taken-on-strength of 44 Battalion, in the field, on 13 April 1917. The Third Division entered frontline service in the Ypres Sector and Pte Doig was Killed in action on 31 July 1917. There is no record of exactly how or where he died except that it was in the vicinity of Messines. His remains were never recovered and he is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial Ypres (now Ieper).

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Additional/personal information:

He had been born in Dundee Scotland and travelled to Australia at the age of one year with his family, attending Fremantle Boys School.

In 1909 he married Mary F Miller and they had at least three children.

> DOIG. — In loving memory of Private John (Hookie) Doig, 44th Battalion, beloved husband of Mary Doig, Mathoura street, Midland Junction, father of Norman, Willie and Edgar Doig, eldest son of Mrs. J. Doig, Howard street, Fremantle, and brother of James (Scotty), Charles, and Private Norman and Cleave Doig, killed in action on July 31, 1917. *The West Australian* 18/8/1917p1

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his widow together with other memorabilia. Military pensions were paid to his widow at 40/- per fortnight and his sons John Norman Doig 20/-, William Wallace Doig 15/- and Edgar David Wallace 10/- all to date from 16 Oct 1917. His widow died on 10 Jun 1949 aged 62 years and was buried at Fremantle Cemetery.

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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