093

Drummond, John

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:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 15/1/1892. Joined WAGR 8/7/1912 aged 20 as Cleaner, Bunbury. ("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 Bridgetown 19/7/1912, Northam 29/8/1913 and Merredin 1/7/1914. Promoted to Fireman, Merredin 22/9/1915.

Granted leave to join AIF 29/11/1915. Killed in action 10/10/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	(806)
Date of death:	10 October 1917
Place of death:	Ypres, Belgium
Age:	25
Rank:	Lieutenant

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

John Drummond enlisted in the AIF on 29 November 1915 in Perth. On enlistment he nominated his mother Katherine (sometimes Catherine) Drummond resident in Scotland as his Next of Kin and declared that he had no previous military experience. Recruit Drummond had been born in Stirlingshire Scotland and migrated to Australia at the age of 19 years. Almost immediately after enlistment he was detached to the Non-Commissioned Officers School at Belmont and returned to 44 Battalion at Claremont as a Sergeant (substantive, not temporary rank) on 24 February 1916. He was allocated the regimental number 806. The Battalion departed Australia from Fremantle on 6 June 1916 aboard A29 HMAT *Suevic* and disembarked at Plymouth 21 July 1916. Sgt Drummond attended a School of Instruction in England before re-joining his Bn on 25 November 1916 and departed for France through Southampton that same day. As the Battalion settled into duties in the "nursery sector" of the frontline Sergeant Drummond developed mumps and was admitted to 7 General Hospital between 01 Jan and 23 Jan 1917. Illness (influenza) kept him in 10 Fd Amb between 05 Feb and 10 Feb 1917.

He was appointed to be a Second Lieutenant on 5 March 1917 but was Wounded in Action by shrapnel to the left wrist the same day following which he was evacuated to England on HMHS *Cambria* and admitted to Chichester War Hospital on 8 March 1917. He was treated and rehabilitated

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through a number of medical installations before being declared fit for general service following which he re-joined 44 Bn on 11 September 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres. Promotion to Lieutenant occurred on 2 October 1917.

He was Killed in Action on 10 October 1917 by a bullet wound to the head and buried near a railway crossing one-mile East of Zonnebeke. Subsequently the burial site could not be located by the Graves Registration Unit, he has no known grave, and is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres (now Ieper).

Additional/personal information:

John Drummond was born in Perthshire in Scotland in 1892. He came to Australia at the age of 19, apparently without other members of his family as the only notices in WA newspapers are from friends rather than family.

> DRUMMOND.—A tribute to the memory of Lieutenant J. Drummond, killed in action somewhere in France. His duty nobly done. —Inserted by his sincere friend, Alice Campbell, Poole-street, Northam. *The West Australian* 18/12/1917p1

> DRUMMOND.—A tribute to the memory of our dear friend, Lieut. John Drummond (Jock), killed in action somewhere in France. He died as he lived, a man. —Inserted by his sincere friends, Mrs. Cunningham, Agnes, Fanny, Ivy, and Baden, Northam. *The West Australian* 22/12/1917p1

Lieutenant Drummond was decorated by a Mentioned in Despatches notified in the London Gazette of 1 June 1917.

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his mother (his father being dead) together with other memorabilia. Mrs Drummond was awarded a pension of 70/- per fortnight commencing on 26 December 1917. Nothing more is known of the family.

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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