094

Dunn, Clarence Patrick

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:	Washout Assistant

Rail employment notes: Born 3/1/1892. Joined WAGR 26/7/1909 aged 17 as Junior Labourer, Midland Junction.

Transferred to Junior Porter, Midland Junction 29/9/1909.

Appointed Cleaner, Perth 14/2/1910. Transferred to Midland Junction 29/6/1910 and Fremantle 14/12/1911. ("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.)

Promoted to Fireman, Fremantle 1/3/1912 and transferred to Perth 19/4/1912, Kalgoorlie 13/8/1913 and Midland Junction 16/10/1913. Regressed to Cleaner, Midland Junction 29/7/1914 and to Washout Assistant, Narrogin 10/6/1915. (Records do not clarify whether this regression was punitive or for medical reasons)

Granted leave to join AIF 27/7/1915 (Service No.2138). Killed in action 3/9/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict: `	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	51st Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2138
Date of death:	3 September 1916
Place of death:	Place not yet found
Age:	24
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Serre Road Cemetery No 1, Beaumont Hamel, Picardie, France

Clarence Dunn enlisted in the AIF at Blackboy Hill Camp on 29 Jul 1915. He nominated his father Francis Dunn as his Next Of Kin. He stated that had 3 months service in "colonial forces". His basic military training was commenced at Blackboy Hill Camp and he was assigned to 4th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 2138, but due to pressure of recruit numbers, training was continued at Forrest Park Bunbury.

Pte Dunn departed Australia from Fremantle on 15 October 1915 aboard A20 HMAT *Hororata* and disembarked in Egypt. He continued training in 7 Training Battalion in Egypt, except for one short period of hospitalization. At the formation of 51 Battalion he was transferred to that unit on 3 March 1916. The available records do not show how or when he moved to England but he passed through 13

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Trg Bn before departing for France on 22 July 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force at 4ADBD and from there to re-join 51 Bn.

The Battalion was in the front line on 23 September 1916 when he was reported as Missing in Action. No remains were recovered at the time but a Court of Enquiry held on 23 April 1917 determined that he was Killed in Action on that day. A letter from Army Records to his mother, dated 04 Jun 1924, informed her that the Graves Registration Unit had located his remains and he had been buried in the Serre Rd Cemetery, Number 1 which lies 11 Km NE of Albert.

Additional/personal information:

Clarence Patrick Dunn was born in Albany WA, a son of Francis and Jane (nee Gaunt) Dunn and part of a large family:

> DUNN.—On September 3, 1916, killed in action in France (previously reported missing), Clarence Patrick (Pat), 51st Battalion, dearly beloved youngest son of Mr and Mrs Frank Dunn, 73 Grosvenor-road, North Perth, and brother of Frank, Edith, Wallace (on active service), Mrs W. Hodges, Mrs J. English, Ms K.Chapman, and Mrs H.Ford, aged 25 years. Inserted by his sorrowing father and mother. The *West Australian* 17/5/1917p1.

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The Star and War Medal were receipted by his father but following his death on 31 October 1920 the Victory Medal and Memorial Plaque were issued to Mrs Jane Dunn. His mother died on 11 May 1924 at the age of 74 years and was buried in the same compartment as her husband at Karrakatta cemetery. There is no record of any pension paid. The family paid for an inscription on his tombstone which reads: “In Thy Mercy Lord Receive Him He Died That We Might Live”.

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----------