Fogarty, Thomas Joseph

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:	Traffic
Designation:	Clerk

Rail employment notes: Born 26/4/1892. Joined WAGR 16/5/1910 aged 18 as Cadet, Boulder City. Promoted to Clerk, Boulder City 1/5/1914. Transferred to Clerk, Merredin 19/11/1914.

Granted leave to join AIF 11/8/1915 (Service No.3104). Killed in action 4/8/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	3104
Date of death:	4 August 1916
Place of death:	France
Age:	24
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

Thomas Fogarty enlisted in the AIF on 7 September 1915. He nominated his father Cornelius John Fogarty of Kalgoorlie as his next of kin, gave his age as 23 and said he was not serving in any militia unit at that time.

He was allocated to 7th Reinforcements to 28th Infantry battalion with regimental number 3104. After initial training this group embarked on HMAT Medic on 18 January 1916 at Fremantle.

28 Battalion was deployed into the British Expeditionary Force in France. After a period in the quiet sector of the frontline the Battalion moved to participate in the Battle for Pozieres. Private Fogarty was killed in action sometime between 4 August and 6 August 1916. His remains have never been found – he is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

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The Australian War memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

Australian soldiers killed in France, whose bodies could be found for relocation, are buried and marked by the rows of gravestones seen to left and right.

The wing walls to both sides of the central watch tower record, carved in stone, the names of Australian soldiers killed in France but with no known grave – tragically, more than 11 000 men. The largest number recorded from one unit is from 28th Battalion – some 365 West Australians.



Additional/personal information:

It is not known where Thomas Fogarty was born, however there was considerable immigration to WA after the 1890s gold finds and the family could have come from interstate or overseas.

> FOGARTY. — In sad and loving memory of our dearly loved eldest son and brother, Signaller T. J. Fogarty, 7/28th Battalion, killed in action at Pozieres, August 5th, 1916. R.I.P. — Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sister, and brothers, Mr., and Mrs. C.J. Fogarty, 16 Forrest street, Kalgoorlie. *The W.A.Record* 4/8/1917p10

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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