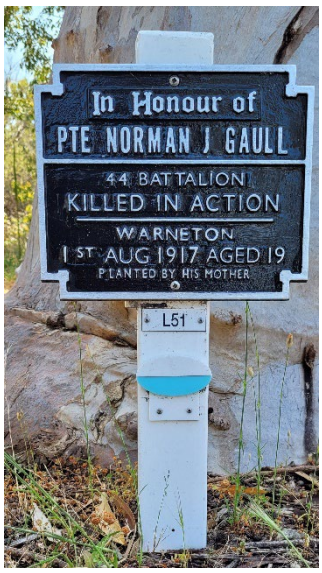
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Gaull, Norman James

A West Australian railway employee
killed while on military service for their country



Plaque in Kings Park

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 15/10/1897. Joined WAGR 26/1/1916 aged 18 as Cleaner, Northam.

("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, however Mr Gaull enlisted before reaching that stage.)

Granted leave to join AIF 18/3/1916 (Service No.2170). Killed in action 1/8/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2170
Date of death:	1 August 1917
Place of death:	Warneton, Belgium
Age:	19
Rank:	Private

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

Norman James Gaull enlisted in the AIF at the age of 18 years at Northam on 27 March 1916 with the apparent approval of both parents. He nominated his mother as his Next Of Kin stating that his father's whereabouts were unknown. At the time of enlistment, he was a serving cadet of 4 years standing in 88th Regiment of Infantry. His training was at Blackboy Hill Camp although some of it may have been at Bunbury. On completion of his basic training he was assigned to 4th Reinforcements to 51 Battalion with the regimental number 2170. Private Gaull sailed from Fremantle aboard A28 HMAT *Miltiades* on 9 August 1916 and disembarked at Plymouth on 25 September 1916 where he marched into 13 Training Battalion the following day.

He was taken-on-strength of 44 Battalion from 4th/51 Bn on 27 October 1916 and departed England for France and the British Expeditionary Force on 25 November 1916 through Southampton. Private Gaull was Killed in Action on 1 August 1917 at Warneton, Belgium when he was struck by a shell fragment. His Red Cross File shows a number of eye witness accounts of his death, all very similar. He was buried in a trench on the battlefield but after the War his remains were not located and he therefore has no known grave. Private Gaull is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Additional/personal information:

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Norman Gaull was born in Subiaco WA and attended Bayswater State School. Hi parents, James Gaull and Jessie Chambers, had married in in the Fremantle district in 1897 (WA BDM 341/1897). There are some inconsistencies in his enlistment papers as to whether his parents both agreed to him enlisting at age 18, as required by law at that time, but it is not possible to confirm this now.

> GAULL. — On August 1, 1917, killed in action in France, Private Norman J. Gaull, 44th Battalion, the dearly beloved eldest son of James and Jessie Gaull, Bayswater, aged 19 years. He has earned the crowning glory of a soldier and a man. T*he West Australian* 18/8/1917p1

Family Notices on the first anniversary of his death clarify that he had a sister and brothers. His parents also refer to him as being in the Machine Gun section of 44th Battalion, presumably Norman had written home to them to this effect.

> GAULL.-In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother: Private Norman James Gaull,. of Machine Gun Section, 44th Battalion. killed in action on August 1. 1917, in Belgium, aged 19 years and 10 months. … -Inserted by his loving father mother, sister and brothers, Bayswater.
>
> GAULL.-A loving tribute to the memory of our dear cousin, Norman J. Gaull, 44th Battalion. killed in action August 1, 1917, aged 19 years. … -Inserted by his loving aunt J. Day, and cousins Will and Mabel.
>
> GAULL.--In loving memory of our dear friend, Private Norman J. Gaull, killed in action August 1, 1917; 44th Battalion; aged 19 years 10 months. … -Inserted by Mrs. F. L. Warner and family, Subiaco. All *The West Australian* 1/8/1918p1

For his services he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father, James Gaull, together with other memorabilia. He has a memorial (L51) in Kings Park which was dedicated by his mother.

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----------