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Gibbard, Joseph Hudson

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:	Labourer

Rail employment notes: Born 9/4/1886. Joined WAGR 30/7/1915 aged 29 as Labourer, Midland Workshops.
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 Midland (then Midland Junction) employing a wide range of tradesmen and others to work on locomotives, carriages and freight wagons as they were built or passed through for repairs, and also trained apprentices in many trades.

Granted leave to join AIF 19/2/1916 (Service No.4745). Killed in action 3/11/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	4745
Date of death:	3 November 1916
Place of death:	Flers, France
Age:	30
Rank:	Private
Burial/memorialisation:	Warlencourt British Cemetery, Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Arras, Nord Pas de Calais, France

Joseph Hudson Gibbard enlisted in the AIF on 6 February 1916. He had been born in Lancashire and migrated to Australia aged 24 years. He had no previous military experience and underwent basic military training at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was assigned to 12th reinforcements to 28 Battalin. During his training he made his Will in which he made his father William Gibbard, resident in England his sole beneficiary. His father was also declared to be his Next of Kin. He departed Australia from Fremantle aboard A60 HMAT *Aeneas* and on arrival in England marched into 7 Trg Bn. On 16 September 1916 he left England to join the British Expeditionary Force at 2 ADBD in France. He departed 2 ADBD on 25 September 1916 and was taken on strength of 28 Battalion. Pte Gibbard was Killed in Action in the front line near Flers sometime between 3 and 6 November 1916 but for administrative purposes he was regarded as being Killed In Action on 3 November 1916.

He was apparently buried on the battlefield but the site was unmarked. Sometime later (date unknown) his remains were located and he was buried in Warlencourt British Cemetery and his grave marked as an "Unknown Australian Soldier". In 1922 as the Cemetery was being modified and graves re-aligned, his remains were positively identified as 4745 Pte Gibbard. (The means of that identification are not on record.)

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Additional/personal information:

Joseph Gibbard was born in Bolton, Lancashire in England and attended school there but migrated to WA when he was 24 years old. He was a son of William Gibbard. He appears to have come to WA without other members of his family.

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father direct from Australia House London. His father William Gibbard was awarded a pension of 20/- per fortnight with effect from 05 Jul 1917 which was renewed on 03 Jan 1918 without alteration but marked for further review on 02 Jan 1919. There are no records after that date.

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----------